

The University of Akron
Department of Modern Languages
2009 Summer Study Abroad Program
in
CHINA

GOAL:

The goal of this study abroad program is to enable participants to gain the ability to function successfully in communicating in Chinese language and culture. Through intensive study of Chinese language in the culture at Henan University, students can improve their Chinese communicative competence in all four skills: speaking, listening, reading and writing. In addition, the diverse exposure to the local community will enhance students' knowledge of modern Chinese society.

DATES:

May 19, 2009 – June 17, 2009

CREDITS:

Credit for the summer study abroad program may be earned at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. All participants will enroll at UA in Summer Session I and will receive four (4) credits at The University of Akron at the intermediate or advanced level. Specific course equivalences will be determined on an individual basis. Each participant will take classes at Henan University in either the second level or third level of the Chinese as a Foreign Language program. Participants devote approximately 4 hours per day 5 days per week for three weeks to formal study of the Chinese language and its culture. "Guest" students: participants enrolled for the summer only who are not regular Akron students. If full-time at other institutions they must check with their college or university to ensure acceptance of the credit. At each level, course work includes the study of grammar, conversation practice, listening comprehension, reading and writing. Classes also stress the cultural component including Chinese daily life, customs, traditions, art, film, history, political, commercial and economic characteristics of modern China.

ELIGIBILITY, ADMISSION, ENROLLMENT:

Participants in the program generally are required to have completed successfully a minimum of two (2) semesters of college Chinese (Chinese 102 at UA) or the equivalent to enroll in the program. Enrollment is for summer session I at UA. Students with more than one year of prior study of Chinese or the equivalent may be given priority. Special consideration may be given to students with less preparation. The program is open to both undergraduate and graduate students in good standing and other qualified individuals. Space in the program is limited and admission is selective. All participants must demonstrate evidence of personal maturity and serious commitment to the purposes of the program.

LOCATION AND HOST:

The summer program is a four- week immersion learning experience principally spent living and studying in Kaifeng, Henan University, P.R.China. The formal academic portion of the program takes place in the city of Kaifeng, a historic central city and the capital of 7 dynasties in Chinese history. Classes are held at the historical campus of Henan University. Founded in 1912, Henan University is one of China's oldest institutions of modern higher education. It has more than 30,000 students who receive full-time education there and 3,547 staff members. The university library houses 3 million books, 170 thousand of which are thread-bound ancient writings and 200

thousand books and magazines in foreign languages. The museum houses a collection of valuable cultural relics.



DESCRIPTION:

Classes in Kaifeng are taught by regular Henan University faculty members with extensive training and experience in the teaching of Chinese as a foreign language. Participants devote approximately 4-5 hours per day, 5 days per week (24 class hours per week) to the formal study of the Chinese language and its culture. The four 50-minute formal classes are held in the morning. Course work includes conversation practice, listening comprehension, reading and writing, and cultural study through media. These formal classes stress the development of communicative skills for successful interaction with native speakers and appropriate application of the culture in the communication.

Cultural and other activities are arranged in the afternoons, evenings and weekends. In the afternoons of Mondays and Wednesdays, group cultural excursions to a local community will be arranged. Participants reflect on their experience through field reports in Chinese, and present their field reports in the early afternoon composition classes on the following Tuesdays and Thursdays. During weekends, tours to nearby cities will be arranged. Participants need to write about these experiences in weekly compositions, and present their weekly compositions in the early afternoon composition class on the following Monday. In the evenings of Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-2 hour's cross-cultural discussions are arranged between the participants and college students at Henan University. Themes for the discussions include friendship, parent-child relationship, teacher-student relationship, spousal relationship, individual-team relationship, education and career, etc.

CULTURAL EXCURSIONS AND ACTIVITIES:

Preceding the academic program in Kaifeng, a 4-day group cultural excursion to Beijing will take place. The trip involves organized visits to sites of particular historical and cultural interest such as The Forbidden City, The Great Wall, The Summer Palace, etc. The cost of the trip is included in the basic program fee.

During weekends, the program includes cultural excursions to nearby cities in Henan Province. These activities are led by experienced guides. The transportation cost of these excursions is included in the basic program fee. Excursions include visits to Zhengzhou city and its Shaolin Temple and Zhongyue Temple, Luo Yang city and its Dragon Door Grottoes and The White Horse Temple.

While in Kaifeng, the program includes 6 cultural excursions and activities. The transportation cost of these excursions and activities is included in the basic program fee. Included are visits to Qingming Riverside Landscape Garden, Dragon Pavilion Park, Iron Tower Park, Great Minister's Temple of the Song Dynasty, Yellow River, and Lord Bao Memorial Temple. Additional visits

may include Kaifeng No. 1 High school, a market/night market in Kaifeng, a Juweihui (a resident office), Kaifeng embroidery factory, Kaifeng No.1 Steamed Baozi Restaurant, the Muslim Museum and a Chinese traditional medicine hospital.

ORIENTATIONS:

During the semester preceding the program, participants attend several obligatory orientation sessions held by the program director at the University of Akron. Upon arrival in Beijing and again in Kaifeng, there is an on-site orientation including introduction to the city daily life, demonstration of how to use the different means of transportation, visits to different kinds of stores, entertainment facilities, and familiarization with telephone, banking, postal procedures, etc.

HOUSING:

While in Henan University, participants are housed in the Henan University Hotel. The program fee covers housing.

TRAVEL:

Air fare is included in the basic program fee and participants are expected to travel to China as a group. Under special circumstances, individual travel arrangements may be permitted with prior approval of the program director. Following the program, students are free to pursue independent travel. The cost of all independent travel is additional and is not included in the basic program fee.

INSURANCE:

All participants must be covered by a standard policy in the United States that extends to overseas travel. Adequate insurance coverage is required and is an individual responsibility.

FACULTY:

Classes are taught by experienced native Chinese university instructors on the staff of Henan University. The organization and administration, and the on-site supervision of the program for summer 2009 will be conducted by Ms. Yongfang Zhang, Instructor of Chinese of the Department of Modern Languages at The University of Akron. Ms. Yongfang Zhang is a Chinese pedagogy Ph.D. candidate. She had experience in directing summer study abroad program while working in The Ohio State University and in Beijing Normal University.

COST:

The estimated basic cost per person for summer 2009 is approximately \$4,000. This estimate includes air fare, UA tuition and fees, instructional costs, 3 days in Beijing, room and activities fees charged by Henan University as well as other specially-arranged cultural activities, and general program administrative costs. This estimate is based on a minimum of twelve students. The director reserves the right to make cancellations, date and fee adjustments, or any minor changes in the program that may be required. A surcharge may be necessary depending on exchange rate fluctuations. The basic fee includes round-trip ground transportation from Beijing to Kaifeng; Henan University tuition and fees; room and board in the Henan University Hotel; examination and transcript fees; and the cost of cultural excursions. NOT INCLUDED in the estimated basic cost are variable personal expenses (gifts, daily snacks and refreshments, dining out, etc.). Also not included is the cost of the free travel after the program.

PAYMENT:

Due to the limited space, a non-refundable deposit of \$500 is due by March 1, 2009. Remaining payments may be made in installments, but the full balance must be paid by May 1, 2009. Checks should be made out to "The University of Akron", with the notation "SSAC 2009" (Summer Study Abroad in China) on the notation line at the bottom left side of the check. Within the limits

of UA and Henan University regulations, cancellations after 1 May would be assessed a fee. Full refund will be made should the director have to cancel the program. All things being equal, acceptance into the program will be on a first-come, first-served basis with priority given to students at the more advanced levels of study of Chinese.

FINANCIAL AID:

Built into the program cost is scholarship funding in the range of \$400-\$500 per student made available under the sponsorship of the UA/Henan University Confucius Institute. Some modest scholarship aid usually also is available through the Office of International Programs. Students should contact the Office of Student Financial Aid regarding the utilization of other University financial aid.

PERSONAL EXPENSES:

Students are responsible for daily meals and transportation while in China except those included in the cultural excursions. Public transportation in China is inexpensive: 10 bus rides cost approximately \$4.00. Students also should budget for personal expenses while on excursions. The amount of spending money needed varies with each student and with different life styles. Students should consider their spending patterns at home and take comparable funds for personal expenses. City life in China can be comparably expensive to any big city in the United States, with an abundance of different forms of entertainment, shopping, and eating out opportunities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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