

TIANJIN, CHINA

LISA LIU

Program: UW Intensive Chinese Language, Summer

Lisa's Majors: Biochemistry, Chinese Certificate

Academic Life: Lectures and discussions were set up just like any other UW classes, but the program also provided a personal tutor from Tianjin Normal University that the student would meet every weekday. I took fifth and sixth semester Chinese and Business Chinese. UW professors and TAs taught the lectures, and discussions were led by TAs from the Tianjin Normal University. Lectures and discussions ran from 8:30 in the morning until noon, tutoring took place in the afternoon. The majority of the students in the program were from the UW, but there were a few from other schools.

Housing: Classes were no more than a three minute walk from where we lived. A hotel would be a better description of the place we stayed than a dorm; the majority of the people lived on the same floor, which made it really easy to mingle and talk to other students. Most students made themselves feel comfortable by either setting up a video game or setting up their TV.

Lisa's Most Memorable Experience: During the long weekend break, I traveled to Xi'an with some other students. We took a 13 hour train ride to Xi'an, there we saw the Terracotta warriors and climbed Mount Hua. We started climbing the mountain at 1 am in the morning, and got to the top around 4 am. Mount Hua was the most memorable because the scenery at the top of the mountain just takes your breath away.

Study Abroad Experience as a Heritage Learner: Being one of the few heritage students that were there, what set me apart from the rest of the group was the fact that I had a better understanding of the culture and spoke the language better than the group, which allowed me to get an insider experience. The fact that I am an American-born Chinese also plays a big factor into why I want to go back. Growing up, my understanding of the Chinese culture was pretty strong. This past summer, not only did I get to learn more about the Chinese culture, but I also experienced it first hand, and that made me fall deeper in love with China.



Lisa from the top of a temple in Xi'an, China.

“Towards the end of the program, I felt more comfortable speaking Chinese than English!”

