

Study Abroad for Chinese Studies Students

“The best way to understand Chinese culture, after gaining a solid academic foundation, is to travel to China, to eat Chinese food, to breathe Chinese air, and to tread Chinese soil. You will never be the same.”

Curtis Dean Smith, Professor of Chinese

By its nature, Chinese Studies takes place in a cultural context. There is much to be gained from understanding the history and traditions of cultures outside your own. Study abroad is one very exciting way to begin to discover new approaches and build your professional skills.

Study abroad can help you...

- Find great Chinese coursework and curriculum
- Understand the world from an international perspective
- Expand your cross-cultural communication and problem-solving skills
- Prepare to work in an increasingly diverse and international workplace
- Broaden your academic horizons
- Globalize your world view through direct contact with other cultures
- Improve your language skills

Can I afford to study abroad?

YES! Early planning for study abroad helps you make cost-effective program decisions, and it also helps you prepare your finances through savings, scholarships, and financial aid. Financial aid applies to study abroad

and, in some cases, your loan eligibility will increase to cover additional expenses. Grand Valley State University's Padnos International Center offers grants and scholarships to qualified study abroad participants. The Padnos International Center provides resources on these and a variety of other scholarships available to undergraduate students planning to study in Asia. Stop by the Padnos International Center to research all your options.

Will I take longer to graduate?

With good advance planning, you can take courses that satisfy requirements in your Chinese major or the general education program. Study abroad doesn't have to delay completing your degree, but it will enrich your experience.

What are my next steps?

Set goals and plan for results

Chinese Studies students are required to study abroad in China, Hong Kong, or Taiwan for at least six weeks, and earn at least six credits in an accredited academic program. The process of selecting a study abroad program is similar to selecting your major or minor.

- Begin at least six months in advance of your study abroad. It is never too early to start planning.
- Set some goals. There is not one program best suited for Chinese Studies students. There are many good study abroad programs, and the best one for you depends on **what you want**.
- Prioritize your goals. Consider your long-term academic and professional goals, as well as your on-campus degree requirements.
- Consider long-term programs.
- Prepare academically. You may need to take language or other prerequisite courses for your chosen program.
- Give yourself time to research and talk to advisers and students who have studied abroad.

With proper planning study abroad can help you prepare for your professional life in today's global context.

Take at least One Year of Chinese Language Courses Before Departure

Do not be caught unprepared! A basic command of Mandarin Chinese Language is vital to having a fun, fruitful, and fulfilling study abroad experience. Although you could begin your language studies abroad, this is not the best choice. Gaining a solid foundation in the language at GVSU before departing will allow you to dive right in upon arrival, and have much more rewarding experiences.

Chinese customs and culture are often very different from those of the United States. By first studying Chinese language, you will also gain a deeper understanding of the Chinese culture, which will be invaluable when acclimating to the new environment. You will expend much less energy on a daily activities, and form deeper bonds with people around you.

Attend an Information Session

Learn about study abroad resources and advising by attending an Information Meeting at the Padnos International Center. See www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad or call 616-331-3898 for the latest schedule. You can also simply stop by during office hours for advising. No appointment necessary.

Investigate Programs

Use the Study Abroad catalog, resource center, website, and advisors to find a program that fits your goals.

Talk to your advisor

Use a study abroad credit form to get approval from your Chinese Studies Advisor for the courses you want to take abroad. Keep in mind, students are also able to fulfill general education requirements abroad, including a custom theme.

Once you have selected a program

Chinese Studies students planning on studying abroad will need to communicate closely with their academic advisor throughout their planning process. When you decide on the program that will work best for you, you should begin an online study abroad application at www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad. Be sure to pay close attention to application deadlines.

Be sure to meet with your advisor **at least three months prior** to departing for your program. Your Chinese Studies advisor must approve any courses you wish to take to ensure that they will be counted toward your degree requirements. Bring the course descriptions of the courses you would like to take abroad to this meeting along with the study abroad credit form provided by the Padnos International Center. Please note, students that wish to complete a custom theme abroad should contact the Padnos International Center directly for information on the appropriate process.

What classes can I take while studying abroad?

General Education Requirements

Students may take selected general education requirements through study abroad. Many students choose to fulfill foundation requirements, including courses within the World Perspectives category. For more information, contact the Padnos International Center by calling 331-3898.

Custom Theme Abroad

Another popular option is to fulfill your theme requirement while studying abroad. For information on how to propose a unique study abroad theme, visit the Padnos International Center website at <http://www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad/>.

Major courses

Many study abroad programs offer a wide selection of courses, including Chinese Studies courses that can be approved by your Chinese Studies advisor to contribute to your major.

Living what you are learning

A great advantage of studying abroad is living in the region you are studying. Learning about the history, language, and literature of your home-away-from-home enhances your experiences outside the classroom. Your daily interaction with the local culture also brings the subjects you are learning to life.

Suggested program options for Chinese Studies students

GVSU Faculty-led Programs

The following programs are led by GVSU faculty. More information on these programs may be found on the Padnos International Center Study Abroad Web site: www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad

Chinese Language and Culture in Taiwan

Where: Taipei, Taiwan

When: Summer

This program is intended for Chinese language students who have completed CHI 102, and wish to gain a stronger command of their language skills and a fuller understanding of the Chinese culture. The program shall be taught by GVSU faculty for the first week, and by staff of the Center for Chinese Language and Culture at National Taiwan Normal University, along with GVSU faculty, for the remaining five weeks.

Students will register for a total of 6 credits:

CHI 180 or CHI 280: Special Topics in Chinese

CHI 380: Chinese Culture/Society

Intensive Mandarin in Nanjing

Where: Nanjing, China

When: Summer

This program is intended for Chinese language students who have completed CHI 202, and wish to gain a stronger command of their language skills and a fuller understanding of the Chinese culture. The program will be taught by GVSU faculty for the first week and a half, and by staff of the Institute for International Students at Nanjing University, along with Grand Valley faculty, for the remaining five weeks. The goal of the program is to allow students of Chinese to personally experience the language and culture they have spent the last two years studying.

Students will register for a total of 6 credits:

CHI 180 or CHI 280: Special Topics in Chinese

CHI 380: Chinese Culture/Society

Summer School in Shanghai

Where: Shanghai, China

When: Spring & Summer

This program operates during the Spring and Summer terms in Shanghai, China. Students may enroll for the Spring term (6 weeks), the Summer term (6 weeks) or both terms (12 weeks). Each term, you will register for two or three courses in language, area studies and/or general education courses. Courses will be taught by GVSU faculty as well as faculty from East China Normal University in Shanghai. A core component of this program is hands-on learning through field trips.

Course offerings vary. Please check the Study Abroad Website for most current course options.

GVSU Partnership Programs

GVSU partnership programs provide the opportunity to study abroad during the fall semester, spring semester, full academic year, or summer at a GVSU partner institution. Students participating in a partnership program will not necessarily be accompanied by a GVSU faculty member or GVSU group members. Students can use all of their institutional, state, and federal financial aid when participating in a partnership program.

National Taiwan Normal University

Where: Taipei, Taiwan

When: Semester or Year

The Mandarin Training Center at NTNU was established in 1956, and has the longest history of any Mandarin School in Taiwan. Internationally recognized, the center is located in the center of the academic neighborhood of Taipei. Besides courses in Mandarin, other topics such as Peking Opera, Calligraphy, Painting, Name Chop Carving, Taiwanese, Tea Etiquette, Chinese Culinary Arts, Chinese Martial Arts, Folk Singing, the Chinese Zodiac are offered.

To view course options, visit:

<http://mtc.ntnu.edu.tw/indexe.html>

Non-GVSU Programs

GVSU students may choose to participate in a program not sponsored by GVSU, but by another institution or study abroad organization. By working through Padnos International Center study abroad process, GVSU students will earn GVSU credit by participating in these programs. GVSU course equivalencies will be determined by your Chinese Studies Advisor. The following are suggestions for Chinese Studies students:

CIEE at East China Normal University

Where: Shanghai, China
When: Semester or Year

Established in 1951, East China Normal University (ECNU) is one of China's key institutions of higher learning that specializes in teacher education, and is nationally known for its Chinese language and literature program. It enrolls more than 16,000 students and 1,000 international students. The University is located on the bank of the Liwa River northwest of the city. CIEE offers three distinct program options at ECNU: China in a Global Context, Business Language and Culture and Advanced Chinese Studies

To view course options, visit:

http://ciee.org/study/study_asia.aspx

CET Academic Programs

Where: Beijing or Harbin
When: Semester or Year

Chinese Language Program in Beijing and Harbin: Classes are held at Capital Normal University, College of Foreign Languages.

Curriculum Highlights: Small classes taught by specially-trained teachers.

To view course options, visit:

<http://www.cetacademicprograms.com/>

Columbia University

Where: Beijing, China
When: Semester or Year

Designed for students who already demonstrate a high level of both written and spoken Mandarin Chinese, Columbia University in Beijing provides a rare opportunity to directly enroll in university courses at Tsinghua University. Students who have completed at least three years of college level Chinese, preferably more, or the equivalent, have a firm grasp of reading and writing in Chinese, and can function independently in China, will find the program challenging and rewarding

To view course options, visit:

<http://www.ce.columbia.edu/beijing>

Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Study at Tsinghua

Where: Taipei, Taiwan

When: Summer, Semester or Year

IUP is the premier U.S. –sponsored Chinese language program intended for students who aspire to truly advanced competence. This program offers intensive Chinese language training at third year level and above in small group and individual classes.

To view course options, visit:

<http://ieas.berkeley.edu/iup>

Princeton in Beijing

Where: Taipei, Taiwan

When: Summer

Princeton in Beijing, a high-quality intensive program in intermediate and advanced Chinese language study for the serious language student, will hold its 16th session from June 20 to August 16, 2008. The faculty from Princeton brings to this effort more than three decades of leadership in the pioneering of intensive "total immersion" summer Chinese language programs in the United States, as well as more than three decades of experience in producing Chinese language textbooks at Princeton University's Chinese Linguistics Project. To this experience is added the ultimate Chinese language environment -- China's capital city of Beijing.

To view course options, visit:

<http://www.princeton.edu/~pib>