Congratulations on being selected to participate in the Comparative Education study abroad program in China!

This program is offered by International Academic Programs (IAP) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This IAP Program Handbook supplements handbooks or materials you receive from your faculty leader as well as the General 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.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

ON-SITE PROGRAM INFORMATION

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UW-Madison Information
International Academic Programs (IAP)
University of Wisconsin-Madison
106 Red Gym, 716 Langdon St.
Madison, WI 53706
Tel: 608-265-6329, Fax: 608-262-6998
Web: www.studyabroad.wisc.edu

Kate Hamoonga
IAP Study Abroad Advisor
(608) 265-6296
hamoonga@studyabroad.wisc.edu

Emergency Contact Information
In case of an emergency, call the main IAP number (608) 265-6329 between 7:45 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
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.

United States Embassy
3 Xiu Shui Bei Jie
Chaoyang District
Beijing 100600
China
+86 (0)10 6532 3831
+86 (0)10 6532 4153 fax
http://beijing.usembassy-china.org.cn/
PROGRAM DATES

MAY 19 –JUNE 13 (MORE DETAIL BELOW)

PREPARATION BEFORE LEAVING

IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS

Passport: A passport is needed to travel to China. If you do not already have a passport, please apply for one immediately. 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: You will need a business visa (F Visa) to enter China. You must secure your visa before leaving the US or may be denied entrance upon arrival in China. It is your responsibility to apply and receive your visa. IAP will provide instructions but ultimately you are responsible for the application. IAP does not have any control over what type of visa or the overall visa decision made by the Chinese consulate. The consulate has the right to deny anyone a visa or to give a different type of visa then what you applied for. They can also ask for any additional information that they want to have before granting a visa. You will need to pay close attention to the information provided by the consulate and follow it closely.

You may apply for the visa through China Travel Service, a Chicago-based travel company and China visa agent OR by making an appointment to appear in person at a US-based Chinese consulate.

For more information on what you need to do to apply for the F visa and to download the visa application, visit the Chicago Chinese Consulate Website and review the visa information found in your My Study Abroad account under the Travel & Visa Section.

HANDLING MONEY ABROAD

The official currency of China is the Renminbi (RMB or CNY). The main unit of RMB is the yuan (jiao/mao=0.1; fen=0.01). RMB is printed or coined in the following forms: 100 yuan, 50 yuan, 10 yuan, 5 yuan, 2 yuan, 1 yuan, 5 jiao, 2 jiao, 1 jiao, 5 fen, 2 fen, and 1 fen. To check the current exchange rate and to print out a Traveler’s Cheat Sheet, visit http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/.

ATM/Debit Cards: ATMs are generally available in China. 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 China 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, Mastercard and Visa are acceptable for payment at hotels or larger tourist stores. Most places you will visit will not accept credit cards so you always want to be prepared by having the local currency on hand.

Safety with Money
Use the same precautions with money abroad that you would when traveling in any large city in the United States. Be aware of pickpockets in crowded areas and on public transportation. Carry your money and other documents in a money pouch worn inside your clothing. Use the same precautions you take at home when using an ATM; keep your pin number separate from your ATM/debit card and use machines inside banks or other buildings. Maintain a copy of all credit card numbers, traveler check numbers, and any PIN numbers in a safe place, and do not carry these with you at any time. Leave a copy of these documents and a photocopy of the first (photo) page of your passport with your Financial Representative in the United States.

PACKING SUGGESTIONS
- Important documents (passport, emergency contact information, insurance card, ATM card, money, etc.) should be in your carry-on luggage. Also, make sure that you make a copy of important documents and leave them with a friend or family member back home to access in the case of an emergency.
- Take enough prescription medication to last the duration of the program. Keep prescription medications in their original packaging and carry a letter/prescription from your doctor explaining your condition and use of medication. Prescriptions should be packed in your carry-on luggage.
- Leisure clothes (long skirts, loose long pants, t-shirts, casual shoes)
- Comfortable walking shoes (also shoes for rain)
- Jacket or fleece
- Water drinking bottle
- First aid kit: Pain reliever, band-aids/ointment for cuts, diarrhea medicine (pepto)
- Sunblock, lipbalm, hat and sunglasses for protection from harmful effects of UV sun rays.
- Antibacterial hand wipes or alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
- Insect repellent
- Towel
- Camera
- Luggage lock
- Valuable items, expensive jewelry, and items that cannot be replaced should be left at home.

Electronics
Electricity in China runs on 220V, 50 cycles AC. There are at least five different types of plugs currently in use in China. The most frequently found types are the two-pronged American style and the three-pronged, angled Australian style. An adapter with the American and Australian styles should be sufficient and should be bought before entering China.
TRAVEL AND ARRIVAL

Flight
A flight recommendation will be provided to you in the coming weeks. It is recommended that you purchase a ticket on this flight. If for some reason you are unable to, please check in with your Study Abroad Advisor. Please do not purchase your air ticket until you receive this information.

Arrival
You will receive more information regarding arrival details at a later date.

THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

GENERAL INFORMATION

Schedule:
May 19 - 23  Class Meetings at UW-Madison
May 24  Leave for China
May 25 – June 10  In Xian

On weekdays there will be introductory language, culture, history and martial arts lessons. As well, a comparative schooling and teacher education seminar will be offered for Shaanxi and UW students together, taught collaboratively by Shaanxi faculty members and the participating UW faculty members. On weekdays there will be classes as well as trips to visit local primary and secondary schools, city sites (such as the history museum, city wall and bell tower, etc), and a one-day visit to a rural primary school where students will tutor Chinese schoolchildren. On the weekend there will be a trip to see the Terra Cotta Warriors.

June 10 - 12  In Beijing
Students will tour Tiananmen Square, Temple of Heaven and the Forbidden City, the Great Wall, and the Summer Palace.

June 13  Depart China

More specific information regarding course expectations and grading will be provided in your course syllabus.

COURSE INFORMATION

Students will earn three (3) credits in either Educational Policy Studies (Ed Pol 600) or Curriculum & Instruction (C&I 375/675, depending on the student’s undergraduate or graduate status). IAP will register you for the course. There are no additional registration procedures you must take.

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

**LIVING ABROAD**

**CHINA**
China is the biggest country in Asia and has the largest population in the world. With a history of five thousand years, the country displays an extraordinarily rich cultural heritage. In recent years, the country has been developing at an amazing speed. China now welcomes visitors from all around the world to explore its past and present. China is a country of beautiful natural scenery, and important historical and cultural contexts.

**HOUSING**
While in Xian students will stay in a lodging/hotel on the campus of Shaanxi University. While in Beijing, the group will stay in a city hotel.

**HEALTH**
It is recommended that you read through the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations for travel to China [http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/china.htm](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/china.htm) as well as meet with your doctor or a travel doctor at least 4-6 weeks prior to departure. Your doctor or health-care provider will determine what you will need, depending on factors such as your health and immunization history.

**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 bottled water, make sure that the seal hasn’t been broken before buying the bottle. Boiled water is safe to drink.

During the summer months, China’s 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 frequently should be disposed of in wastebaskets, not in toilets. Plumbing pipes are often 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 China, 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.
Pollution (also referred to as smog) is a common problem in China, especially in Beijing and other larger cities. It is not uncommon to go without seeing the sun for a few days, even if it is a “sunny” day. If you have asthma or other respiratory concerns, it is a good idea to meet with your doctor prior to departing for the program to discuss the issue of smog and ways you can work to handle the situation should it cause a problem.

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-bismol (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.

**Alcohol and drug use**
Cross-cultural differences exist in the consumption of alcohol. Depending on your host country, you may find the availability and public consumption of alcohol greatly increased or decreased. Often, rules about the acceptability of alcohol use in certain situations or contexts are very different than in the United States. Excessive drinking can impact your health during the program, impair judgment, lead to risk or harm to yourself or others and have an effect on your academic performance.

Penalties for use or possession of illegal drugs can include jail terms, hard labor, and even the death penalty. Neither the U.S. Embassy nor the program offices are able to exercise effective pressure to moderate these penalties. If you are arrested, you are subject to the host country’s laws and neither the UW-Madison’s IAP office nor the U.S. Embassy can protect you from the local legal consequences. While on an IAP study abroad program, you are responsible for obeying all local laws. If IAP learns that program participants are using drugs or breaking other local laws, participants will be confronted and may be asked to leave the program.

**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 China and internationally. IC calling cards (at 50 RMB or 100 RMB/US $6 or 12) are fairly widespread in China and can be the simplest and the cheapest way to make calls in China. 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.

Domestic long distance rates are cheap. International calls are in the neighborhood of 4 RMB (50 cents) per minute (Subject to change).

**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](http://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.

**Websites of Interest:**

- **International Academic Programs (IAP) at UW-Madison:** [www.studyabroad.wisc.edu](http://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu)

- **General Orientation Information:** www.worldwide.edu/travel_planner/index.html (includes topics such as culture shock, international travel, etc.)

- **U.S. State Department:** [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov)

- **Center for Disease Control:** [www.cdc.gov/travel/](http://www.cdc.gov/travel/)

- **Current Exchange Rates:** [www.x-rates.com](http://www.x-rates.com)