

# **Ph.D. Program in Environment and Resources Protection Law**

## **Wuhan University**

Wuhan University (WHU) is a comprehensive and key national university directly under the administration of the Ministry of Education. It is also one of the "211 Project" and "985 Project" universities with full support in the construction and development from the central and local government of China.

For the past century, Wuhan University has built an elegant palatial architectural complex of primitive simplicity which blends perfectly the eastern architectural style with that of the west. It is honored as the "Most Beautiful University in China." Furthermore, Wuhan University's centennial humanistic accumulation boils down to its succinct motto, that is, "Self-improvement, Perseverance, Truth-seeking & Innovation."

The remarkable achievements of Wuhan University have won itself an extensive international reputation. In 1999, the world renowned journal Science listed Wuhan University as one of the most prominent institutions of higher education in China. Burgeoning are the international exchanges and cooperation of Wuhan University in recent years. It has established cooperative relationship with more than 400 universities and research institutes in over 70 countries and regions. Now Wuhan University is endeavoring to shape itself into a world-class comprehensive research university domestically and internationally.

## **Research Institute of Environmental Law**

The Research Institute of Environmental Law (RIEL) of Wuhan University, co-founded by the former National Environmental Protection and Wuhan University in 1981, is the premier institution in China and in Asia-Pacific region dedicated to the study of environmental and natural resources law and policy. In 1999 RIEL was designated as a National Key Research Institute of the Humanities and Social Sciences by the Ministry of Education. Since 2001, the environmental law program of RIEL was designated as the sole National Key Discipline by the Ministry of Education, China.

The Chinese Society of Environment and Resources law and its secretariat are based in RIEL. In addition, in 2011, IUCN Academy of Environmental Law set up its first Advanced Training Centre for Environmental Law Teaching and Research in RIEL. In 2013, RIEL was first included in the national “2011 program” as the one of the supporting organizations of the Collaborative Innovation Centre of Judicial Civilization. In 2015, RIEL was identified as the Research Foundation on Environmental-related Judicial Theory of the Supreme People’s Court, China.

In 1982, RIEL initiated the first program for awarding masters degrees for environmental law in China under an accreditation by the former Commission of Education of PRC. In 1998, RIEL was accredited for awarding doctoral degrees in environmental law.

Presently, RIEL has 12 full-time researchers who are engaged in the teaching and research of environmental law, among whom there are 7 professors, 4 associate

professors, and 1 lecturer.

RIEL possesses a library and information center with the largest number and the most complete set of documents concerning environmental law in China, including more than 10,000 books in Chinese, more than 2,000 books in foreign languages, and more than 200 journals in Chinese and foreign languages. In addition, RIEL has the first Chinese website of environmental law, namely, the Web of China Environmental Law ([www.riel.whu.edu.cn](http://www.riel.whu.edu.cn)).

### **PhD Program in Environment and Resources Protection Law**

The PhD program in Environment and Resources Protection Law includes the following specializations:

- ✧ Chinese Environmental Law & Policy
- ✧ International Environmental Law & Policy
- ✧ Comparative Environmental Law & Policy
- ✧ Pollution Control Law
- ✧ Climate and Energy Law
- ✧ Biodiversity and Natural Conservation Law
- ✧ Water Law and Law of the Sea

### **Objectives and Qualification Profile**

The study serves as a preparation to scientific work in the area of Environmental Law & Policy. It provides a scientific education at international level and empowers

graduates to provide international standard standalone research services in the relevant area.

### **Study Year**

The academic year of Wuhan University is divided into two terms. The first term runs from September to January, the second term runs from February to July. The vacation period starts after the second term in July and lasts for two months. The PhD program starts with the first term. Every term corresponds to one semester. The program generally lasts for 6 semesters (three years), but is not to exceed five years.

### **Credits**

To obtain a PhD degree, the students are required to earn 8 credits in the Wuhan University Credit System (of which at least 4 are for degree courses and 4 are for optional courses). There is no fixed amount of credits required each semester. One credit in the Wuhan University Credit System corresponds to 18 hours of classes.

### **Publication Requirement**

The basic publication requirement for a PhD degree is two refereed papers, with one in a journal indexed by SCI/SSCI (or specified journals).

### **PhD Thesis and Defense**

- ✧ A written thesis must be submitted and be defended in a colloquium.
- ✧ The PhD Thesis will be supervised by a qualified PhD supervisor of Wuhan University.
- ✧ A thesis proposal must be submitted at least one year before the defense. A committee will review this proposal to determine if the subject is appropriate and whether the topic is relevant to the field of study. If the committee does not see any value in the chosen topic, the thesis topic will not be approved.
- ✧ The PhD Thesis will be reviewed by assigned reviewers. After a positive review the thesis must be defended in a doctoral colloquium at Wuhan University.

### Curriculum

Category	Title of Course	Credits	Class hour	Semester
Degree Course	International Environmental Law	1	18	1
	Chinese Environmental Law	1	18	1
	Research Methodology	1	18	2
	Comparative Environmental Law	1	18	2
Optional Course	Pollution Control Law	1	18	1
	Climate and Energy Law	1	18	1
	Water Law and Law of the Sea	1	18	1
	Legal Writing	1	18	2

	Biodiversity Law	1	18	2
	Heritage Law	1	18	2

**Contact Information:**

**For more information, please link to our website: <http://admission.whu.edu.cn>**

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