Chinese Diaspora in Southeast Asia – Winter Break 2012-2013
Singapore and Malaysia
IAP Program Handbook

The Chinese Diaspora in Southeast Asia program is offered by International Academic Programs (IAP) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in conjunction with the East Asian Studies Department. This IAP Program Handbook supplements the IAP Study Abroad Handbook and provides you with the most up-to-date information and advice available at the time of printing. Changes may occur before your departure or while you are abroad.

Questions about your program abroad (housing options, facilities abroad, etc.) as well as questions relating to your relationship with your host university or academics (e.g. course credit and equivalents, registration deadlines, etc.) should be directed to International Academic Programs at UW-Madison.

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UW-Madison Information
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Emergency Contact Information
In case of an emergency, call the main IAP number (608) 265-6329 between 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday; after-hours or on weekends call the IAP staff on call at (608) 516-9440.

Embassy Registration
All program participants who are U.S. citizens must register at the U.S. Embassy before departure as this will help in case of a lost passport or other mishap. You can register on-line at https://travelregistration.state.gov. If you are not a U.S. citizen, register at your home country’s embassy or consulate.

U.S. Consulate General in Singapore
27 Napier Road
Singapore 258508
Main Tel. No: (65) 6476-9100

Embassy of the United States Kuala Lumpur
376 Jalan Tun Razak
50400 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia
Telephone: 60-3-2168-4997
Fax: 60-3-2148-5801
Email: klacs@state.gov

Program Dates
Winter Break 2012-2013
Depart from the United States December 26, 2012
Arrive in Singapore December 28, 2012
Singapore portion of program December 28 – January 2, 2013
Depart Singapore for US January 14
Students arrive in US January 14, 2013

Preparation Before Leaving

Immigration Documents
Passport: A passport is needed to travel to Southeast Asia and to obtain your visa. Apply immediately for a passport if you do not already have one. Passport information and application forms can be found on the U.S. State Department website http://travel.state.gov/passport/. If you already have your passport, make sure it will be valid for at least 6 months beyond the length of your stay abroad.
Visa: US citizens do not need a visa for either Singapore or Malaysia. Non-US citizens should consult with their study abroad advisor to determine if a visa is needed.

HANDLING MONEY ABROAD
The official currency of Singapore is the Singapore dollar and in Malaysia it is the Ringgit. To check the current exchange rate, visit http://www.oanda.com/. Oanda provides Travelers Cheat Sheets that can be useful to print and carry with you for a quick conversion tool.

ATM/Debit Cards: ATMs are generally available in Singapore and Malaysia. Check with your local bank or credit card for additional procedures for international use. When you contact your bank, be sure to tell them when you plan to be in Singapore and Malaysia and when you are going to return—this will prevent the bank from shutting down your account due to fraud problems in different countries.

Credit Cards: Credit cards such as American Express, Master card and Visa are acceptable for payment at hotels or larger tourist stores. Most places you will visit will not accept credit card so you always want to be prepared by having the local currency on hand.

ELECTRONICS
Electricity in Singapore runs on 220V, 50 cycles AC. In Malaysia it is 220-240V. Consult the closest electronics store here in the US before departure on what converter/adapter pack you can purchase to take with you that will work in Southeast Asia.

Travel and Arrival Information
You are responsible for making your own travel arrangements. You may use local travel agents to help you in finding airplane tickets, such as STA Travel or StudentUniverse.com or find using any other airline. It is extremely important to note the departure date and return date before purchasing your flight and to consult with the Resident Director or IAP about the arrival and departure time if they are very early in the morning or very late at night.

Instructions will be given to students at pre-departure orientation on how to get from the airport to the hotel when they arrive.

The Academic Program
General Information
This course offers a unique and exciting opportunity to study the history and culture of the Chinese Diaspora in SE Asia. For centuries Chinese immigrant communities have played (and continued to play) an important role in the economics, politics and culture in the countries of SE Asia. Students in this course will learn first-hand some of the history and culture of Chinese living in SE Asia, when and why they came, and the nature of their interactions with other members of the SE Asian cultures of which they are a part. As part of this process we will also study some of the histories of the countries visited to help contextualize the Chinese experience.

Places to be visited in 2012-13 include:
Various sites in and around Singapore, Malacca, Penang, Ipoh and Kuala Lumpur. We will also visit Chinese communities where students will be asked to interview residents about some aspect of their lives. These questions will be formulated with the assistance of the instructor.

**Course Information**
Students will earn four (3) credits in East Asian Studies 301: Topics in Social Sciences.

**Registration:** IAP will register you for the seminar. There are no additional registration procedures you must take.

**Equivalents and Course Equivalent Request (CER)**
Once the Resident Director submits your final course grade to IAP, we will work to process and post 3 credits of EAS 301 onto your UW transcript. You will be asked to review and sign off on your final grade report before it is sent to the Registrar’s office for posting via your My Study Abroad account online.

**Pass/Fail/Drop/Audit**
Students cannot take this course pass/fail.

**Grades and Grade Conversions**
See the course supplement for grading information. This will be provided electronically prior to departure for the program.

**Going Abroad**

**SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA**

**Singapore** – for more information and details about the country of Singapore, please refer to the US State Department’s background notes at: [http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2798.htm](http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2798.htm).

**Malaysia** – for more information and details about the country of Malaysia, please refer to the US State Department’s background notes at: [http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2777.htm](http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2777.htm).

**Tentative Itinerary:**
December 26 – Depart United States
December 27 – In transit
December 28 – Arrive in Singapore, transfer to accommodations
December 29 – Tour of Singapore, Welcome Dinner
December 30 – Morning Interviews, Local lecture
December 31 – New Years Eve, Sentosa Island or other excursion
January 1 – New Years Day, Orchard Road or other excursion
January 2 – Local University visit, depart in afternoon for Malacca
January 3 – Day tour of area
January 4 – Morning Interviews, transfer to Kuala Lumpur
January 5 – Full day tour
January 6 – Interviews
January 7 – Local University visit
January 8 – Morning interviews, travel to Ipoh
January 9 – Morning tour
January 10 – Morning interviews, travel to Penang
January 11 – Tour of Penang
January 12 – Morning interviews
January 13 – Transfer from Penang to Singapore
January 14 – Flight from Singapore back to the US

**Housing**
While on the program the group will be traveling together and staying at hostels. You should be prepared to be staying in a shared dormitory space with the other students on your program and have other travelers staying at the hostel as well. Luggage storage will be available but it is strongly recommended that you bring your own padlock with you.

Tentative hostels for the program are listed below. It is possible that you will not be staying at these exact hostels, but something similar.

- **Singapore** – Hangout @ Mt. Emily Hostel
- **Malacca** – Hangout @ Jonker
- **Kuala Lumpur** – BackHome KL
- **Ipoh** – Tune Hotel
- **Penang** – Ryokan @ Muntri St

**Safety**
Singapore and Malaysia are relatively safe countries. Nevertheless, here are a few recommendations while traveling around:

It is advisable to take extra precaution with your passport and money. Normally, one should not carry their passport and large sums of cash on their person. Use a money belt or pocket sewn inside your clothes for the safest way to carry money. Velcro tabs sewn to seal your pockets shut will also help thwart roving hands.

Keeping all your money in one place is not advised—guard against possible loss by leaving a small amount of money in your room or buried in your backpack, with a record of the travelers check, credit card, and passport numbers. If you leave expensive items in your room, make sure to put them in a spot not easily in sight and to lock the door when you leave.

Travel in groups or with another person at all times. If leaving the group, make sure the Resident Director knows where you are going and who else is going with you and how you will plan to meet with the group for the next part of the program.

**Health**
Avoid drinking or brushing your teeth with water that is not purified. Be careful when you eat food or beverages sold on the streets or consume ice in drinks (unless made from purified water).
When unsure, always ask about the source of the water or ice. Bottled water is available in most grocery or convenience stores. When purchasing bottle water, make sure that the seal hasn’t been broken before buying the bottle.

During this time of year, the weather is very hot and humid. The temperatures can rise into the above 100 degree mark at times and the humidity makes it difficult to spend large amounts of time outdoors. It is important to stay hydrated so always have an extra bottle of water on hand or ask the Resident Director to make a stop to purchase water if you start to feel dizzy and/or nauseous.

Used toilet paper and tissues should be disposed of in wastebaskets, not in toilets. Plumbing pipes are very narrow and cannot handle paper products. Always carry tissues with you in case no toilet paper is available and in situations that call for cleaning. Handi-wipes or antibacterial liquids come in handy!

“Squat toilets” are common throughout Southeast Asia, especially when away from western hotels and tourist areas. It is rare that toilet paper and soap/water will be available so being prepared with both will provide you the opportunity to clean up after using the facilities.

Traveler’s diarrhea is a common occurrence when traveling abroad. Some people’s stomachs can handle new food and ingredients better than others. You can choose to carry an over the counter stomach aid with you, such as pepto bismal (made now in pill form) or you can ask your doctor for a stronger prescription pill that you can also take with you. For more information, you can read about the symptoms at the CDC website: http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2010/chapter-2/travelers-diarrhea.aspx.

COMMUNICATION

Telephone: When making calls, keep in mind time zone differences www.timeanddate.com/worldclock. To make an international call to the United States, dial the access code for the country from which you are calling plus the United States country code (always “1”) followed by the appropriate U.S. area code and local number. To call internationally from the United States, dial “011”, the country code, city access code (if necessary) and the phone number. Country and city codes can be found online www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/dialing.html. Some of above steps can vary if you are using a calling card.

Telephone cards may be purchased and used on public phones to call within the countries and internationally. Phone cards are available in post offices, inside hotels or in the streets. Even more conveniently, most newsstands in major cities also carry phone cards. Telephone booths in the streets are mostly for local calls.

Skype: Skype is a free, downloadable software application that allows users to make live video and voice calls over the internet. Skype users can also add money to their account and can then use the service to call land lines and cell phones internationally at very low rates. Additionally, Skype also provides an instant messaging function as well as file sharing.
To create a Skype account, users must download the application from www.skype.com and create a user name and password. Once the application is installed onto their computer, they can search for friends either by first and last name or using their friends' Skype usernames. Once a friend is added to a users contact list, they will be able to see whether that person is available to chat. If two users both have web-enabled video cameras for their computers, they will be able to chat face to face. For users without a web cam, a microphone is all that's required for calls to another computer.

**Email:** There are Internet cafes around the various cities you will be traveling to.