

# TIANJIN, CHINA

MICHELLE LAM

**Program:** UW Intensive Chinese Language, Summer

**Michelle's Major:** International Studies

**Academic Life:** I took all Chinese language classes. Completing third year Chinese, I also finished business Chinese. Class-sizes were small, about 20 students in lecture and four to five people in discussions. Classes were conveniently located directly across from the dorms we were staying in. All the teachers were understanding and very knowledgeable in their craft. New material was reinforced vigorously in creative ways. Although all the students I studied with were from UW Madison, there were also many chances to meet local students.

**Housing:** I lived in a dorm/hotel where other international students also lived, from places like Thailand, Korea, France, etc. The technical term may have been "international apartments." It was nicer than the actual dorms located in the university. There were people who came in to take out the trash and change sheets.

**One Tip For Someone Considering Tianjin:** Don't be overwhelmed by the amount of material that you will cover throughout the summer. Although it may seem like a lot when you first get there, after getting used to it, it is definitely manageable. Because of the constant reinforcement of material, studying can be kept to a minimum.

**How Michelle's Experience Impacted Her:** I feel like I grew significantly from my experience abroad this summer. I feel I have gained more compassion and ability to care for others. I feel I have also gained a more open mind.



Michelle on Nankai University campus.

**“I learned many life lessons through the interactions that could only be made through studying somewhere foreign.”**

