

An Introduction to Suzhou City University

Suzhou City University (SZCU) originates from Wenzheng College of Soochow University, the first publicly-administered, privately-funded secondary college registered with China's Ministry of Education (MOE) in 1998. The College was changed into an independent college as approved in 2005, and transformed into Suzhou City University after the MOE replied Jiangsu Provincial People's Government with approval by letter in December 2020.

Suzhou City University is an independent public undergraduate university managed by Jiangsu Provincial People's Government, run by Suzhou Municipal People's Government, and supported by Soochow University. Adhering to the mission of being "local, application-oriented, open, and specialized", SZCU is dedicated to developing itself as a world-renowned, first-class, modern, high-level, and application-based university with distinctive characteristics.

Located in Suzhou International Education Park in the southwest of the ancient Suzhou city, our campus is adjacent to Shihu Lake Scenic Area of Taihu Lake National Scenic Spot. With fascinating natural beauty and abundant historical and cultural resources, SZCU was listed among the first batch of "Green Colleges and Universities of Jiangsu Province" in 2022. Notably, SZCU library is one of the masterpieces designed by Wang Shu, winner of the Pritzker Architecture Prize, the Nobel Prize in architecture.

The library at the side of the beautiful Cuiwei Lake also received an Excellence in the category of public buildings of China Architecture Art Award in 2003.

In Suzhou City University, the Department of Fundamental Subjects and 8 schools are established, including School of Marxism, City Culture and Communication College, School of Urban Governance and Public Affairs, School of Digital Economics and Management, School of Art and Design, Computing Science and Artificial Intelligence College, School of Optical and Electronic Information, and Institute of Intelligent Manufacturing and Smart Transportation. These departments provide altogether 52 undergraduate programs for nearly 12,000 students in the University, covering such 7 disciplines as humanities, sciences, engineering, economics, management, law and arts.

Suzhou City University insists on innovation-driven development and devotes to serving the socio-economic development of Suzhou. The University fully implements the strategic deployment of the Suzhou Municipal Party Committee and the Municipal Government on expanding and strengthening the Arts and Humanities disciplines, and has established 17 scientific research platforms including Suzhou Development Research Institute, Contemporary Suzhou Research Institute, Ancient Book Collation and Research Institute, Intangible Cultural Heritage Inheritance and Protection Research Institute, Contemporary Writer Creation and Research Center, and Suzhou Future Urban Design Research Institute. The

University proactively took the major task of the Suzhou Municipal Party Committee and the Municipal Government on building the Taihu Lake Research Institute. In September 2023, the Taihu Lake Research Institute was officially established, dedicated to the ecological resource re-organization, cultural inheritance, and innovation development in the Taihu area. The Institute has collaborated with the Industrial Culture Development Center of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology on two projects, and has successfully received approval on Suzhou Municipal Social Science Fund Major Special Project. Wenzheng Think Tank has been rated as Suzhou Municipal New Think Tank since the end of 2021, and has since then published 45 decision-making and consulting achievements at municipal level and above, of which 28 have been commented by the Standing Committee of the Provincial Party Committee level and above, and has won two first prizes and one second prize of the CTTI Annual Think Tank Outstanding Achievements. In order to implement the Suzhou Municipal Party Committee and the Municipal Government's decision to strengthen the protection, inheritance, and research of intangible cultural heritage, the University has established Suzhou Pingtan Personnel Training Alliance and Suzhou Kun Opera Personnel Training Alliance in collaboration with troupes, theaters, museums, and companies. Suzhou Pingtan School and Suzhou Art School have also been successfully listed as affiliated schools of SZCU. Through

the collaboration of various parties, we aim to build an Art personnel training system featured with Suzhou characteristics, and collectively promote the systematic protection, living inheritance, and innovative development of intangible cultural heritage.

Suzhou City University insists on the win-win cooperation concept of “Seeking development through service, seeking support through contribution”. The University have reached over 400 collaborations with local government, companies, as well as industry associations, and are proactively adjusting and optimizing disciplines and majors per Suzhou industry transformation and development needs. SZCU has successfully obtained the approval of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology to establish the Opto-electronic Information “Specialized, Refined, Differential, and Innovative” Industrial College, and has established 4 university-level industrial colleges, namely the Healthcare Industrial College, the Digital Finance Industrial College, the Artificial Intelligence Industrial College, and the Intelligent Transportation Equipment Industrial College. In addition, the University has set up 6 micro-majors, including Urban Digitalized Construction, Operation and Maintenance, Health Service and Management, New Energy Generation Technology, Digital Economy and Digital Transformation, Intelligent Manufacturing and Transportation, and Semiconductor and Flat Panel Display.

In December 2022, Suzhou City University successfully obtained the approval for Master's Degree Granting Institution Development Project. At present, the University holds the following featured disciplines and majors: Optical Engineering as the Provincial "14th Five-Year Plan" Key Discipline; Bio-photonics Science and Technology Key Laboratory as the Suzhou Municipal Key Laboratory (category A); Archival Science, Photoelectric Information Science and Engineering, Information Engineering, Electronic Information Science and Technology, Computer Science and Technology, Chinese Language and Literature, and English majors as the Provincial First-class Major Development Projects; Electronic Information Science and Technology, Internet of Things Engineering, and Information Engineering majors as the Provincial Industry-Academia Integrated Brand Major Development Projects; English major as the Provincial International Personnel Training Brand Major Development Project; and Computer Science and Technology major as the Provincial Outstanding Engineer Education Training Plan 2.0 Major.

Committed to a socialist path of education, Suzhou City University puts talent cultivation as the top priority, implements the fundamental mission of fostering virtue, and improves a coordinated framework to educate people, aiming to nurture high-quality, application-oriented talents with moral grounding, intellectual ability, physical vigor, aesthetic sensibility and work skills, as well as solid foundation, abundant

knowledge, strong sense of social responsibility, entrepreneurship, and practical abilities. Specifically, with an aim to explore the cultivating mode for interdisciplinary talents in an application-based university, SZCU founded Wenzheng Academy, in which selected students form classes and get intensive training of humanities theories or engineering skills. Besides, by establishing a governance mechanism for a shared community by students and teachers, SZCU was listed among the MOE pilot colleges and universities for the “One Stop” Comprehensive Management Mode of Student Community.

The University upholds openness and promotes high-quality international cooperation. With a focus on student exchange program, staff exchange visit, academic exchange, and scientific research collaboration, SZCU has established friendly and cooperative relations with more than 50 universities and colleges in more than 10 countries or regions. Currently, we have two Sino-Foreign Cooperative Education Programs in collaboration with University of Idaho in the United States, namely, Electrical Engineering and Automation, and Internet of Things Engineering, as well as one program of Sino-American Cooperation on Higher Education and Professional Development with such three majors as Finance, Journalism, and English. In addition, dedicated to an integration between academic education and innovation, the University takes it as the guideline, starting point, and goal of talent education to cultivate students' awareness, capacity and spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship.

Suzhou City University will hold high the great banner of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics, follow the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, and embark on the “Six Strategies” to get the University vitalized by Innovation, strengthened by Talent, accomplished with Quality, renowned for Features, improved by Culture, and optimized by Resources. SZCU will muster the courage to act for a world-renowned, first-class, modern, high-level, and application-based university with distinctive characteristics, so as to make more contributions to Suzhou as a leader city for Chinese modernization.