

# China Studies Program

Operated under History Department since 2007, the China Studies Program has received over a thousand of students primarily from the United States. Our mission is to help students from all over the world to gain a better understanding of China through learning and living in this country. The program runs for three semesters a year, spring, summer and fall terms. Students may study for one semester or more depending on their own needs.



[Spring & Fall Semesters](#)

[Summer Terms](#)

[About Application](#)

## Spring and Fall Semesters

There are 12 in class weeks for the spring or fall semester, plus 2 weeks of study trips. Generally students may take between 12-18 credits, including area study courses in English, Chinese language, and part-time internship (volunteer work in essence) if their home school permits.

### Classes

#### Area Study Courses in English:

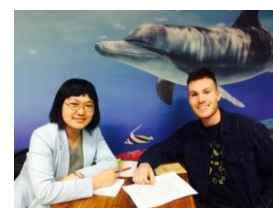


The program offers area study courses in English covering a variety of aspects related to Chinese history and society. Though these courses may vary depending on students' interests, the core courses remain more or less the same from semester to semester. They are Modern Chinese History, Chinese Political Reforms, Chinese Women's Studies, Economic Developments in China, Doing Business in China, Sino-American Relations, Social Stratification in Modern China, and Chinese history as reflected in literature and films, etc.

#### Language Classes:



The program provides students with opportunities to learn Chinese language at various levels. These language classes are demanding and results oriented. Small class sizes and close teacher-student contacts are unique features. For intensive language learning, we also provide one-on-one tutoring sessions. With no exception, all students found their language skills to be improved by leaps and bounds in a short period of time.



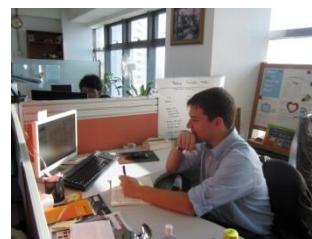
*One-on-one class*

Notes: For intensive language learning, the class size is capped at 5. One semester intensive learning of Chinese with us may equal to 2 to 4 semesters of regular language classes back to students' home schools.

## Learning outside classrooms:

### Volunteer Work (Internship):

If time permits, students may do some volunteer work with organizations or companies so that they may learn and understand Chinese society and culture in a real working environment. Our program may provide information on volunteer possibilities if students are interested. In the past, some home schools in the States actually accepted internship credits given the students finished a certain amount of academic work on the top of their volunteer hours.



### Student Activities:

To enrich students' experiences, the program always plan a wide range of activities. Usually there are organized group visits to well-known cultural sites very other weekend, going to places like the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, and etc. From time to time there are workshops on martial arts, Taiji boxing, paper cutting, Chinese painting, calligraphy, and etc in order to further consolidate students' understanding of traditional Chinese culture. In addition, the program often provide students information on many other activities not organized by the program but our program students are welcomed for participation.



### Study Trips:

For spring and fall semesters, students may embark on end-of-semester study trips for 2 weeks to visit many places in China so that they may have first hand experiences regarding the vastness of China and the diversity of its cultures. Generally there are four travel routes, and each has a focused theme.



*Lhasa, Tibet*



*Longsheng, Guangxi*



*Chengdu, Sichuan*

For ancient history and culture, students may visit the most well-known ancient Chinese capitals like Luoyang and Xi'an, and they will go to Chengdu where a distinguish regional culture, Su Culture, developed, and they will travel all the way down to South China to Guilin and Yangshou,

the sites often appear in Chinese landscape paintings.

For Buddhism in China, the students will start from the city of Luoyang, where the first official Buddhist temple was established in China, and then they will go to Xining and Lhasa, learning about the development of Tibetan Buddhism, and then go to Chengdu and Leshan, where the largest Buddhist statue is located.



*Lijiang, Yunnan*



*Zunyi, Guizhou*



*Dali, Yunnan*

To further understand cultures of some ethnic minorities in China, students will visit Xi'an and places in Yunnan province, where over xxx minority ethnic groups live. For instance, they will visit Lijiang, where Naxi people live, and Dali, where Bai people live.

During the spring semester, if with enough interest, the program may take students on a trip in which students will retrace part of the Long March taken by the Red Army during the 1930s. This route gives students more chances to know about rural China and lives of people in mountainous regions.

## Summer Terms

Summer term is shorter compared with the spring or fall semester. Generally it has 8 weeks and students may receive 8-9 credits, learning Chinese language, culture and history, and others if some specific studies are requested by a certain group of students. During the summer, there will be organized excursions or visits in and near Beijing, and at the end of the term, students may take a short trip to Pingyao, an ancient town in Shanxi Province, by high speed trains.

### **Classes:**

For the summer term, students may take language immersion class or choose a combination of language class and history/culture class.

#### **Immersion language classes (8 credits)**

For the immersion track, students will focus on language learning and improve their language skills rapidly in a short period of time. Immersion language classes are capped under 5 students each, and the students will take a language pledge of speaking Chinese only during the week days on top of their intensive class schedules.

#### **Non-immersion language classes (3 credits)**

There are different levels, and their schedules allow students to take other courses besides

language. Generally students will have around 8 in class hours each week.

### **China in Transformation (3 credits)**

This course is a modern Chinese history class. It deals with the change of China from a traditional type of society to a modern nation. Generally students meet twice a week.



*Marco Polo Bridge*

### **Insights into Chinese Culture (3 credits)**



This course offers a kaleidoscopic view of the foundations of Chinese culture. It encompasses both the Great Tradition as in intellectual discourses and the Little Tradition as in the folk traditions of life. Generally students meet twice a week.

### **Student Activities:**

During the summer term, there are organized activities almost every week/weekend. Students may visit well-known cultural sites in or near Beijing, and from time to time, there are group visits to a company or an organization, in addition to workshops for traditional Chinese culture.



*Visit to Xinhuanet*

### **Study trip to Ancient city of Pingyao**



*Ancient Town of Pingyao*

At the end of the summer term, the students will take a short trip to the ancient town of Pingyao, in Shanxi Province. Recognized by UNESCO as a World Cultural Heritage site, Pingyao displays a rich cultural traditions of China, especially the architectural styles of the Ming and Qing dynasties in north China.

## **About Application**

### **Dates for Semesters:**

Semester Year	Spring	Summer	Fall
2018		Jun. 9---Aug. 5	Aug. 24—Dec. 7
2019	Jan. 11-Apr. 28	Jun. 15—Aug. 11	Aug. 30—Dec. 13

### **Application Deadlines:**

Year \ Semester	Spring	Summer	Fall
2018		Apr. 5	Jun. 1
2019	Nov. 1, 2018	Apr. 5	Jun. 1

### **Regarding Credits:**

Over 40 American colleges and universities have been in cooperation with this program. Their students may receive transcript and certificate after their completion of study, and their credits can be transferred back to their home schools. For students from non partner schools, students may need to contact their home schools for credit issues.

### **Contact Information:**

For more information, please contact Dr. Hong Li, [elanhonglee@pku.edu.cn](mailto:elanhonglee@pku.edu.cn) .