



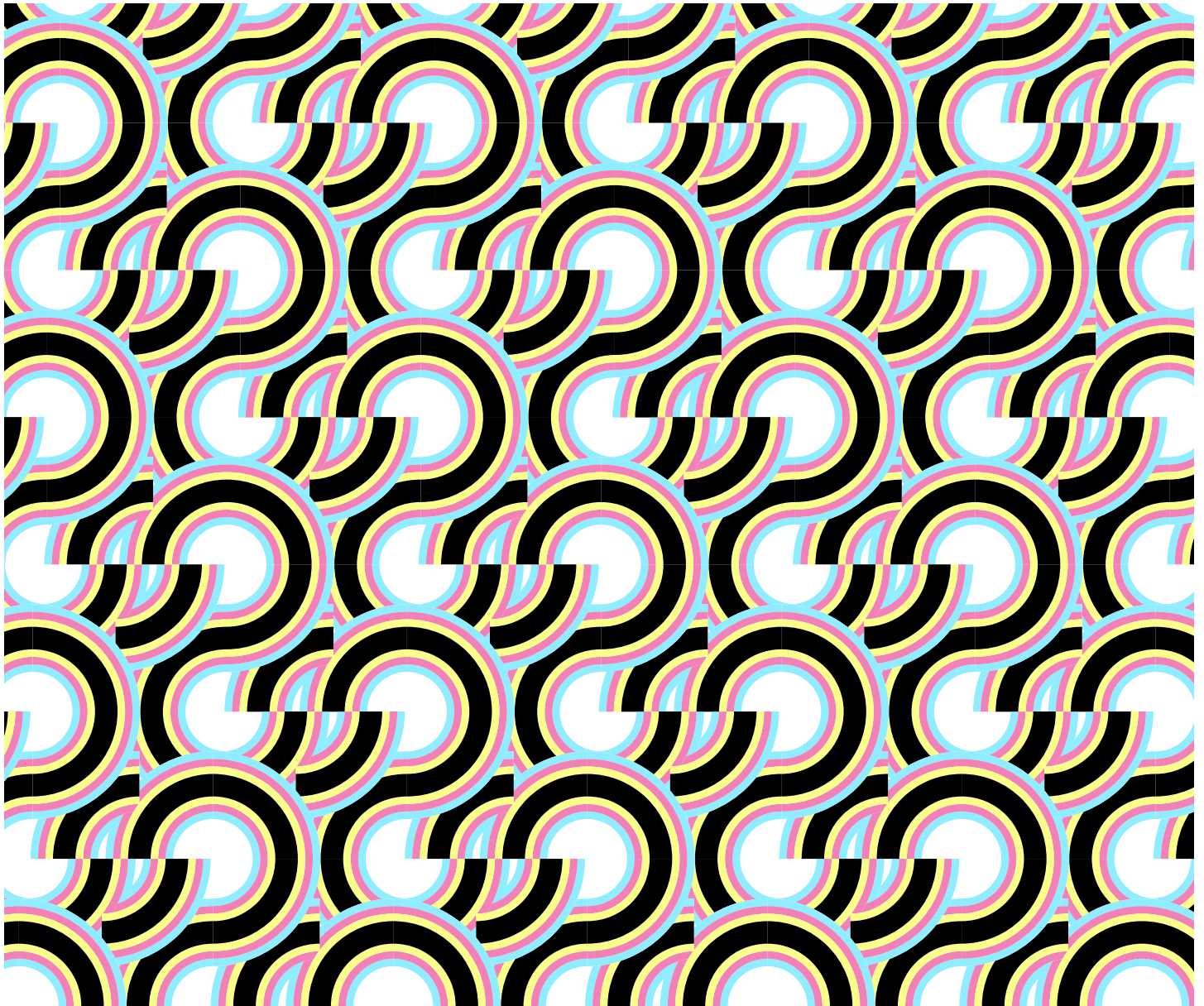
同濟大學
TONGJI UNIVERSITY



TONGJI UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF DESIGN
AND INNOVATION
同济大学设计创意学院



上海国际设计创新学院



Master of Design: **Design Thinking** **and** **Sustainable Future**

Tongji University College of Design and Innovation

English Speaking Program | Open to Apply | 2025 Fall

Master of Design: Design Thinking and Sustainable Future

Contents

I. About D&I and Tongji University	1
Reputation	
II. Description and Objectives	4
III. Program Structure and Curriculum	5
Program Structure	
Curriculum	6
IV. Faculty Team	8
V. Admission Requirements and Application Procedures	9
Application Procedures	
Application Materials	10
VI. History and Mission	12
History	
Mission and Vision	13

I. About D&I and Tongji University

College of Design and Innovation at Tongji University is a leading design institution in Asia and internationally, known for its openness, global network, industry connections, and much more. D&I is an interdisciplinary platform, serves as a hub to cope with problems related to climate change, global poverty, social and economic inequality, population explosion, demographic shift, etc.

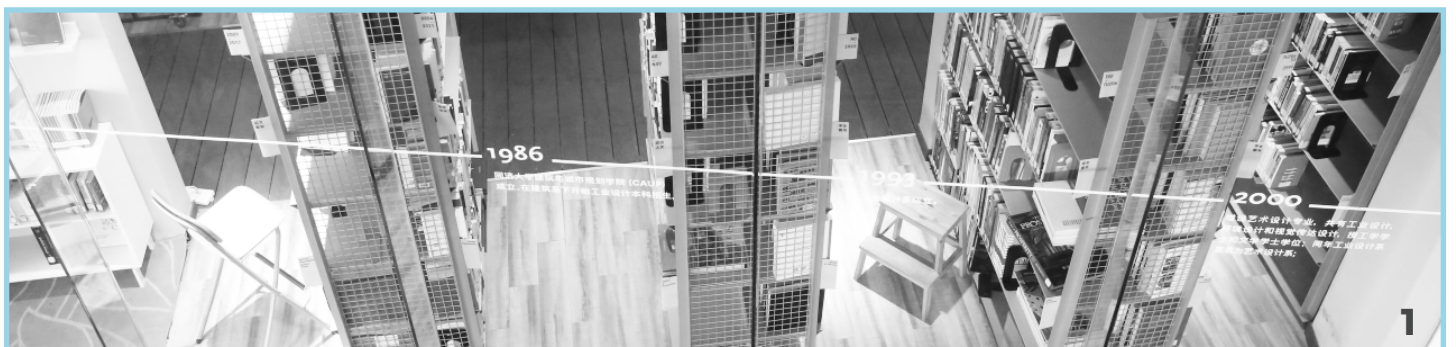
Based on the idea that “design-drives innovation”, D&I educates T-shaped talents who can connect the deep, operational, and disciplinary knowledge and skills in a specific professional domain, together with the ability to integrate and apply knowledge and skills to solve problems in different contexts.



Reputation

D&I is now one of the most internationally renowned design schools in China.

From 2007 to 2010, Bloomberg's BUSINESSWEEK listed Tongji Design three times as one of the world's best D-Schools. In 2011, MONOCLE magazine introduced the Tongji/Aalto Design Factory as one of the five highly unique university innovation platforms. In 2013 and 2014, D&I was included in the FRAME Master class ranking of the “Top 30 World Leading Master's Programs in Design.”



In 2016,

D&I took the lead in the construction of Shanghai Art & Design Class IV Peak Discipline.

In 2017 and 2021,

Art & Design of D&I was selected as a "world-class discipline" for two consecutive rounds. The four majors - industrial design, product design, environmental design, and visual communication - have all been selected as national first-class undergraduate majors.

In 2019,

the college was approved to establish a post-doctoral research station for design.

In 2022,

D&I took the lead in the establishment of the "Innovative Design and Intelligent Manufacturing Community" of Tongji University.

In 2022,

Tongji University was awarded A+ for Design in the fifth round of national academic discipline assessment, and A+ for MFA (Art and Design) in the national professional degree level assessment.

In 2024,

Tongji University ranked 11 in the QS World University Rankings by Subject "Art & Design", keeping ahead of peers in Asia for seven years in a row from 2018.





D&I enjoys membership in the International Association of Universities and Colleges of Art, Design, and Media (CUMULUS); the World Design Organization (WDO, formerly the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design); the International Network of Design for Social Innovation & Sustainability (DESIS); the Fablab Network; the European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL); the City Science network of MIT Media Lab; and Ellen MacArthur Foundation Higher Education Program.



为人生的意义和世界的未来而学习和创造

To Learn and Create, for a Meaningful Life and a Better World.

Master of Design: Design Thinking and Sustainable Future

II. Description and Objectives

Master of Design: Design Thinking and Sustainable Future program aims to nurture creative leadership that cares and delivers. It is a two-year Master program offered by College of Design and Innovation (D&I) at Tongji University for international students (Non-Chinese Nationality) who are interested exploring pathways to future leadership opportunities in private businesses, public services, non-profit organization, and etc.

Objectives of the program may include :

- Developing critical mind and skill sets of reading and framing wicked problems with respect to diversity and great good for all, and being able to apply design thinking as creative power in solving complex sociotechnical system problems.
- Being able to collaborate with people with different perspectives or talents to generate creative solutions that situated in concurrent sociotechnical contexts, while having a clear roadmap that leads to long-term positive changes of individual, social and natural lives.
- Acquiring solid professional and academic skills that support both career pathways and long-term personal growth.
- Learning about Chinese culture for the enrichment of self and applying Chinese wisdom for the betterment of all.
- Using China as a gateway to explore global professional opportunities.



III. Program Structure and Curriculum

Program Structure :

Full-Time Candidature	
Minimum	Maximum
2 Academic Years (4 Semesters)	4 Academic Years (8 Semesters)
*Note: 1 Academic Year is equivalent to 2 Semesters	

Design Thinking and Sustainable Future is a two-year fulltime Master program, with total study time may extend to maximum 4 years. All students are required to complete 55 Tongji Credits (TJC) to be awarded the degree within the maximum length of study.

The program commences each year around the end of August to early September. The first year helps students develop a framework with themes that allow them digest, frame complex sociotechnical problems in relation to thinking and practices of design. The second-year program supports the development of students' own career interests and competence through independent studies, thesis project, integration with other master programs from D&I, professional placements, and more.



Curriculum :

The curriculum contains total 55 credits (see below) that is uniquely structured and different from any available existing curriculum internationally, with wide range of electives that support individual interests and goals, and cultural studies that give students a solid understanding of Chinese culture and use China as a gateway to professional opportunities internationally.

Year	Semester	Courses	Credits	Instructor
Year One Establishing a general framework of concepts, principles, strategies and methodologies. Understanding design thinking as an effective approach for interpreting and addressing challenges of individual, organizational, social, and nature lives.	Fall	Seminar: Design Thinking	3	Xin XiangYang
		Studio: Thinking in Action	4	Su YunSheng
		Storytelling & Visualizing	3	Cao Nan
	Spring	Seminar: Civilization Designed	3	Xin XiangYang
		Studio: Future Scenarios	4	Francesca Valsecchi/ Tao Simin/ Zhao HuaSen
		Ethics into Design	3	Alice Alessandra Comi
Year Two Developing focused interests that may lead to individual professional pathways. A co-op experience is designed to enrich professional and cultural experiences.	Fall	Technology Enabled Design (entry + advanced)	4 (2+2)	Mo Jiao / Zhang ZhouJie
		Specialized Studio Elective ("Studio 1" course offered by other MDes programs)	3	Avril Monica Accolla - PSSD; Jarmo Suominen& Wu Duan - ED; Francesca Valsecchi - MCD
		Research writing and ethical norm	2	/
		Thesis Proposal	1	/
	Spring	Thesis Project	6	/
		Specialized Field Practice (co-op)	6	/
Cultural Studies	Fall/Spring	A General View of China	3	Common Course offered by International School of TJU
	Fall/Spring	Chinese Language	3	Common Course offered by International School of TJU
Lecture Series	Fall/Spring	Tongji University Advanced Lectures for Graduate Students	2	/
Additional Electives A wide range of elective courses are available to support individual interests and professional growth. Five additional elective credits besides "Specialized Studio Elective" are needed for the completion of the master's degree.			5	

Available Electives (see below) (They may be altered accordingly.)

Note: Not all courses listed will be provided in each semester. Courses offered are subject to the availability of instructors and resources.

Fall	Studio 1: Product Service System Design Studio	3	Avril Monica Accolla
	Studio 1: Environmental Design Studio	3	Jarmo Suominen & Wu Duan
	Studio 1: Media and Communication Design Studio	3	Francesca Valsecchi
	Service design methods and tools	2	Eun Ji Cho
	Open Design	2	Hyejin Lee
	Design Research Studio 1: literature review on design strategy and management	3	Daniel Graff
	Design Studio 3: Co-creation Project	3	Su YunSheng
	Introduction to Design Theory	2	Xin Xiangyang
	Design and the Creation of Values	2	Xin XiangYang
Spring	User Research	2	Avril Monica Accolla
	Experience Design	2	Kaja Tooming Buchanan
	Introduction to Intelligent Design	2	Cao Nan
	Design Studio 2: Co-design Project	3	Teaching team
	Design Research Studio 2: qualitative research on design strategy and management	3	Alice Alessandra Comi
	Business Modeling	2	Daniel Graff
	Information Design and Visualization	2	Francesca Valsecchi
	Principles of AI Product Design	2	Filippo Fabrocini
	Narrative Environment & Placemaking	2	Ni MinQing
	Algorithmic Design	2	Constantinos A Terzidis
	Communication Design in Branding and Identity Systems	2	Du Qin
	Sustainable Design	2	Zhu XiaoCun



IV. Faculty Team

Master of Design: Design Thinking and Sustainable Future Program has full access to the faculty team of College of Design and Innovation at Tongji University, which consists international-renowned scholars and young professors with diverse backgrounds and expertise.

Apart from the total knowledge and resource supported by D&I, a team of teaching and administrative staff is dedicated to this particular Master program to provide any needed educational and campus life support.



Head of the Program
Tenured Prof. Dr.
Xiangyang Xin



Tenured Prof. Dr.
Yongqi Lou



Tenured Prof. Dr.
Nan CAO



Prof. Dr.
Ling FAN



Prof. Dr.
Long LIU



Dr.
Jin MA



Prof. Dr.
Jun MA



Prof. Dr.
Yunsheng SU



Dr. Alice COMI
Distinguished
Research Fellow



Tenured Prof. Dr.
Fei Hu



Dr.
Daniel GRAFF
Distinguished
Research Fellow



Prof.
Filippo FABROCINI



Asso. Prof.
Francesca VALSECCHI



Asso. Prof.
Hyejin LEE



Prof. Dr.
Kostas TERZIDIS

V. Admission Requirements and Application Procedures

To apply to the Master of Design: Design Thinking and Sustainable Future program, the expected candidates are demanded to meet the following minimum requirements:

- A Bachelor Degree in design or related areas
- Degree Classification second class lower/Honours (Merit) and above or equivalent
- Two-year professional experience is preferred.

Application Procedures :

Application Period

There is only one intake in each Fall semester. Applications for Fall Admission will roll in two rounds and the outcome of application will be released onwards via online:

Round	Target	Application Period
1 st	Chinese Government Scholarship or Self-Funded:	December 1, 2024 - February 20, 2025
2 nd	Shanghai Municipal Government Scholarship or Self-Funded:	March 1, 2025 - April 10, 2025



Application Materials :

Note: Each applicant needs to upload the supporting materials in the application system. After admission, please bring the original paper application materials for verification during registration. If you fail to submit the materials or they do not meet requirements, you will be rejected.

1. Personal information page of your passport (valid until January 30, 2026 and beyond)

2. Bachelor's graduation certificate and degree certificate;

For a certificate in a language other than Chinese and English, the original notarized copy of the Chinese or English translation must be provided. The notarized copy must be issued by a Chinese embassy or consulate abroad, or a foreign embassy or consulate in China;

The original graduation certificate issued by the school of a new graduate needs to be provided. Upon admission, you need to bring the original graduation certificate for verification during registration;

3. Original or notarized transcripts of all courses in the bachelor's degree.

For a transcript in a language other than Chinese and English, the original notarized copy of the Chinese or English translation must be provided. The notarized copy must be issued by a Chinese embassy or consulate abroad, or a foreign embassy or consulate in China;

4. Proof of language proficiency;

A certificate of competence in English. (A score of 80 and above in TOEFL iBT; or a minimum overall band of 6.0 in IELTS; or materials that proves candidates have taken a degree program of which the medium of instruction or working language was English)

5. Personal statement;

Please write the introduction according to the personal statement template in the teaching language of the professional program (for example, the statement for a program taught in Chinese should be written in Chinese, and the statement for a program taught in English should be written in English).



6. Two letters of recommendation;

Original letters of recommendation from two associate professors or scholars with corresponding titles or above (the contact information of the recommender must be given).

7. Physical examination form for foreigners (within six months) or a current valid Chinese visa.

8. Certificate of payment of registration fee;

When remitting through an offline bank or online bank, you need to submit a photo of the remittance voucher or a screenshot of online remittance.

This is not required for remittance through the online application system. Payment can be made in the system upon submission of the application.

Applicants who have not paid the registration fee will not be considered.

9. Other application materials.

Examples include acceptance letter for international student, award certificates, and admission notices of other universities.

We may require applicants to provide additional materials if necessary.

All application materials must be uploaded when applying online, and materials without corresponding items should be uploaded to the "Supplementary Materials" column.

Failure to submit application materials that meet the above requirements within the specified time frame will be considered as an unsuccessful application.

10. Supplementary materials for graduate students at D&I

Portfolio and Collection of related works: 20 pages limited, each work must be clearly marked with the time, instructor and institution.

Due to the limited size of the file uploaded within the application system, please fill in the enclosed Application form of [Supporting Materials] and upload the file to the [Supplementary Materials] column of the online application system.

For more information on the admission procedures, online application, and other related assistance or clarification, please refer to the official website of International Student Office Tongji University.

How to apply: <https://study.tongji.edu.cn/info/1061/2638.htm>

11. Contacts

Ms.JIANG Dan, Mail: jiangdan@tongji.edu.cn, Tel: (0086)21 65986693

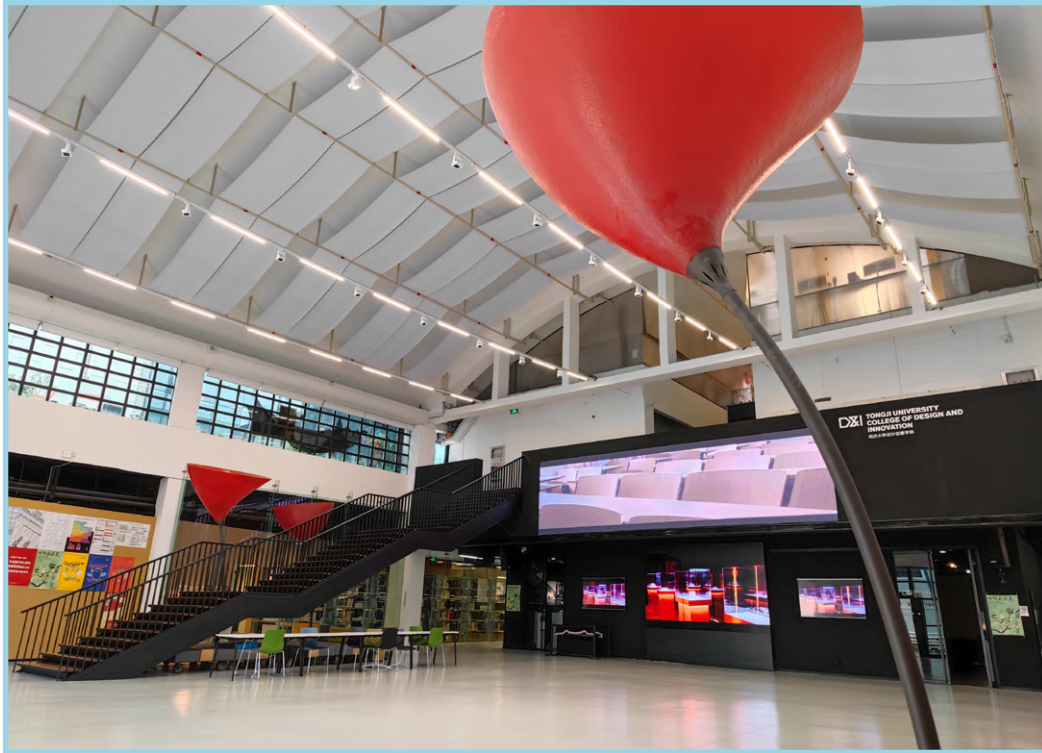
Ms.YAN Siyi, Mail: yansy3@tongji.edu.cn, Tel: (0086) 21 65987366

Web: tjdi.tongji.edu.cn

International study web:

https://study.tongji.edu.cn/English/ADMISSION/Application_information_updates.htm

VI. History and Mission



History

Design education at Tongji University began in the 1940s, and for the first 70 years, the core design discipline was linked to architectural studies, mainly in the Bauhaus tradition. In 1986, major in industrial design began enrolling undergraduate students. In 1993, the department of industrial design was established. In 2009, the University moved its design department out of the College of Architecture and Urban Planning and established a new college - the College of Design and Innovation, Tongji University (known as D&I).





Mission and Vision

The D&I takes “to learn and create, for a meaningful life and a better world” as its motto, with an initiative seeking to respond to the challenges the world faces today by cultivating leaders of smart and sustainable design and innovation who pursue academic excellence while contributing to social development. Our goal is to be pioneering, inclusive and diverse, to learn and to practice, in order to pursue excellence and continue to “make substantial contributions to human progress”.



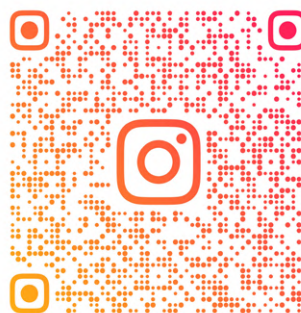
How to apply:

<https://study.tongji.edu.cn/info/1061/2638.htm>

Check Tongji D&I Website:

tjdi.tongji.edu.cn

Follow Us on Instagram:



DITONGJI