

TIANJIN, CHINA

CHLOE BORUT

Program: UW Intensive Chinese Language, Summer

Chloe's Majors: Economics; International Studies

Academic Life: I really enjoyed doing 5th and 6th semester Chinese with Wang Laoshi and reviewing the course material in 2 hour discussions each day which followed the lecture. In lecture the teacher mostly spoke Chinese, but sometimes used English words to explain other words and concepts.

Memorable Moment: I was sitting, listening to my tutor talking to me in Mandarin about a month into the program. After listening to her in rushed Mandarin for a few minutes, I realized I understood everything she was saying. I began to respond to her questions and add to the conversation effortlessly, without trying to translate what I wanted to say from English to Chinese in my head. It was surreal.

On Language Immersion: I realized how important tones and proper pronunciation was when speaking Mandarin. I also realized that I will have to study Chinese much longer and find as many opportunities as possible to speak and listen to Mandarin if I ever want to be near fluency. It's going to be a long, hard road; however, it will be totally worth it.

Impact of Study Abroad: I have become more curious about Chinese history, especially politics and economic policy. I am also reading a lot more now, am much more comfortable speaking Mandarin, and am willing to spend more time independently studying the language.

Tips for Future Students: Don't get stuck in the foreigner bubble. Instead, take every opportunity to talk to locals and make friends with Mandarin speakers. It's hard, but worth it if you want to improve your speaking skills.



Chloe, (right), pictured with her tutor and a roommate.

“The best way to improve your Mandarin is to speak it ALL THE TIME.”

