



program snapshot

- Core course: Visual Anthropology of Contemporary China
- Mandarin training for all levels of students; courses taught by trained Chinese language faculty from Minzu University; peer language tutors
- Elective courses in Tibetan language, Ethnic Dance, and Ethnic Diversity
- Mid-semester field trip with intercultural experience in Northwest China
- Homestay experiences with farmers, nomads, and traditional artists in eastern Qinghai and southern Gansu Provinces; volunteering opportunities

what you'll learn

The goal of the Chinese Language and Cultural Studies program is for participants to gain understanding and insight into the rich cultural diversity of Chinese society through language and culture immersion and ethnographic experiences. This is achieved through a specially designed core course, a 10-day fieldwork component, elective course options, Chinese language coursework, Chinese peer tutors, group excursions, and directed individual exploration throughout the greater Beijing area.

thoughts from abroad

China is changing faster than any other country in the world, and Beijing is at the axis of that change. These changes also bring internal conflict and compromise, development and social stratification, and ongoing public discourses about the impact of modern life on China's ethnicities and rural communities.

Come to learn about these sweeping changes and their impact on the people of China. Come to this program with the intention of meeting and engaging students from the 56 nationalities who study at Minzu University of China. Come to learn in greater depth about China's greatest resource—its people.

— Dan Smyer Yü, Resident Director

About the Resident Director

Dr. Dan Smyer Yü received his Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from the University of California at Davis. In addition to his anthropological training, he also holds an M.A. in Religious Studies. In the past, he has held teaching and research positions at the Graduate Theological Union, the Center for the Pacific Rim at the University of San Francisco, and the University of California. His publications include "Taking Refuge: Buddhist Conversion in the Contemporary World" in *Oxford Handbook of Religious Conversion* (Oxford University Press, upcoming); "Living Buddhas, Netizens, and the Price of Religious Freedom" (Cornell University Press 2008); "Charisma and its Transmissibility: The Inner Landscape of Tulkus Contemporary Tibetan Buddhist Revival in Kham and Golok" (*The Tibet Journal* 2007); and "Emotions under Local Nationalism: The Primordial Turn of Tibetan Intellectuals in China" (*The Pacific Rim Report* 2006). Currently, he is preparing a book manuscript *Charisma, Money, and Enlightenment: The Marketplace of Tibetan Buddhism in Contemporary China* for submission to the University of Washington Press. In addition to his enthusiasm for undergraduate teaching and research, his passion is also found in his ethnographic photography. He has held photo shows in Berkeley, CA and Beijing, China.



about beijing

As the capital of the world's most populous nation, Beijing is at the center of much that happens in China. It is a city of over 15 million people struggling to adapt as China emerges as a global player. Beijing reflects China's long and evolving history when different dynasties based here constructed some of the nation's most well-known and culturally important sites such as the Great Wall and the Summer Palace. In addition to being the political and cultural center of China, Beijing is known as the birthplace of Chinese cinema and modern art. Beijing also has China's largest concentration of top research institutions.

academics

Academic Program

The CIEE Chinese Language and Cultural Studies program opened in spring 2007. It offers students an opportunity to learn about China through an interdisciplinary lens. The program takes full advantage of MUC's multicultural campus environment in which students from China's 56 nationalities, including Tibetan and Uyghur (Muslim) minority groups, are enrolled. This program is ideal for students majoring in the social sciences with an interest in human ecology, multi-ethnic issues and policy, development studies, and modern life in Beijing. Students interested in staying for a full year should contact CIEE about options for a second semester of study.

Academic Culture

Students attend language classes Monday through Friday for a total of ten hours per week for 12 weeks. Instructional activities are coupled with weekly rigorous tutorial sessions. Both the required area studies course and elective courses are taught in a seminar setting. They involve discussions, lectures, local field trips, and projects. In many instructional settings, program participants interact

with local students, scholars, artists, writers, and film makers. Prior to designated seminars for discussions, students are expected to have completed reading assignments and come prepared with their questions and critical perspectives on related issues.

Nature of Classes

Participants take classes with other CIEE students only and not with Chinese students. MUC guest professors may bring their students to interact with CIEE students.

Language Environment

As students gain proficiency in Chinese, resident staff encourage them to use their language skills in everyday settings. The more students participate, the more a community that contributes to Chinese language proficiency and understanding of Chinese culture and modern society develops.

Grading System

Grades are determined by two monthly exams (80%), homework and quizzes (10%), and attendance and participation (10%). Letter grades of A, B, C, D, and F are given with pluses and minuses.



where you'll study

Minzu University of China (formerly the Central University for Nationalities) was founded in the 1950s. It is a unique community of higher education in Beijing, where students from China's 56 nationalities study. Minzu University of China (MUC) consists of 10 colleges. Of these, the Colleges of Ethnology and Sociology, Fine Arts, Ethno-Music, Tibetan Studies, and Uyghur Language and Literature are the most well known at home and abroad. The campus facilities include a concert hall, a large art gallery, an ethnic minority museum, and a library holding the largest collection of publications and archives on ethnic minorities in China.

living

Housing and Meals

Housing is included in the program fee. The College of International Education at MUC has recently completed a new housing unit with apartments for international faculty members and students. The West Gate International House is located right outside the west gate of the campus. Two CIEE students are assigned to an apartment, each of which has a bedroom, bathroom, living room, kitchen, washing machine, and wireless or broadband Internet access. The surrounding area of the West Gate International House is vibrant, offering a variety of ethnic restaurants, and bookstores. Students may not live outside of CIEE-arranged housing.

Meals are not included in the program fee and are the responsibility of the student. Meals on campus may be taken at the local student cafeteria, which provides food from the different regions of China including food for Muslim students. There are also a number of excellent restaurants and noodle shops surrounding the campus.

Orientation

A mandatory orientation session at the beginning of the program introduces students to the country, the culture, and the academic program, as well as provides practical information about living in Beijing. Students also take a language placement exam during this time. Among other activities, students tour both the National Library and Zizhuyuan Park to familiarize themselves with these nearby resources. Ongoing support is provided on an individual and group basis throughout the program.

Internet

Most MUC instructional facilities are equipped with wireless Internet access. The computer center at the College of International Education is also available for international students from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm. Students can also access the Internet from their dormitory rooms, which are installed with a DSL connection. Students are encouraged to bring wireless-enabled laptops.

culture

Cultural Activities and Field Trips

Guided field trips are organized to historic and cultural sites in and around Beijing such as the National Minorities Park; Zhoukoudian, the original site of Peking Man; the Temple of Heaven; Drum Tower and Hutong cultural areas; and various other temples. There are additional site visits to supplement the area studies courses. Cultural activities may include group meals and cultural panels by local students. Although there are no formal community service activities in this program, volunteer opportunities can be arranged by CIEE staff.

Intercultural Experience in Northwest China

Each semester students take part in a 10-day mid-semester field trip to several rural areas in northwestern China. Students prepare for the experience by completing reading assignments and seminar discussions on the ethnic diversity of China prior to the trip. Prior to their departure, students also receive fieldwork assignments from both language and area studies instructors. The field trip typically includes homestay experiences with Tibetan farmers, nomads, and traditional artists in eastern Qinghai and southern Gansu Provinces. Students engage in reflective discussions both during and following their trip so that they can put it in context of their broader experience living and studying in China.

Cultural Reimbursement Program

As a means of encouraging students to enrich their study abroad experience, CIEE offers a Cultural Reimbursement Program. Through this program, students are reimbursed for their participation in such cultural activities as Chinese film screenings, theater performances, traditional music concerts, and visits to local museums and historic places of interest. Students are encouraged to invite peer tutors to such events when possible.

eligibility

- Overall GPA 2.75
- Previous coursework in anthropology, sociology, development, or global studies recommended

duration

- Fall**
15 weeks: late August–early December
- Spring**
15 weeks: mid-February–early June

immersion

Peer Language Tutors

Program participants are paired with local Chinese students for weekly one-on-one Chinese language tutorials. These tutorials provide students extra conversation practice in Mandarin, as well as help them with their homework assignments and give them the opportunity to experience firsthand the lifestyle of their Chinese peers.

Target Language Meals

To encourage students to utilize their Chinese in an informal setting, CIEE arranges bimonthly group meals for students, their language teachers, peer tutors, and resident staff. Students attending the optional meals are required to speak only Chinese with their teachers and peers.

costs

CIEE Fees

Fall 2009: \$12,500
Spring 2010: available 8/15/09

The CIEE fees for 2009–10 include tuition, optional on-site airport meet and greet, fulltime leadership and support, housing, orientation, cultural activities, local excursions, a 10-day mid-semester field trip to several rural areas in northwestern China, pre-departure advising, comprehensive student handbook, and a CIEE iNext travel card, which provides insurance and other travel benefits.

Estimated Additional Costs (Fall 2009)

Transportation (round-trip based on U.S. West Coast departure)	\$ 1,500
Personal Expenses	\$ 2,150
Meals	\$ 1,200
Books and Supplies	\$ 150
Local Transportation	\$ 400
Total Estimated Additional Costs	\$ 5,400

Check our website for current fees.



coursework

Program Requirements

A full course load is three courses. Students take the required area studies course, one Chinese language course, and one elective course. Students are placed at a language level based on a language placement exam taken during orientation.

Credit

Total recommended credit for the semester is 15 semester/22.5 quarter hours. Chinese language course contact hours are 135 hours with a recommended credit of 9 semester/13.5 quarter hours. All other course contact hours are 45 hours with a recommended credit of 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours.

Languages of Instruction

Mandarin Chinese, English

Faculty

All Chinese language courses are taught by faculty from MUC's Department of Chinese Language and Literature, who specialize in Teaching Chinese as a Second Language. The area studies courses are taught by faculty from MUC's School of Ethnology and Sociology and adjunct faculty in Beijing. Participating professors and guest speakers include such leading figures in the social sciences in China as Professors Zhang Haiyang, Wang Jianmin, Yang Shengmin, Dr. Huang Jianbo, Chen Xia, Tsering Thar, Hu Xiaojiang, Miguel Salazar, Hwanbar Dorji, and Su Faxiang, to name a few.



courses

Required CIEE Language Courses

CHIN 1001 CCUN

Chinese Language—Elementary

This course is designed for students with no previous Chinese language knowledge and introduces students to modern Mandarin Chinese. The course begins with an introduction to the sound system of Mandarin Chinese and moves on to training of basic skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Through intensive drills and various types of practice, students are able to use vocabulary and sentence patterns in meaningful contexts. The course has an additional aim of introducing students to Chinese culture. *Textbook: New Practical Chinese Reader, Volume 1, Beijing: Beijing Language and Culture University Press*

CHIN 1002 CCUN

Chinese Language—Beginner

This course is designed for students with a beginning level of Chinese. It is most appropriate for students with one semester of college Chinese in the U.S. or the equivalent. Students at this level are trained to speak and write coherent and correct paragraphs rather than sentences, and to be able to communicate in Chinese regarding simple topics related to everyday life. *Textbook: New Practical Chinese Reader, Volumes 1&2, Beijing: Beijing Language and Culture University Press*

CHIN 2002 CCUN

Chinese Language—Low Intermediate

This course is designed for students with a low intermediate level of Chinese. This course is most appropriate for students with two semesters of college Chinese in the U.S. or the equivalent. Students at this level are trained to speak and write coherent and correct paragraphs rather than sentences and able to discuss and write about topics related to modern Chinese society. *Textbook: New Practical Chinese Reader, Volumes 2 & 3, Beijing: Beijing Language and Culture University Press*

CHIN 2003 CCUN

Chinese Language—Intermediate

This course is designed for students with an intermediate level of Chinese, typically three or four semesters of Chinese. The equivalent of this course is "Intermediate Chinese II" in a U.S. curriculum. This course continues to develop the four skills of aurally understanding, speaking, reading, and writing in Chinese. Students are required to comprehend and produce paragraph-level Chinese with high accuracy and fluency. *Textbook: New Practical Chinese Reader, Volumes 3 & 4, Beijing: Beijing Language and Culture University Press*

CHIN 3001 CCUN

Chinese Language—Advanced

This course is designed for students with four or five semesters of previous Chinese. The equivalent of this course is "Advanced I" in a U.S. curriculum. The purpose of this advanced Chinese language course is to assist students to acquire advanced grammatical structure and literary expressions by reading and understanding original Chinese texts. The contents of the selected texts contained in the course textbook are excerpts from modern Chinese literary works and newspaper articles. Through reading and interpreting course materials, students are expected to advance their reading comprehension, speaking ability, and creative and critical thinking with Chinese language patterns. Throughout the instructional process, students develop reflexive linguistic responses to Chinese socio-language environment. *Textbook: Boya Chinese Advanced, Beijing University Press.*

Required CIEE Area Studies Course

ANTH 3001 CCUN

Visual Anthropology of Contemporary China

Through this course, students gain a clear understanding of contemporary China via local visual productions, as well as through their own visual projects. Students develop familiarity with scholarly literature on critiquing Chinese films and documentaries. They learn to use interdisciplinary-oriented theories to articulate their own understandings and critiques. Students also learn ethnographic research skills. On the technical side, students learn to use film editing software as they develop the skills needed to plan, produce, and complete the post-production aspects of a video. *Instructor: Dan Smyer Yu*

(courses continued from previous page)

CIEE Elective Courses

Students choose one of the following courses. Elective courses may change from year-to-year, depending upon instructor availability and new course elective options.

ANTH 3002 CCUN/ PHED 3002 CCUN

Ethnic Dance in Western China

Students learn the history and cultural functions of traditional dances from the regions of Tibet, Uyghur, Dai, and Wa. Students also learn to identify the differences between traditional dance genres and their altered counterparts in modern performing arts. Through somatic experiences with these dance forms and through course readings, students learn to theorize the impact of modern forces on traditional dance genres.

EAST 3000 CCUN

Ethnic Diversity in China

This course examines the construction of the Chinese identity, minority identities, and the relationship of these groups to the Chinese state. Ethnic identities have real impact on political relationships and in the lives of people whose opportunities, rights, and livelihood are impacted by ethnic affiliation. This course discusses the nature of "Chineseness," nationalism, ethnic relations, objectification of minorities, language and identity, nomadic sedentary relations, gender and ethnic asymmetry, and religious identity and representation.

TBET 1001 CCUN

Spoken Tibetan—Amdo Dialect

The main goal of this course is to ensure that students have the ability to speak Tibetan Amdo dialect at a basic level by the end of the semester. Students are able to conjugate sentences that are commonly used for self-introduction, daily functional needs, and learning about one's surroundings while traveling or living in the Amdo region of China. Although this course is designed as a spoken language class, students start with Tibetan phonetic system, grammar, and vocabularies. By the end of the semester, students make sentences, have a 2,000-word vocabulary, and have competent listening comprehension when conversing with native people living in the Amdo region.

a student's story

I've always wanted to study abroad and was looking for a program that offered a diverse and exotic culture. Since I'm a business major, China's growing economy interested me. I wanted a challenge while studying abroad and thought that since I had no prior education in Chinese language or ethnic studies, I would try the program and learn as much as I could. Surprisingly, I really enjoyed learning and writing Chinese characters, and continued to write them upon my return home.

Since I was looking for diversity, Minzu University was the perfect place to learn about the different nationalities in China. I attended many concerts and performances on campus that highlighted the traditional clothing and music of each culture. Also, the cafeterias cater to different ethnicities, which allowed me to try many different foods. Being thrown into this mix was been quite enjoyable, and I made friends from all ethnic backgrounds.

Our 10-day CIEE excursion trip to Qinghai and Gansu was—by far—my top cultural experience in China. Living with and being surrounded by a completely different environment and culture was very educational. I gained a new level of appreciation and understanding for the Tibetan culture and plan to travel back in the future. The villagers we stayed with had rarely seen foreigners, so their expression when you greeted them was priceless!

— JohnPaul Bennet, Shippensburg University

