

# Chinese Arts, Design, and Feng Shui Culture

## SUMMER 2014 PROGRAM HANDBOOK

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The Chinese Arts, Design, and Feng Shui culture Seminar is offered by International Academic Programs (IAP) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This IAP Program Handbook supplements the IAP Study Abroad Handbook and provides you with the most up-to-date information and advice available at the time of printing. Changes may occur before your departure or while you are abroad.

Questions about your program abroad (housing options, facilities abroad, etc.) as well as questions relating to your relationship with your host university or academics (e.g. course credit and equivalents, registration deadlines, etc.) should be directed to IAP at UW-Madison.

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## Contact Information

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### ON-SITE PROGRAM INFORMATION

Your primary contact will be:

Professor Wei Dong  
Resident Director  
[weidong@wisc.edu](mailto:weidong@wisc.edu)

United States  
Design Studies  
School of Human Ecology  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
2314 Sterling Hall  
Madison WI 53706  
(608) 262 8805

China, Beijing  
5 Yi He Yuan Road  
Shao Yuan Guest House  
Peking University  
Beijing 100871  
China  
+86 136 9127 8726 mobile

### UW-MADISON INFORMATION

International Academic Programs (IAP)  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
106 Red Gym, 716 Langdon Street  
Madison, WI 53706  
(608) 265 6329  
(608) 262 6998 fax  
[www.studyabroad.wisc.edu](http://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu)

Erin Polnaszek  
IAP Study Abroad Advisor  
[eepolnaszek@studyabroad.wisc.edu](mailto:eepolnaszek@studyabroad.wisc.edu)

### EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

In case of an emergency, call the main IAP number (608) 265 6329 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday; after-hours or on weekends call the IAP staff on call at (608) 516 9440.



### U.S. EMBASSY REGISTRATION

All program participants who are U.S. citizens must register at the U.S. Embassy before departure as this will help in case of a lost passport or other mishap. You can register on-line at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>. If you are not a U.S. citizen, register at your home country's embassy or consulate.

United States Embassy  
3 Xiu Shui Bei Jie  
Chaoyang District  
Beijing 100600  
China  
+86 (0)10 6532 3831  
+86 (0)10 6532 4153 fax  
<http://beijing.usembassy-china.org.cn/>

## Program Dates

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### Summer 2014

Depart from United States	May 22, 2014
Arrive in Beijing	May 23
Orientation Day	May 24
Beijing	May 24- June 10
Suzhou and Taizhou	June 11 – June 1
Shanghai	June 14 – June 16
Program ends/Depart from Shanghai	June 17, 2014

## Preparation Before Leaving

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### IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS

**Passport:** A passport is needed to travel to China and to obtain your visa. Apply immediately for a passport if you do not already have one. Passport information and application forms can be found on the U.S. State Department website <http://travel.state.gov/passport/>. If you already have your passport, make sure it will be valid for at least 6 months beyond the length of your stay abroad.

**Visa:** Students will need a business visa (F Visa) to enter China. **All students must secure their visa before leaving the US or will be denied entrance upon arrival in China.** The duration of stay of a (F) visa is 30 days from the date of entry, which means the holder of the visa may stay in China for up to 30 days from the date of entry. The validity of a (F) visa is 90 days from the date of issue, which means the holder of the visa shall enter into China no later than 90 days from the date of issue; otherwise, the visa is expired and null and void.

Students may apply for the visa through China Travel Service, a Chicago-based travel company and China visa agent **OR** by making an appointment to appear in person at a US-based Chinese consulate.

For more information on what you need to do to apply for the F visa and to download the visa application, visit the Chicago Chinese Consulate website:  
<http://www.chinaconsulatechicago.org/eng/ywzn/qzhz/qz/grqz/>.

**International Academic Programs will send you more detailed information on applying for the Chinese visa after acceptance into the program.**

It is your responsibility to secure your visa prior to leaving the US. The main benefit to using China Travel Service is that you do not have to appear in person at the consulate in Chicago, but you do have to pay a fee to China Travel Service. If you do not use this service, then you will have to appear in person.

For questions, contact the Chinese consulate or China Travel Service directly.

### **China Travel Service Chicago**

Bernice Yu  
Travel Consultant  
dba: Nexus Holidays Chicago  
2347-B S. Wentworth Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60616  
Tel: 312-3280688 / 800-7938856  
Fax: 312-3280911



Please note that it is essential to verify the most up-to-date information on the China visa application with the consulate BEFORE submitting your visa application to ensure the accuracy of your application. IAP cannot control what type of visa is issued by the consulate nor can we effect the timing and processing of the visa application.

### **HANDLING MONEY ABROAD**

The official currency of China is the Renminbi (RMB or CNY). To see the local currency exchange rate and to print a traveler's cheat sheet, you can visit this website:  
<http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/>.

**Banks:** There is a twenty-four hour Bank in Beijing International Airport next to the baggage claim, just before the airport lobby. There are also several banks and ATMs in the lobby just outside the baggage claim gate. It is recommended that you exchange only a small amount due to the inflated exchange rates offered at the airport. You can also convert dollars to RMB at any tourist hotel or foreign exchange bank as long as you have your passport with you, or at the Bank of China close to campus.

While traveling outside of Beijing, you can always ask the Resident Director or other staff to assist you in locating an ATM.

**ATM/Debit Cards:** ATMs are generally available in China. Check with your local bank or credit card for additional procedures for international use. When you contact your bank, be sure to tell them when you plan to be in China and when you are going to return—this will prevent the bank from shutting down your account due to fraud problems in different countries. You will also want to confirm with your bank what the charge is for international transaction at ATM's so you are aware of the fees that you will incur each time you visit the ATM.

**Credit Cards:** Credit cards such as American Express, Diners Club, JCB, Master card and Visa are acceptable for payment at hotels or tourist stores. Outside of larger businesses, it is rare to be able to use credit cards, so you should always be prepared with the local currency on hand.

## ELECTRONICS

Electricity in China runs on 220V, 50 cycles AC. There are at least five different types of plugs currently in use in China. The most frequently found types are the two-pronged American style and the three-pronged, angled Australian style. An adapter with the American and Australian styles should be sufficient and should be bought before entering China. Adapters are available for purchase at any area electronic store in the US, such as Best Buy or Radio Shack, among others.

## Travel and Arrival

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You are responsible for making your own travel arrangements. You may use local travel agents to help you in finding airplane tickets, such as STA Travel located on State Street (608) 280 8906, Educational Travel Centre (608) 256 5551, and China Travel Service (800) 793 8856 (ask for Ms. Bernice Yu and mention you are calling from UW-Madison for the Feng Shui Class with Professor Wei Dong).

You will need to purchase a **multiple city airfare** that allows you to fly into Beijing, China and depart from Shanghai, China. You are encouraged to arrange flights with other students on the program. Professor Wei Dong will make arrangements to meet the class at the Beijing International Airport in Beijing if you arrive by 6PM to the airport. Any student arriving after this time will need to take a taxi to the hotel using the information provided by Wei.

For those of you not traveling as a group, you may take a taxi from the airport to the group hotel in Beijing (show the translation note to taxi driver). You will need to change money before you leave the airport if you need to take a taxi.

There is a taxi line just outside the terminal. Avoid drivers who approach you in the terminal or outside the terminal, as these are almost always price-gougers, who will ask triple or more the actual price. Drivers should use their meter as some drivers will say they forgot and ask for a ridiculous amount of money. There is no need to tip taxi drivers in Beijing.

More information on arriving in Beijing will be provided at the pre-departure orientation held in Madison the spring semester prior to departing for the program.

Students can depart out of either of the two airports in Shanghai, although most students will fly out of Pudong airport. Depending on the departure flight time, Wei will assist students in getting a taxi to the airport or will arrange a group mode of transportation if all students' flights are close in departure.

## The Academic Program

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### GENERAL INFORMATION

Students on the program will earn four credits in Design Studies 361: International Experience in Design. Grading of each students' work will be done by the instructor. All assignments must be handed in on time. Late assignments will be accepted only in well-documented cases of illness or other extenuating circumstances. Learning process is very important stage for this class. The final grade is determined by 40% of daily writing/visual notes and 60% of the final paper.

Example topics for the final paper have included:

- Feng Shui: A Personal Analysis
- Controlling Movement with Feng Shui and EBS
- The Art Feng Shui
- Feng Shui and Its Effect of Chi

## **COURSE INFORMATION**

**Courses:** See the course supplement for syllabus and course information. This information will be provided at the pre-departure orientation.

**Registration:** IAP will register you for the seminar. There are no additional registration procedures you must take.

### **Course Equivalent Requests and My Study Abroad**

Each course you take abroad must be assigned a UW-Madison “equivalent” course in order for your grades and credits to be recorded on your UW-Madison transcript. The equivalent for this program is already determined – all students will receive 4 credits in Design Studies 361 after completion of the program.

## **PASS/FAIL/DROP/AUDIT**

Students cannot take this course pass/fail.

## **GRADES AND GRADE CONVERSIONS**

See the course supplement for grading information. All students will receive a credit number and letter grade on their UW Madison transcript at the completion of the program, regardless of the grade earned. If a student earns a failing grade (F) this will be recorded on their transcript. Same if a student receives any passing grade (A, for example) – this will also be recorded on their transcript.

## **Living Abroad**

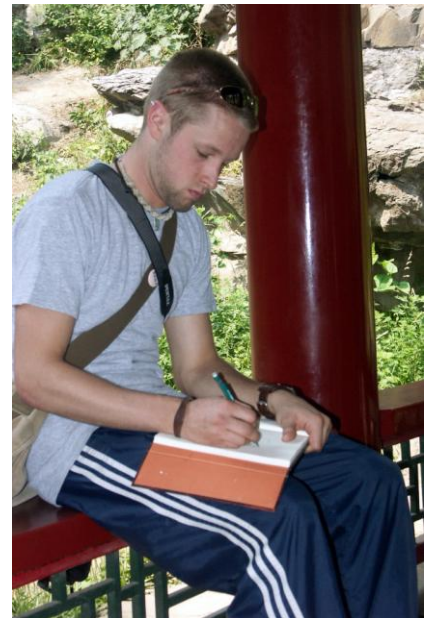
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### **CHINA**

China is the biggest country in Asia and has the largest population in the world. With a history of five thousand years, the country displays extraordinarily rich cultural heritage. In recent years, the country has been developing at an amazing speed. China now welcomes visitors from all around the world to explore its past and present. China is a country of beautiful natural sceneries, often accompanied by important historical and cultural contexts. You will be able to enjoy countless styles of food and folk music in addition to scenery and architecture.

### **BEIJING**

Beijing, the capital of the People's Republic of China, not only has countless ancient palaces, imperial gardens, altars, temples, tombs and other historical and cultural sites, but also many picturesque natural scenic spots. Beijing has been well known in the world for its numerous historical sites, elegant gardens and beautiful landscape.





## **TAIZHOU**

Taizhou means Peaceful City, a term to which the city has adapted itself rather well. This prefecture-level city, one of Jiangsu Province's 13, has a population of just over five million. Vast economic development, diverse natural resources, rich history and dissimilar culture has brought the city into the public's eye.

## **SUZHOU (City of Gardens)**

Suzhou's interlocking canals -- which once earned it the moniker of "Venice of the East" -- its unparalleled collection of classic gardens, and its embroidery and silk factories are the chief surviving elements of a cultural center that dominated China's artistic scene for long periods during the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties. Rapid modernization in the last decade has robbed the city of much of its mystique, but enough beauty remains, especially in quiet corners of its celebrated gardens.

## **SHANGHAI**

The cosmopolitan port city of Shanghai has played an important role in China's modern history. It is the site of the First Congress of the Communist Party of China. It offered temporary shelter to almost all major political and literary figures during the first half of the 20th century. The Western architecture along the Bund waterfront area exemplifies Shanghai's history as an international center of commerce, even as it serves as a sobering reminder of China's recent semi-colonial past. Across the Huangpu River, in the Pudong Special Economic Zone, the Chinese aim to continue Shanghai's tradition as a major commercial center, but one that is built by the Chinese.

## **HOUSING**

While in Beijing, students will stay at the Shao Yuan guesthouse on the Peking University campus. The rooms are double occupancy with private bathrooms and are within a short walking distance to classrooms, library, and the cafeteria. It is also close to several major study sites such as the Summer Palace, which is only a ten minute walk from the campus. Located in the Northwest of Beijing city, it is an ideal location as it is situated in the heart of the residential and academic living areas.



While traveling outside of Beijing, the accommodations will vary as students will travel by train and stay in hotels. The accommodations will be similar to those in Beijing – double occupancy with private bathrooms.

## **MEALS**

Dining options are expanding rapidly in Beijing and around China. There are small restaurants around the areas you will be staying that offer reasonably priced Chinese meals. Students may participate in group dinners during some class excursions. Western food (e.g. small American style cafes, KFC, McDonalds), Japanese, Indian, Korean, and a variety of other types of restaurants are also available and popular in Beijing and Shanghai. American fast food restaurants are often very busy accompanied by chaotic or non-existent lines, which may induce frustration. Often these restaurants have pictures that non-Chinese speaking foreigners may use to order food.

Fresh fruits and vegetables are also available at small markets. Some prices are marked but this should not stop you from bargaining the prices. Often customers that appear to not speak Chinese or are foreign will be charged much more than the typical price.

The Resident Director and staff will be able to assist students in finding restaurants to dine in throughout the program.



## **SHOPPING**

Beijing: There is a famous shopping street called Wang Fu Jing, where a big department store, a foreign language bookstore, and a large indoor mall are located. At Wang Fu Jing there is also a little side street that sells food on a stick, anything you can imagine from potatoes to scorpions, for your eating pleasure.

If you want cheap clothes, brand name knock offs, watches, T-shirts, or souvenir Chinese stuff, head to the Hong Qiao Market (Hong Qiao Shi Chang) near the Temple of Heaven or the Silk Street (just off the Jiang Guo Men subway stop). Bargain hard at these places. Sometimes they have really nice stuff, especially at Hong Qiao, but be wary of fake, poor quality items. Hong Qiao is less crowded and on the top floor there is a big pearl market.

If you want souvenir Chinese items to give your family, check out the ally just off the southwest corner of Tiananmen. Bargain hard!

## **SAFETY**

China is a relatively safe country to travel throughout. Nevertheless, here are a few recommendations to ensure your safety:

It is advisable to take extra precaution with your passport and money. Normally, one should not carry their passport and large sums of cash on their person. Use a money belt or pocket sewn inside your clothes for the safest way to carry money. Velcro tabs sewn to seal your pockets shut will also help thwart roving hands.

Keeping all your money in one place is not advised—guard against possible loss by leaving a small amount of money in your room or buried in your backpack, with a record of the travelers check, credit card, and passport numbers. If you leave expensive items in your room, make sure to lock the door, shut off all the lights and faucet and close the windows.

In the event of an emergency, you should contact Professor Wei Dong immediately for assistance.

## **HEALTH**

Avoid drinking or brushing your teeth with water that is not purified. Be careful when you eat food or beverages sold on the streets or consume ice in drinks (unless made from purified water). When unsure, always ask about the source of the water or ice. Bottled water is available in most grocery or



convenience stores. When purchasing bottled water, make sure that the seal hasn't been broken before buying the bottle.

During the summer months, China's weather is very hot and humid. The temperatures can rise into the above 100 degree mark at times and the humidity makes it difficult to spend large amounts of time outdoors. It is important to stay hydrated so always have an extra bottle of water on hand or ask the Resident Director to make a stop to purchase water if you start to feel dizzy and/or nauseous.

Used toilet paper and tissues frequently should be disposed of in wastebaskets, not in toilets. Plumbing pipes are often very narrow and cannot handle paper products. Always carry tissues with you in case no toilet paper is available and in situations that call for cleaning. Handi-wipes or antibacterial liquids come in handy!

"Squat toilets" are common throughout China, especially when away from western hotels and tourist areas. It is rare that toilet paper and soap/water will be available so being prepared with both will provide you the opportunity to clean up after using the facilities.

Pollution (also referred to as smog) is a common problem in China, especially in Beijing and other larger cities. It is not uncommon to go without seeing the sun for a few days, even if it is a "sunny" day. If you have asthma or other respiratory concerns, it is a good idea to meet with your doctor prior to departing for the program to discuss the issue of smog and ways you can work to handle the situation should it cause a problem.

Traveler's diarrhea is a common occurrence when traveling abroad. Some people's stomachs can handle new food and ingredients better than others. You can choose to carry an over the counter stomach aid with you, such as Pepto-bismol (made now in pill form) or you can ask your doctor for a stronger prescription pill that you can also take with you. For more information, you can read about the symptoms at the CDC website: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2010/chapter-2/travelers-diarrhea.aspx>.

## TRANSPORTATION

While on the program, the majority of your transportation will be included as part of the program on a tour bus for the group or on a train in transit to a new location. There may be a few times where you want to venture on your own with other students in the group where you might use any of the following public transportation options:

**Subway:** Both Beijing and Shanghai subways offer a quick and inexpensive way to get through the city. Although often crowded, the subway is usually the fastest way to get around the city center. Subway tickets are approximately 2 RMB. You can view the subway maps when you enter the station or can inquire at any hotel if they have a map you can take with you for reference.

**Taxis:** Beijing and Shanghai both offer taxis as a common way of transportation. Finding one is not difficult but making yourself understood in English may be a bit more problematic. If you don't speak Chinese, bring a map or have your destination written down in characters. Telephone bookings are possible. Taxis usually charge 1-2 RMB per kilometer with some larger luxury vehicles charging slightly more. Do not travel with drivers who approach and say "hello, taxi?" they are people with private cars

and there is no guarantee as to how much they will charge or whether you will get to your intended destination.

It's a good idea to always carry the name and address of where you are staying and any destination in Chinese because very few drivers in Beijing and Shanghai speak English.

## COMMUNICATION

**Telephone:** When making calls, keep in mind time zone differences [www.timeanddate.com/worldclock](http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock). To make an international call to the United States, dial the access code for the country from which you are calling plus the United States country code (always "1") followed by the appropriate U.S. area code and local number. To call internationally from the United States, dial "011", the country code, city access code (if necessary) and the phone number. Country and city codes can be found online [www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/dialing.html](http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/dialing.html). Some of above steps can vary if you are using a calling card.

Telephone cards may be purchased and used on public phones to call within China and internationally. IC calling cards (at 50 RMB or 100 RMB/US \$6 or 12 for about 40 minutes call to US) are fairly widespread in China and can be the simplest and the cheapest way to make calls in China. Phone cards are available in post offices, inside hotels or in the streets. Even more conveniently, most newsstands in major cities also carry phone cards. Telephone booths in the streets are mostly for local calls.

Domestic long distance rates are cheap. International call, in the neighborhood of 4 RMB (50 cents) per minute (Subject to change).

**Skype:** Skype is a free, downloadable software application that allows users to make live video and voice calls over the internet. Skype users can also add money to their account and can then use the service to call land lines and cell phones internationally at very low rates. Additionally, Skype also provides an instant messaging function as well as file sharing.

To create a Skype account, users must download the application from [www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com) and create a user name and password. Once the application is installed onto their computer, they can search for friends either by first and last name or using their friends' Skype usernames. Once a friend is added to a users contact list, they will be able to see whether that person is available to chat. If two users both have web-enabled video cameras for their computers, they will be able to chat face to face. For users without a web cam, a microphone is all that's required for calls to another computer.

**Email:** There are Internet cafes on campus and around the city. It is important to note the difference in the rate of the Internet use. The rate is not charged per minute, but per use of Internet. The more webpages that are used, the more expensive the cost of Internet use (e.g. using <http://www.wisc.edu> for five minutes costs roughly \$1). Word processors will be available for coursework.