

## **Chinese university seeks UK partner for joint institute in architecture**

### **About Chongqing University**

Chongqing University was founded in 1929 with academic strongpoints in the built environment, engineering and natural sciences. It comprises six faculties – namely the Faculty of the Built Environment, Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Information Technology, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Liberal Arts, and Faculty of Social Sciences – that offer a variety of programmes in science, engineering, liberal arts, economy, management, law, education, fine arts, philosophy and history.

The university has a faculty of more than 5,200, and is home to 28,000 undergraduate, 21,000 postgraduate and 1,300 international students. As a national key university directly under China's Ministry of Education, Chongqing University enjoys substantial support from the central and local government and hosts a number of high-level academic facilities, including ten national research bases, seven experimental teaching demonstration centers, and one virtual simulation teaching laboratory.

### **Motivation for establishing a joint institute**

Chongqing University is committed to learning through exchanges and expanding the realm of knowledge through scholarly research and innovation. It attaches great importance to international collaboration and has set up extensive links with more than 120 universities and institutes in more than 20 countries.

As part of national development plans, Chongqing municipal government supports local universities in collaborating with overseas education institutions through resources and favorable policies. By engaging with an overseas partner in the field of architecture, Chongqing University aims to improve its educational offering through exchanges and joint research, and cultivate students that are equipped to tackle future challenges.

### **Why architecture?**

The Faculty of the Built Environment at Chongqing University enjoys a strong reputation in the national architectural field. It consists of four schools, including the School of Architecture and Urban Planning, School of Civil Engineering, School of Urban Construction and Environmental Engineering, and School of Construction Management and Real Estate. The faculty offers a wide range of programmes, which are all supported by high-quality, innovative, and interdisciplinary research. A number of its disciplines, such as architecture, urban planning, civil engineering, and construction management, rank among China's top ten.

### **Outline of proposed joint institute**

The joint institute is intended as a demonstration project in Chongqing, offering joint educational programmes to cultivate students with the professional skills and adaptability to thrive in an international environment.

Initially, two majors, such as construction management and architectural design or urban planning, could be offered with an annual intake of 60 students each. Following the first year, student intake could be increased and further majors offered.

#### **Suggested enrolment plan:**

Year 1	120 new students
Year 2	120 new students, 120 continuing students
<i>Add two more majors</i>	
Year 3	240 new students, 240 continuing students
Year 4	240 new students, 480 continuing students
Year 5	240 new students, 600 continuing students
Year 6	240 new students, 720 continuing students
Year 7 and beyond	240 new students, 960 continuing students

### **Collaboration model**

- The joint institute will operate as a non-profit, cooperatively-run educational institution and a constituent school of Chongqing University without independent legal person status.
- The joint institute will confer dual-degrees from both sides. Undergraduate programmes will be modeled after the UK partner's curriculums. Course arrangements to be considered will include 2+2, 3+1 and 4+0 models. Both sides will share their educational resources and promote development.
- The joint institute will be governed by a joint management committee consisting of representatives from Chongqing University and the UK partner. The committee will appoint a Director (Dean), and a Vice-Director (Co-Dean) from both sides, who will jointly manage operations.
- The joint institute will require approval from the Ministry of Education in China. Both sides will work together on preparing the required documents, including syllabuses and teaching plans, materials and assignments. Details such as annual student intake, majors offered, infrastructure, administration, operation and tuition fees will be decided through negotiation.
- Chongqing University will be in charge of infrastructure construction.
- On the basis of equality, mutual respect and non-profit education, both sides will negotiate and provide necessary financial input. A third-party may be introduced, such as the local government.