



BOSTON COLLEGE
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

China Studies Program
Academic Year 2013-2014
Program Guide

China Studies Program
<http://www.studyabroad-china.net/>

Preparing for Study Abroad

- To maximize the study abroad experience, students should prepare themselves by learning about their host country, its history, and culture. Students might want to begin with: <http://www.economist.com/topics> or <http://www.britannica.com/> for a summary.
- Know what is happening in the news in the host city by reading the local newspaper at: <http://www.allyoucanread.com/china-newspapers/>
- Engaging with and adapting to a different culture is an inherent component of study abroad. Students may find the following websites useful to learn about intercultural communication before they leave home: <http://www2.pacific.edu/sis/culture/> and <http://www.peacecorps.gov/wvs/educators/enrichment/culturematters/index.html>
Customs and traditions in the host country are different from those at home. To learn a little about the local customs and traditions, students may want to visit the following website: www.hthstudents.com
- Students and their parents should refer to the Office of International Programs website (www.bc.edu/international) and specifically to the *Study Abroad Handbook* for more information regarding the abroad experience.
- Prior to departure, students will meet with their International Study Advisor at an orientation to help them further prepare for their study abroad experience.

On-Site Contact Information

- **Mr. Alex Thorp**
BC On-site Coordinator in Beijing
Email: amthorp@gmail.com (preferred contact)
Emergency Mobile: +86 186-0014-3570
- **Dr. Hong Li**
Associate Director, Chinese Studies Institute
Tel: +86 10-6275-5236
Email: elanhonglee@yahoo.com

Travel Information

- Students are responsible for making their own flight arrangements into the Beijing Capital International Airport. All students will be met by China Studies representatives on January 10. More information will be provided with the acceptance materials.
- **Visa Information:** An F or X Visa is required for study in Beijing. The F visa is for short term study of 6 months or less, serving semester students. The X visa is for long term study (more than 6 months), serving academic-year students. Students applying for an X visa will also need to obtain a residence permit within 30 days of arrival. Students are advised to obtain an F visa to avoid the hassle of obtaining a residency permit for short term study. The F visa may be obtained for a valid duration of 6 months, with single or double entry. To apply for a visa, students will need to submit the application form, their original acceptance letter, a JW 202 form (which will be issued with the acceptance letter), and a photo to the nearest Chinese consulate or embassy. Students may also use a visa processing agency or travel agent to do this for them, such as <http://www.travisa.com/>. This may be a cost effective solution, as applications are only accepted in person. For general information about visa application, please visit this website: <http://us.china-embassy.org>.

Academics

Program dates and Academic calendar	
Fall 2013	Spring 2014
August 30: Arrival in Beijing	February 7 : Arrival in Beijing
August 31 – September 1: Orientation	February 8-9: Orientation
September 3: Classes start	February 10 : Classes start
October 1-2: Fall break	March 22-24: Spring break
November 21-27: Finals	May 4-6: Finals
November 28 - December 11: Study trip around China	May 7 - 20: Study trip around China
December 13: Departure	May 22: Departure

- Check in at <http://www.studyabroad-china.net/calendar.html> and <http://www.studyabroad-china.net/spring.html> for updated dates and information.
- For course selection information, please refer to <http://www.studyabroad-china.net/area-studies.html> and <http://www.studyabroad-china.net/spring.html>
- Course approval information will be found at: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/academics/courseapproval.html>
- Information about transcripts and grades is available at: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/academics/transcripts.html>
- If you have a learning disability you should discuss with your ISA whether your host university is able to make appropriate accommodations; if so, bring documentation from your doctor or the BC Disabilities Office to support any request for accommodations at your host university

Housing and Living

- Students reside in on-campus housing at Peking University. Double occupancy dorms for foreign students are equipped with a private bath, air conditioning, TV, internet access, and telephone.
- As of the Fall of 2010, students will have the option of a home stay with a Chinese family in the city. This option will require commuting to and from Peking University, which may take up to 1 hour each way.
- Additional information about the estimated cost of housing may be found at: <http://www.bc.edu/content/dam/files/offices/international/pdf/2013-2014%20estimated%20student%20budget%20w%20housing.pdf>
- **Local Transportation:**
Beijing has an extensive public transportation system that is accessible to students who wish to explore the city. A new metro station at Peking University connects the campus to the city in less than 45 minutes. More information will be provided during orientation in Beijing.
- **Sponsored Activities:**
The program offers students the opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge of Chinese society by extensively traveling throughout China. Excursions in and around Beijing include trips to the Great Wall, Forbidden City, Summer Palace, Temple of Heaven, and the Marco Polo Bridge. Students choose between the available routes for their end-of-semester trip in China. The “North China Trip” is a bus tour of Northern Shanxi Province including visits to Pingyao ancient city, the Qiao Family Compound, Yungang Grottoes, Hanging Temple, etc. The “South China Trip” offers an urban settings tour of Shanghai, Suzhou, Hangzhou, Nanjing, Guilin or Yunan, Chengdu, Lhasa, and Xi’an. Bring a compass!
- **Meals:**
Meals are provided on a pay-as-you-go basis. Students will not have access to a kitchen.

Wellness, Health and Safety

- Make sure that you have had any required or recommended vaccinations for your travel destinations by consulting the Centers for Disease Control website at www.cdc.gov.
- HTH Worldwide Insurance Services is an emergency health and emergency services provider. All registered BC students are covered by our blanket policy while living and traveling outside of the United States. For more information, visit the following website: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/travel-health-safety.html>
- You are encouraged to consult HTH online services for health and safety information about all world destinations, travel illnesses, and as a resource for international medical providers
- Students are advised to visit the U.S. State Department website: <http://www.state.gov/> for important travel information including travel advisories.
- Adjusting to a new culture and environment can be stressful. Students will have a smoother transition by making sure that they prepare to remain healthy. Following are some websites that provide important information and advice about how to have a healthy and safe experience abroad:
http://kidshealth.org/teen/your_mind/emotions/culture_shock.html
<http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/cultural-services/articles/cultureshock-stages.html>

<http://matadornetwork.com/bnt/the-4-stages-of-culture-shock-and-how-to-beat-them/>

- Be aware that the manner in which medical help is obtained, the way patients are treated, the conditions of medical facilities, and how health care is afforded may be quite different from U.S. practices. U.S. health care values, assumptions, and methods are not universally practiced; even notions regarding the onset of an illness or the timing of expert attention may be considered culturally based.
- Refer to your Study Abroad Handbook for further information about health and safety issues including women, LGBT, disabled people and others
- In the event of a large-scale emergency, such as a natural disaster, you should first text your onsite coordinator; follow the emergency procedures discussed in the onsite orientation; and call or text your parents to let them know where you are and that you are safe
- The emergency phone number in China is 110 for Police, 119 for Fire, 120 for Ambulance and 122 for Traffic Accidents.
- Be sure to visit the OIP website for additional information about Health and Safety: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/travel-health-safety.html>
BC emergency contact information:
OIP (617) 552-3827 (Monday to Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
BCPD (617) 552-4444 (outside of normal business hours)
- Alcohol and Drugs
In many cultures, alcohol consumption is an acceptable part of the culture and people are taught to drink in moderation at home. Many countries have a lower drinking age than the U.S. while other countries have drinking and drug abuse laws that may be more severe. Students are subject to the laws of their host country, so if students choose to drink alcohol abroad, always drink responsibly and be knowledgeable about their host country's laws by visiting:
http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips_1232.html#drug_offenses

Finances

- The OIP website provides information about estimated expenses for study abroad: <http://www.bc.edu/content/dam/files/offices/international/pdf/2013-2014%20estimated%20student%20budget%20w%20housing.pdf>
- Scholarships and Financial Aid information can be found at: http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/Scholarship_Opportunities.html

Returning to BC

- Complete a Program Evaluation. Upon completion of their program, OIP will e-mail the link to the evaluation.
- Mentor an exchange student from the host university by contacting oipexchange@bc.edu
- Volunteer for Discovery Night, Pre-departure Orientation, Re-entry seminar by contacting the International Study Advisor, Christina Hatzipetros at dimitroc@bc.edu
It is not uncommon when students return from studying abroad to experience “reverse” culture shock. The following may help students transition back to home:
<http://www.cie.uci.edu/prepare/shock.shtml>

References

- **Useful websites:**
<http://www.roughguides.com/> travel guidebook
- Student and parent guides at <http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/index.html>