



NSLI-Y Chinese Summer 2011 Program Description Implemented by the University of Delaware



Target Language: Mandarin Chinese

Overseas Partner Institution: East China Normal University, Shanghai, People's Republic of China

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Accommodations: Dormitories and host families

Pre-Departure Orientation:
June 4-5, Washington, DC

Program Dates: June 27 to August 7

Target Language Instruction: 120 hours/
4 hours per day

Program Overview

The University of Delaware NSLI-Y Summer Institute of Chinese Language and Culture provides an immersion learning environment in which students are able to significantly improve their language proficiency and enhance cross-cultural competence and communicative skills. Specifically, the summer institute employs a carefully designed mix of learning activities: a) over one hundred and twenty hours of in class intensive Mandarin Chinese instruction at the advanced beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels, including individualized tutoring (with a 1:4 tutor to student ratio); b) twenty-one lectures on Chinese history and culture focusing on the modern and contemporary periods; c) fifteen-day long home-stays with Chinese families who are experienced in hosting American students; d) twice-weekly interaction with Chinese student “buddies” from local colleges and high schools; e) two volunteer activities centered on the environmental awareness; f) a five-day study trip to Beijing to reinforce classroom instruction; and g) several cultural excursions in and around Shanghai to better understand the profound cultural, economic and social transformations currently taking place in China.

The theme of the Summer Institute is *Understanding Modern China – Tradition and Transformation*, with a special emphasis on China's emerging popular culture, with guest lectures from well-known film directors, film stars, musicians and cultural figures. The program activities centered on this theme not only enable the participants to gain insights into important social forces in contemporary China, but also help them build bridges between their own interests in American popular culture and the popular cultural interests of typical high school students in China. The pivotal focus of the program activities is the training of American high school students' Mandarin Chinese skills so that they can function effectively in their future education and careers.

Living Arrangements/Participant Support and Supervision

Students are housed in a dormitory on the campus of East China Normal University for part of the program. Students will also spend approximately fifteen days living with host families in the nearby area. Throughout the program, participants are supported by American and Chinese staff who reside in the local community or at the university and closely monitor the students' safety and well-being.

Textbooks and Materials

The University of Delaware NSLI-Y program carefully chooses textbooks for students according to their Chinese language proficiency background. During the pre-departure orientation, a pre-program language placement test is conducted to determine students' language proficiency levels. Textbooks are supplemented with authentic and current language materials, which may include selected readings from newspapers, TV programs, films, or other relevant Chinese materials.

Cultural Activities

In addition to the carefully designed culture curriculum which includes lectures on Chinese history, philosophy, religion, family structure, revolution and war, the US-China relations, the issue of currency exchanges, China's modernization and its impact on the world, and culture focusing on the modern and contemporary periods, the summer institute also includes cultural activities such as martial arts, folk dance, folk songs, Chinese calligraphy, Chinese painting, and Chinese cuisine – dumpling making. Other educational activities include touring the new

and old cities of Shanghai, watching Chinese acrobatics and Peking Opera, and connecting with local college and high school students. The summer institute participants also have opportunities to interact with the local community by visiting and volunteering to work at local community centers. Carefully designed extracurricular activities such as purchasing and bargaining in a market, and ordering food in restaurants enable students to understand the local culture and improve their Chinese language skills.

Final Project

At the end of the summer institute each student is required to give a formal presentation based on an assigned cultural project focused on an aspect of Chinese society and culture, or on a topic of their own choice in consultation with the program directors. Students are also asked to submit a written report based on their project as part of the program requirements.

Please keep in mind that program details may be subject to change.