Chinese Culture Summer Program

Feeling China:
An Exploration of Chinese Culture
WELCOME TO SISU

Established in 1949, Shanghai International Studies University (SISU) is committed to preparing future leaders and professionals with advanced language proficiency, extensive global knowledge, and deep intercultural understanding to shape international scholarship across humanities and social sciences, and address critical challenges worldwide. SISU is known for being one of the earliest institutions where China’s higher education in foreign languages took shape. Our pioneering history began in the same year of the founding of the People’s Republic of China. Over the past 70 years, SISU has grown into a national leading and globally recognized university for international studies.

We have made it a strategic priority in our development planning to go global. We have now established partnerships with more than 420 universities and institutions from 62 countries and regions, and have maintained close connection with international organizations, such as the United Nations and the European Union. Over the past five years, around 4,600 international students have been enrolled each year in our Chinese language programs or other degree schemes.

Located in the downtown of the affluent, exciting and glamorous city of Shanghai, SISU Hongkou Campus (where this program will take place) is next to many great cultural, social and entertainment attractions. We look forward to embarking on this wonderful journey with you for “Feeling China: An Exploration of Chinese Culture”.
STUDY IN THE HEART OF SHANGHAI

The city of Shanghai is one of the world’s most vibrant cities, a place blooming with so much life and diversity, making a visitor’s stay truly memorable. It is a city where the traditions of the east blend perfectly with those of the west, where the old Shikumen buildings proudly stand side by side with the new skyscrapers of the modern world.

Here are some fun facts about Shanghai:

1. With nearly 25 million, Shanghai is China’s largest city in terms of its population. Nearly 9 million international tourists enjoy Shanghai’s top sights each year;

2. Shanghai literally means “Above/Upon the Sea,” which alludes to the city’s location along the Yangtze River Delta near the South China Sea. As an excellent sea and river port, it boasts easy access to the vast hinterland of China;

3. Shanghai aims to become an international center for economics, finance, trade, shipping, technology and innovation by the year of 2035;

4. The city is divided into two parts by the Huangpu River: Puxi is the older part of the city and hosts the majority of shops and museums; Pudong is the modern part, and is recognized for its extremely impressive high-rises;

5. Shanghai has become a gastronomic center of all the major cuisine of China. The downtown area also has a plethora of glitzy foreign restaurants to suit the palate of international tourists.
PROGRAM INTRO

Time: July  
Duration: 3 weeks  
Tuition (non-exchange students): 3,900 RMB  
On-campus housing (double room): 2,100 RMB

For thousands of years, China has been an important contributor to the diversity and splendor of the world’s civilization. Despite its acknowledged significance as an economic and political power, much less is known about the country and much more is to be explored, to be felt, to be understood and to be appreciated. In this increasingly interconnected world, to maintain a truly global perspective, an understanding of China is indispensable.

International students in this three-week program will attend 15 well-knit lectures all delivered in English. International students and SISU students will work together in the program toward a better understanding of China, Chinese culture and how they relate to the world. Students will receive an official certificate upon the completion of all the coursework.
HIGHLIGHT

- A clear focus on fundamentals of Chinese culture;
- Lectures delivered by SISU senior faculty members;
- All teaching activities conducted in English;
- Carefully designed immersion activities and excursions;
- Full-time participation of Chinese students in the same program;
- Access to various optional hands-on courses.

APPLICATION

The program is open to applicants of any academic background, with reliable financial support and custody (if necessary). The proficiency in the Chinese language is not required as all lectures are delivered in English. Students will need a student visa (X2) to be enrolled into the program.

Application is usually accepted between March 15 and April 15. For more detail, please visit http://www.ses.shisu.edu.cn/451/list.htm.

For further inquiry, you may contact:
Ms. WEI Yumeng, Program Coordinator
Email: chineseculture@shisu.edu.cn
CURRICULUM

General
1. "An Overview of Chinese History and Culture: From Tradition to Modernity"

Chinese Thoughts from Antiquity to Today
2. "Philosophical Confucianism, Taoism, and Legalism I"
3. "Philosophical Confucianism, Taoism, and Legalism II"
4. "Understanding China’s Belt and Road Initiative"

Chinese Social Life and Customs
5. "East-West Relations: Understanding Begins with Differences"
6. "Changing Relationships in China"
7. "Stories of Shanghai"
8. "The Southern Song Dynasty and Hangzhou"

Chinese Arts and Other Heritage
10. "China’s Tea Culture: Let’s Make a Cup of Tea!"
12. "Appreciation of Chinese Painting"
13. "Gender in Traditional Chinese Opera Performance"
14. "Introduction to Chinese Folk/Pop Music"
15. "Introduction to Chinese Traditional Legal Culture"

Optional Subjects
1. "From Imperial China to Socialist China"
2. "The Changing Position of Chinese Women through History"
3. "The Chinese Imperial Examination System"
4. "China’s Foreign Relationship/Trade from the Ancient Time until Now"
5. "Beyond the Four Great Inventions: Science and Technology in Traditional China"
6. "Chinese Cinema: Historical and Cultural Perspectives"
7. "Appreciation of Chinese Food Culture"
I think Shanghai is a very modern and vibrant city. I really enjoy the mix between modern and traditional buildings. We’ve been to the downtown areas, the bunds... there are very modern skyscrapers which I really enjoyed. But also, we visit some temples and other more traditional style buildings. And I really like the mix of both of them.

Loes de Kort (Netherlands), Leiden University

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It’s a very enriching program. It gives me a chance to learn things that I would not have the opportunity to learn outside of China, like taking a Chinese painting course and many other such things. I’m very happy that I could be part of this program.

Janan Iranbomy (Germany), Georgetown University in Qatar

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I really love this program. I met some differences between the West and the East, and I love all of the lectures. The good thing about the program is that it emphasizes on the lectures, instead of the Chinese language itself. The professors are very nice to us, and they are eager to help us. So please continue this program for the years to come, and I will certainly invite some Greek students to visit Shanghai and SISU.

Ioannis Sotiropoulos (Greece), Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
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School of Chinese Studies and Exchange

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