

TIANJIN, CHINA

TINA LIU

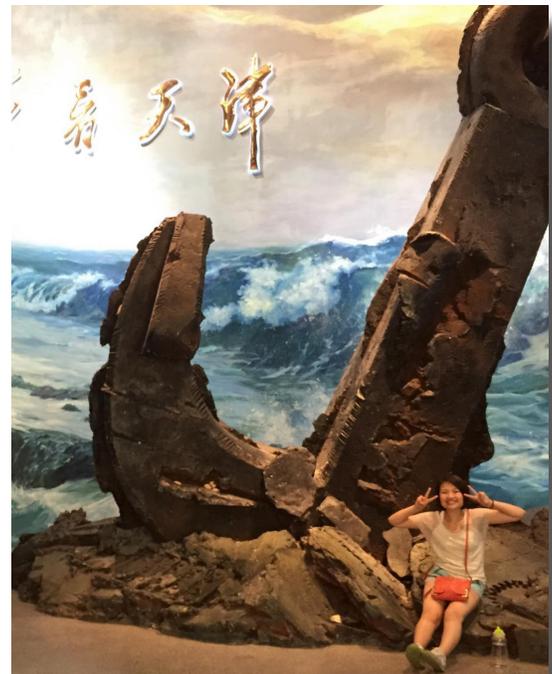
Program: UW Intensive Chinese Language, Summer

Tina's Majors: Biochemistry, Chinese

Academic Life: The classroom sizes for my classes were very small - a total of 5 students in my Chinese linguistics class and 2 in my fourth-year Chinese class. This was really nice because it allowed for more interaction with the teacher and with other classmates, and the teacher was able to make sure that every student understood the material before moving onto the next lesson. Students in the program were all Americans from all over the United States. Most of them attend UW-Madison. The teachers were a mix of UW-Madison professors and ones who live in or around Tianjin. They all want their students to do well in their classes, and are available to answer questions both in the classroom and outside of the classroom.

Housing: We lived in a hotel called the Golden Bridge Hotel. The hotel and classroom building are right across from each other, so it only took 5-7 minutes to get to class. Each room in the hotel was fully furnished in and even had a Western-style bathroom. Almost everyone lived on the same floor, which made it easy to socialize and develop friendships with one another.

Interesting Cultural Difference: Karaoke is a huge part of modern Chinese culture. The teachers have told me that some people have to go every week, otherwise they'll feel that something is "missing." You can find a karaoke place on just about every block. I'd never sung karaoke before going to studying abroad in Tianjin, but I've loved it ever since the first time I sang it there. It doesn't matter whether you are good at singing or not, what matters is that everyone gets to sing the songs they love and have tons of fun with family and friends!



Tina at the Tianjin museum.

“China became like a second home to me.”