



Associated Colleges *in* China
美国各大学联合汉语中心

**FIELD STUDIES
PROGRAM
STUDENT HANDBOOK
2011**

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Welcome to the Associated Colleges in China (ACC) Field Studies, a summer intensive Chinese language program administered by Hamilton College and hosted by Minzu University of China (MUC). We offer a unique program filled with opportunities, and your time with us promises to be richly rewarding. This handbook contains a great deal of information. We ask that you read these pages very carefully and follow all instructions exactly. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

ASSOCIATED COLLEGES IN CHINA (ACC)

Advisory Board Members

Songren Cui, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Chinese, Asian Studies Program, Bowdoin College. Experience includes combined teaching Chinese at Bowdoin College, University of Massachusetts (Amherst), Princeton-in-Beijing, the Chinese Summer School of Middlebury College, and Harvard University.

Hong Gang Jin, Ph.D., ACC General Director and Professor of Chinese, East Asian Languages and Literature Program, Hamilton College. Has taught at the Chinese Summer School of Middlebury College and at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

Haili Kong, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Chinese Language, Literature, and Film, Swarthmore College. Teaching experience also includes the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Cecilia Chang, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Chinese and Chair of the Department of Asian Studies at Williams College. 20+ years of combined teaching experience at Princeton University, University of Michigan, Middlebury Summer Chinese School, Princeton-in-Beijing, and Williams College. Teacher trainer for Middlebury College Summer Chinese School since 2006.

Qiusha Ma, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Chinese, Oberlin College. Teaching experience includes Oberlin College and Case Western Reserve University. Summer teaching experience at Beloit College.

Kuo-ming Sung, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Chair of Department of Chinese and Japanese and Program of East Asian Studies, Lawrence University. Teaching experience at UCLA's Chinese Summer Program. Served as ACC Field Director in 2001-02.

Vivian Ling, Ph.D., Senior Advisor to the Associated Colleges in China. Has combined directing UC Berkeley's Inter-University Program at Tsinghua University and Stanford University's Inter-University Program in Taipei. Experience as professor of EALL at Oberlin College. Served as ACC Field Director in 2003-04.

Faculty and Staff 2011-2012

Hong Gang Jin, Ph.D., ACC General Director, Field Director 1996-1999 and Summer 2004, ACC General Director from 1996 to now and Professor of Chinese, East Asian Languages and Literatures Program, Hamilton College. Also has teaching experience at the Chinese Summer School of Middlebury College and at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

Chuzhen Wang, Program Coordinator, M.A. National Taiwan Normal University. B.A. National Cheng-chi University.

Ying Gao, Assistant to the Field Director, B.A. in English from Jiangnan University. In charge of teacher development and supervision. Three years experience at ACC. One year teaching experience at Hamilton College.

Wei Sun, Assistant to the Field Director, B.A. in Computer Science from Yanshan University. Five years experience at ACC. One year teaching experience at Hamilton College.

Nitsa Weld, ACC Program Coordinator, Hamilton College, B.A. in English, Lynchburg College. Twelve years at Hamilton, four years at ACC.

Shannon Jones, ACC Program Coordinator, Hamilton College, B.A. in Psychology, Oswego State University.

Local Chinese Language Instructors. ACC carefully recruits and trains approximately 30-35 local Chinese instructors with B.A. and M.A. degrees in various fields.

HOST INSTITUTION

Beijing

Minzu University of China (MUC) is one of China's most important comprehensive universities, and it is one of the 38 key universities receiving direct development support from the Chinese government. The goal for Minzu University of China is to become 'one of the first-class ethnic universities in the world.' Minzu University of China has an advantageous geographical position, being located in an urban district of Beijing, and transportation is very convenient. There are many buses and a subway outside the front gate of MUC. MUC is situated in a university district, near the National Library of China to its south, and the Chinese 'Silicon Valley'-Zhongguancun High-Technology Industry Base to its north. It has a beautiful garden-like campus, something rarely seen in northern China.

Minzu University of China has a comprehensive set of university disciplines, and its ethnic characteristics are highly distinctive. Humanities is its main focus and ethnic studies is its defining specialty, with courses covering liberal arts, science, engineering, medical science, management, education, finance and economics, politics and law, physical education, art and so on. At present, MUC has 23 colleges and 5 departments, 55 bachelor's degree programs, 64 master's degree programs, and 25 doctor's degree programs. Its ethnology, Chinese ethnic minority language and literature, Chinese ethnic minority art, etc. rank among the best in China and are well-known around the world. It is also one of the most well-known institutions in teaching Chinese as a foreign language in China. It is one of the first eight universities in China that enrolled international students and began teaching and researching Chinese as a foreign language. All majors at MUC are open to international students. Today, MUC has a faculty of

2,014 members, among them 1040 are full-time teachers, including 510 professors and associate professors.

At MUC, multiple cultures exist side by side harmoniously. Not only does it have high-quality, top-level faculty with many ethnic backgrounds, but also 60% of its 15,046 full-time students are ethnic minorities. It is the only university in China where all of China's 56 ethnic groups are represented in its faculty and student body. The multiple cultures of the 56 ethnic groups harmoniously mix together here.

MUC's College of International Education

College of International Education (CIE) is a special agency in charge of recruitment, Chinese teaching and management of, as well as service to, all international students at MUC. CIE is responsible for Chinese language programs, a bachelor's degree program on Chinese for international students, a master's degree program on Teaching Chinese to Speakers of Other Languages and a doctor's degree program on Globalization of Chinese Language (International Chinese Language Education). At present, there are more than 200 international students at CIE learning various programs. In recent years, the college has focused on diverse teaching methods such as 'Great Wall Chinese' multi-media teaching method, 'Intensive Training' and 'Experiencing Teaching'. There are 23 teachers engaged in teaching and research, including 10 professors and associate professors. For more than 10 years more than half of the teaching faculty has experience in teaching Chinese as a foreign language.

The Chinese language program is conducted in small classes, each of which holds around 15 students. The college designates two after-class tutors for each class so as to help students reinforce what they have learned in class. Both the Chinese language program and the bachelor's degree program in Chinese attach importance to international students' skills in Chinese listening, speaking, reading and writing.

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DOCUMENTS TO PREPARE FOR TRAVEL

Passport

If you already have a passport, please ensure that it is valid for at least 6 MONTHS AFTER your last day in China. If not, it must be renewed immediately. If you do not have a passport, the Blue Pages of your telephone book will indicate the location of the passport office nearest you. You may also visit www.state.gov for information about obtaining or renewing a passport.

In addition to the passport application form, to apply for a passport you will need the original or a certified copy of the following:

- a. **Proof of Citizenship (one of the following)**
 - United States birth certificate
 - Previously issued passport
 - Proof of naturalization, if you are a naturalized citizen
- b. **Identification (one of the following)**
 - Driver's license
 - Government ID card
 - Previously issued passport
- c. **Two photographs measuring 2" by 2"**

The passport fee is \$110 for a renewal and \$135 for an original. New passports are usually valid for 10 years. Again, please visit <http://travel.state.gov/passport> for more information.

If you are a U.S. citizen, we suggest that you register your passport with the U.S. Embassy immediately upon your arrival in China. This will make it easier to have a new passport issued in the event that yours is lost or stolen.

Important: We must have your passport number as soon as possible after you have enrolled into the program. This is absolutely necessary for the processing of your visa forms.

Chinese Visa

You will be obtaining an "F" visa, which is valid for one entry into China within a period of up to six months. ACC cannot assist you in obtaining any type of visa other than the single entry "F" visa. Should you be remaining with ACC for longer than 6 months, the ACC staff in Beijing will assist you in having your visa renewed during your stay. You may also apply for a re-entry visa in Beijing if you need to leave China within your visa's valid period.

The visa process is as follows:

1. *ACC will file for your preliminary visa papers (JW-202 and the Invitation to Study at MUC), which are issued in Beijing. These papers, with each individual student's visa information, will be sent to the ACC office at Hamilton College. **YOU CANNOT APPLY FOR YOUR VISA WITHOUT THESE PAPERS.***
2. *The ACC office will then forward you these completed papers along with another form to be filled out by the student (Q1) and complete instructions as to how to go about applying for the F visa. These papers are sent via certified mail. You must sign for the packet personally (either at your home upon delivery) or at the post office. If you are using a student post office box, you will receive a slip in the mail notifying you that you*

must pick up your packet at the window. Please do not delay in picking up the papers, or they will be returned to the ACC office.

- 3. Once you have received the papers and filled out the necessary forms according to the instructions, you may proceed in one of two ways: 1) If you live close to a Chinese consulate or the Chinese embassy, you may go directly there and use the walk-in service to obtain your visa. 2) If you are not near a consulate or embassy, you will have to use a visa agent to obtain your visa. Several agencies have online applications. We recommend www.travisa.com. Applications can be printed and included in a packet you will need to mail to the visa agent; they will get your visa for you and then mail it back to you. Chinese consulates in the U.S. no longer permit mail-in applications from individuals.*

You will be responsible for obtaining your visa. ACC cannot assume any responsibility for providing visas to students, other than securing the preliminary paperwork.

Please e-mail ACC once you have received your visa so that we may ensure that all students have the necessary documents in order to travel to China (accfsk12@hamilton.edu).

Monitor Your Visa Status

Most of you hold a single “F” visa with 180 days of permitted stay in the P. R. China. You have to leave the country before your visa expires. Your arriving date + 180 days = the visa expiring date. Monitor your visa status carefully. You will be fined 5000 RMB at customs with an expired visa. A worse scenario is that you might be put on “the black list” and can never set foot in China again!

During the summer, if you go to places such as HK, Macau, or Taiwan, you must get a return visa before you return to China. We recommend that you do this **before you leave China**.

ARRIVING IN BEIJING

Participants are responsible for arranging their own transportation to Beijing, and may phone or write the ACC office for recommendations on specific flights or travel agents. Students must notify the ACC office of their travel plans at least two weeks before arrival. Complete itineraries - including airline flight number, departing city, time and date of departure and arrival - must be e-mailed, faxed or posted to the ACC office.

Participants wishing to arrive early should contact the ACC office at Hamilton College to make arrangements for accommodations in the dormitory. The cost of any advanced accommodations in the dorm will be the student's responsibility (rooms subject to availability). Also, participants enrolled in the program should be aware that housing during the period between terms is their own responsibility. Fees generally range from \$17-\$27 per night.

How to get to Minzu University of China (MUC)

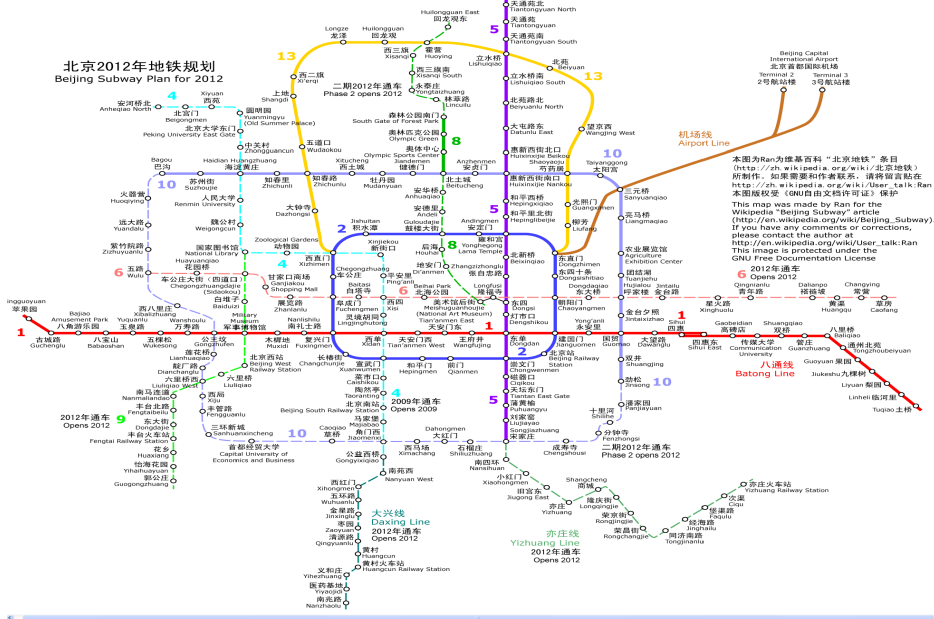
Traveling from the Airport: There are several ways to get to MUC from the airport. We list two major routes here for reference (see map below).

- 1) The easiest way is to take a taxi directly to MUC. It costs about RMB 150.

- 2) You can also take the Airport Shuttle Line 4 to Friendship Hotel (Youyi Binguan). Next, take Subway Line 4 at Renmin Daxue Station for one stop, get off at Weigongcun Station and walk to MUC. Another option is to take Bus 320 (697, Yuntong 105, Yuntong 106, etc.) at Renmin Daxue Station to Weigongcun Station or Minzu Daxue Station and walk to MUC.

*We suggest students take a taxi from Friendship Hotel to MUC directly in case students have luggage with them. The taxi fare for this part is around RMB 10.

中央民族大学 Minzu University



ACC RULES AND REGULATIONS

Every organization needs some regulations in order to function effectively. The administration of the ACC program has tried to minimize these because we plan to treat you as serious and mature adults who do not need a written rule for every occasion. Nevertheless, for your own protection, and to support the goals of the program, some guidelines are necessary. We include these here so that you fully understand in advance the intensity of our program and what our regulations are.

Language Pledge

Only Chinese will be spoken, especially with other members of the group, roommates, teachers and staff as well as other people you may encounter while you are an ACC student. This is the program's most important regulation and constitutes the very backbone of its philosophy. The purpose of the Language Pledge is to help you become immersed in the language and to encourage you not only to speak Chinese, but to think in Chinese as well. When students speak English, full immersion into the language is not possible and the learning process is hindered.

You should not consider reverting to English or any other language other than Mandarin Chinese at any time during the program unless you really must speak to someone who doesn't understand Chinese or you are faced with an emergency situation. Failure to adhere to the Language Pledge will result in disciplinary action:

First offense: written warning

Second offense: one full grade reduction for a course taken in that term

Third offense: expulsion from the program

Students who are not able to observe this rule faithfully should not be with our program. The ACC Committee is charged with confirming the expulsion of any student who does not conform to the Language Pledge.

The Language Pledge becomes effective right after the orientation meeting at the start of the summer program. Students are asked to sign a pledge at that time.

Honor Code

Any form of academic dishonesty—cheating, falsification, misrepresentation, forgery, or plagiarism—is a serious offense in any academic community. In the ACC program, such dishonesty will normally result in removal from the course, expulsion from the program, or both. It is essential, therefore, that every student understands the standards of academic honesty.

Plagiarism is a violation of intellectual honesty. The practice of intellectual honesty is the foundation of an academic community. Effective evaluation of student work and helpful instruction can take place only in an environment where intellectual honesty is respected. Plagiarism represents a failure to acknowledge the source of ideas or language gained from another person when used in any paper, exercise, or project submitted in a course. All students will sign an Honor Code upon arrival.

In all cases, the ACC reserves the right to suspend a student whose academic work or social conduct warrants such action.

Miscellaneous Information Regarding Class Behavior

Please be culturally sensitive and respectful. For example: **do not bring breakfast to class; turn off your mobile phone; do not put your feet on desks or tables; knock on the door before entering a space that is not your own room** (especially the office); and **use both hands to submit an assignment or give a gift**. Please remember that what one culture values, another culture may not value as much (or at all).

Also, please do not be overly sensitive. In China, it is okay to ask people about their family life and wages (among many other things). For example, you may also be asked questions like: “Are you considered fat in the U.S.?” You will probably hear conversation about topics western culture deems inappropriate, such as 拉肚子 (lādùzi – diarrhea). When conversing with people, remember: “When in Rome...” (入境隨俗 rùjìng suísú).

Be cooperative, even when you are not fully prepared, interested in a topic, or in a good mood. Be respectful. Always be active and energetic in class, and participate in discussions.

Be realistic about the goals you set for yourself.

Please do not disrupt the harmony of the learning environment. If you have to leave the classroom, ask politely to be excused. Exit and re-enter as quietly as possible.

Absences and Tardiness

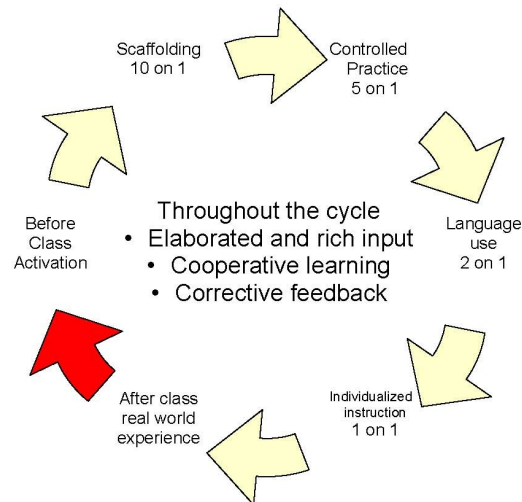
If you are sick, please give advance notice of absence from class and make sure that your homework is completed and submitted on time. Make-up class can be arranged with your one-on-one teacher. Additional assignments will be given to make up any missed classes. If you have 4 or more unexcused absences from class sessions, you will lose your performance grade.

The Field Director reserves the right to suspend a student whose academic work warrants such action

INTENSIVE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE TRAINING

Learning Cycle

Here at ACC, we follow six guiding principles that have been established in the field of second language acquisition theory. First, we pride ourselves on providing many experiential learning opportunities by designing task-based and language-use activities. Second, we emphasize elaborated input rather than simplified input in all of our classes. Third, we train students for chunk learning and to focus on both language forms and functions. That is, we encourage students to pay attention to both context and sentence patterns. Fourth, ACC employs group tasks to provide students opportunities for cooperative and collaborative learning. Fifth, we seize all opportunities to provide corrective feedback. That is, teachers will always correct students' mistakes and make suggestions accordingly. Finally, ACC makes individualized instruction an integral part of the curriculum.

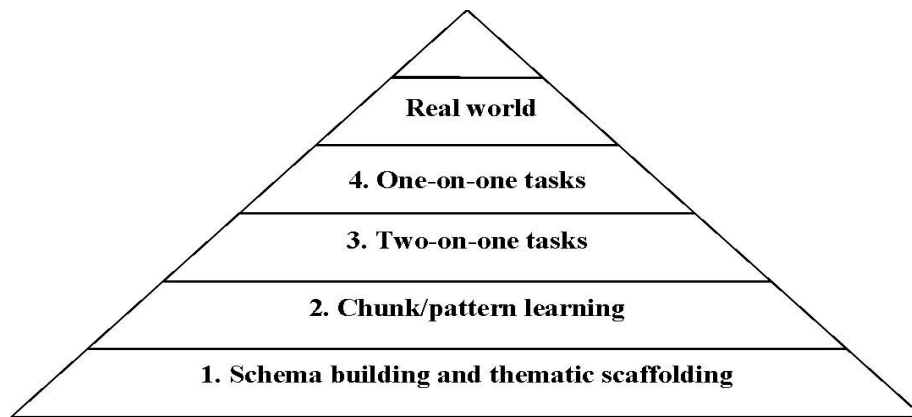


All of these six guiding principles, combined with teacher and student cooperation, translate into language learning success. As illustrated in the figure, the ACC instructional curriculum is a 6-stage cycle.

The 6 stages reflect the cognitive processes through which students make progress when learning a foreign/second language. The cycle begins with a series of activities and tasks before class. These activate students' background knowledge of the topic at hand and include reading, listening, short writing assignments, and/or discussion related to the theme of the core lesson. These activities/tasks are completed before class and are aimed at preparing students to engage in scaffolding activities for the next stage.

Instructional Format

ACC offers four types of instruction that enhance the learning experience. These types include: cooperative and collaborative learning, chunk learning, experiential learning, active and reflective learning, individualized learning, and task-based learning.



Building Comprehensive Language Skills

Listening comprehension is NOT enough to get by – you must know how to express yourself and should therefore seek and exploit as many opportunities as possible to practice these skills. Talk with the teachers and staff in the ACC building as well as other native speakers of Mandarin.

Experimentation is the key. You are a student of this language so don't be afraid to use phrases or vocabulary with which you are unfamiliar. Your conversation partner will understand if you have made an error and will kindly correct you. In fact, you should always be prepared to have your speech corrected. This is not meant to intimidate or discourage you but rather to help improve your Chinese.

If you are unsure of how to say something, use simpler Chinese to describe what you want to say so that your teacher or friend can help you say it. Do not use avoidance strategies like employing the ever-awkward “Chinglish.” Try to make conversation, even when it isn't “necessary” or “true.” Don't say things like “我不知道” or “我不了解.”

When you are unsure about what other people are saying, try to use the context of the situation, original topic of conversation, etc. to make an educated guess as to what was said. Also, take care to observe where, when, to whom and how an expression is used and initiate questions. For example: “再 ” or “教一个 .”

Additionally, when expressing yourself aloud, remember: “*Measure twice, cut once.*” Take time and effort to express your thoughts in Chinese by using the right tones and pronunciation. Answer in complete sentences that include as many target vocabulary and sentence patterns as possible. This will not only increase your likelihood for success, but will also earn you an enthusiastic and genuine “很好！” from the 老师！

You should be patient and supportive of each other in class. Be accommodating of each other’s learning styles as well as ways of speaking and thinking. Since ACC students are often involved in team work or group projects, being a good conversation partner who respects others’ opinions is crucial to preserving a healthy and harmonious learning and living environment. If you should disagree with your conversation partner or teacher, try to redirect the conversation and focus on language use rather than opinions.

Final point: Carry a small notepad at all times. Use it to record any questions you have and any new words or phrases you pick up throughout the day (especially helpful in remembering slang).

Learning Strategies

Language strategies are the steps or actions you consciously take to improve your ability to learn a second language. Thinking in terms of strategies for dealing with different elements of language (listening, speaking, reading and writing) helps to make language learning a more manageable process.

First, you must use Good Language Learners’ Strategies (Rubin and Thompson, 1982). This means you should be proactive – take charge of your own learning. Additionally, you should develop a “feel” for the language by experimenting with its grammar and words. To accomplish this, create your own opportunities for practicing the language both within and outside of the classroom. Speak as much as possible and whenever you can. Moreover, you should learn to live with uncertainty by not getting flustered. Continue to talk or listen even if you do not understand everything at hand. Learn to make intelligent guesses and pay attention to contextual clues. To better recall what you have learned, employ mnemonics and other memory strategies. Lastly, make errors work for you rather than against you. Learn from them and welcome others’ corrections.

Second, **you must stay positive.** Anticipate language shock and fatigue, which may manifest itself in a number of different ways, such as: getting angry, not caring, giving up, and avoiding things. ACC suggests the following activities should you feel yourself suffering from language shock and/or fatigue: work out, take a break, talk to your parents and friends via e-mail, read English books, listen to your favorite music, take a walk or do some shopping, keep a journal, or discuss your situation with the Field Director. The orientation materials provide more detailed information about how best to deal with stress.

Good Listening Comprehension Strategies and Pre-Departure Listening Activities:

- Strategies:
 - Comprehend the message without understanding every word
 - Listen for key words
 - Play the game of probabilities, inference, and educated guessing
 - Try to predict what the speaker will say
- Activities:

- Listen to recordings from China over the internet
- Check out movies in Chinese
- Go to a Chinese restaurant and chat with the waiter/waitress
 - Find TV programs, CDs, and songs in Chinese and try to understand what is said

Good Speaking Strategies and Pre-Departure Listening Activities:

- Strategies:
 - Keep the conversation going
 - Overcome the fear to speak
 - Borrow words
 - Elaborate with the words you know
 - Use descriptions
 - Act out or draw the word
 - Ask for help
 - Be persistent about making new friends
- Activities:
 - Set a time to speak with your classmates
 - Spend a day with a native speaker, if possible
 - Go to a Chinese restaurant and chat with the waiter/waitress
 - Offer language exchange with someone from China

Reading and writing: Use your textbooks and the Internet for readings and write in Chinese what you do and how you feel in the pre-departure period.

Credits

Students should check to see if with their Registrar's office to make sure that Hamilton units are transferable into your credit system.

Usually, one Hamilton unit is equivalent to four semester hours. However, it is very important that you verify this with your Registrar and Chinese Department chair well before your departure. This is the responsibility of the student. Because every school places a different value on courses and units earned, we are unable to give a direct translation of what you will earn while in ACC. For the Summer Field Studies, ACC FS students will receive two Hamilton units.

China 498 (one unit): *Issues on China's Education System*

One to two hours daily for three weeks

Part I: *Study of China's Education System*

An exploration of the challenges and opportunities of education reform in China since 1989 and reform impact in rural China. Readings include authentic materials from China's media, professional journals, and magazines. The course would be taught in Chinese.

Prerequisite: Chinese 400 or above.

Part II: Advanced Oral Interpretation and Translation

This course will focus on oral and written translation techniques having to do with topics of education in China and in the United States. Seminars given by translation experts will be offered and practice sessions will be scheduled to train students' ability to act as an interpreter and translator at conferences during field trips.

There are two objectives for this course:

1. To familiarize students, through readings and media programs, with the educational system in urban and rural China, and enable students to compare the educational system in the United States with the system in China; and
2. Students will gain the ability through different activities to comprehend accented Mandarin Chinese from different regions and improve their ability to interpret and translate academic Chinese with sufficient structural accuracy and fluency to participate effectively in most formal and informal conversations in practical, social and professional settings.

China 499 (one unit): *Independent Project and Teaching Practicum*

One hour daily for three weeks

Under the guidance of ACC teachers, students will spend one hour daily in class writing and preparing for a conference presentation during their field trips. Students will present on a topic of their own choosing relating to their experience in the American educational system. Prior to field trips, mock presentations will be carried out in front of different audiences. Twice a week, students will prepare teaching materials and practice teaching for the day camps to be offered to rural students during the field studies.

Through the independent project and teaching practicum, the course hopes to achieve three objectives:

1. Prepare students to give presentations and lessons at conferences and day camps during the rural experience.
2. Help students learn to use the language effectively in most formal and informal spoken and written exchanges on practical, social and professional topics; and,
3. Engage students in a learning process that helps them transform observation and reflection into self-awareness (cognitive and affective changes). Instructors: ACC faculty.

FIELD EXPERIENCE

The ACC Field Studies Program has two main components. One is three-week intensive language study and field trip preparation at Minzu University of China in Beijing; the other is the three-week field experience in China's rural areas. During field trips, students will participate in two major events: a. education conferences and b. rural day camps, co-sponsored by the Education

and Science Society (ESS), an NGO with 25 years of experience in promoting education in rural China. For more information about ESS, you can visit: <http://www.esscare.org>. This year, the conference sites will be in Henan.

Education Conferences

Education conferences are the most important component of the Field Studies because the conferences focus on education issues in China and expose rural Chinese educators to various aspects of western education and culture. These education conferences were developed by the Education and Science Society (ESS) since 1988. The conferences last for three to four days and mainly focus on workshops covering a variety of topics on school administration, science education, general education, classroom management, and curriculum design. Some panels are lectures given by Chinese experts, others are presentations given by English-speaking professors and education specialists (during which ESS provides a translator), followed by group discussions. Although some topics may be unfamiliar, FS students should attend as many of these workshops as possible to gain a better understanding of the Chinese education system. Participating in these workshops also provides opportunities to interact with and learn from local Chinese educators, as well as to inform them even more about the American education system.

A great variety of Chinese educators participate in ESS's education conferences. Some are teachers, others school principals. Some are from rural areas, while others come from urban areas. Depending on where the conference is held, conference participants may consist of a large mix of ethnic groups; therefore, it is very difficult to make generalizations about the people who attend these conferences. Similarly, these educators represent different school systems, too. Some teachers may have classes with only ten students; others may have fifty or more students. By meeting people and discussing educational issues, FS students will learn about the school systems and conditions with which different schools and regions must grapple.

Conference Presentations

At each conference location, FS students will deliver their presentations. Each presentation should include a PowerPoint with many photos and/or other media. Each student presents for about 20 minutes, after which students will participate in a question-and-answer session that runs about 5-10 minutes per student. About 300-500 Chinese educators will attend each presentation. Though this handbook provides a general idea of what presenting at a conference may be like, organizing activities in China differs greatly from organizing events in the U.S. That is, schedules, time frames, presentation order, etc. may change at any time – even during the day of the conference.

The question-and-answer session plays an integral role in FS students' presentations because it gives Chinese educators a chance to ask students questions. These questions may pertain to one student's presentation or may be general questions that all students can answer. For example, someone may ask where American schools get their funding, how American teachers discipline their students, how American schools deal with racial and linguistic discrimination, or how students apply to college, etc. Because you never know what kind of questions the Chinese audience will ask, FS students should both anticipate the kinds of questions their presentations may raise and familiarize themselves with the American education system. Additionally, FS students should listen carefully to questions and try to answer as best they can. It may be hard to understand the question, especially if the speaker speaks Mandarin with a heavy accent. Sometimes, speakers may not want to ask their questions aloud and prefer to write down their question instead. If the question seems too difficult to answer, simply remind the speaker that

you are a student – not an education expert – and therefore can answer only from a student’s perspective.

Certain customs, behavior patterns, and style of speaking at conferences in China differ from that to which most Americans have grown accustomed. For instance, the person giving a speech will often either read directly from a script or read directly from a PowerPoint presentation. Sometimes, these presentations are uninteresting; many participants may fall asleep during such presentations and speeches. Additionally, many people do not turn off their cell phones. In fact, some even answer their phones during presentations! Students should not take offense to such cultural differences, but should also feel free to speak up if someone in the audience acts particularly rudely. It is perfectly acceptable to ask the audience “请关闭手机” (Please turn off cell phones!) before starting presentations. Also, though most people who attend the conferences are overwhelmingly kind, courteous, and welcoming, students must be aware that some Chinese do discriminate based on gender and race.

Attending these conferences is a rare opportunity for Chinese educators. Some of them may have never met a foreigner before (let alone have spoken Chinese with them). As such, it is important that FS students act appropriately, use formal speech, and dress in semi-formal attire. Please also consider China’s climate when deciding on what clothes to bring – the country can get very hot in the summer, and wearing a three-piece suit may be uncomfortable.

Students should bear in mind that they not only represent ACC and their college or university, but also serve as U.S. ambassadors and cultural representatives. Conference participants are often impressed by so many thoughtful, intelligent individuals with such well-developed Chinese language skills. Though pre-conference classes ensure that students will be competent in communicating in formal Chinese language, students should thoroughly practice their presentations and constantly think of how best to answer the questions they may be asked during question-and-answer sessions.

Day Camps

Past FS participants have commented that teaching in rural China as one of the most rewarding experience of the program. The FS group will visit different locations and teach students of various class levels. The format of the day camps may change, but generally day camps last for two to three days. FS students split into two groups: one teaches middle school-level, and the other teaches elementary level. On the second day, the two groups rotate. Each FS student will teach three different subjects: (1) hour-long classes on academic topics of math, science, language, arts/music, etc.; and (2) extracurricular activity that is team-taught. Students will teach each longer academic class twice and the shorter class once. Three classes are taught in the morning, and two classes are taught after lunch. Please be aware that some of these details may change as the schedule is being worked out right now.

These classes emphasize less on lecturing knowledge and focus more on motivating students and exposing them to different activities so that they become interested in learning. As such, FS students should try to develop classes that emphasize games, hands-on projects, and interactive activities rather than lecture. For instance, an FS student teaching math could teach “Math BINGO,” whereas a student teaching English could teach the students a song. In one popular activity for teaching art or music appreciation, teachers instructed students to listen to different types of music, after which the students drew pictures based on their reactions to the music. To keep students interested, plan approximately 3-4 fun activities (your students may not warm up to all of the planned activities, after all). You should explain instructions for such activities in a

clear, patient, and simple manner because although the students are Chinese, Mandarin may not be their first language. Additionally, a foreigner's accent may make it even difficult for them to understand.

Generally speaking, the students you teach are very interested and eager to learn, but may appear shy because they have not encountered a foreign teacher as well as the methods of teaching to which we are so accustomed. Often, students will raise their hands and stand up when they speak in class, or they will whisper when they talk to each other. They may not look the teacher in the eye and may even seem afraid of you. Please keep in mind that this may be the first time they have ever seen or interacted with a foreigner. FS students should try to be engaging, friendly, and energetic, which will expose the students to a more American style of teaching. By the same token, you, the FS participants, can benefit from the discipline of Chinese students. If you want a student to do something, simply speak firmly and they most likely will respond.

ACC plans day camps for specific grade levels, but the average age and education level of your students varies from place to place. Therefore, it is best to plan activities that do not require much prior knowledge and that will be interesting for different age groups and education levels. Sometimes, students of different ages will be placed in the same class. In some cases, principals and teachers may put their children in our day camp classes (even if they are too young or too old) simply because these educators believe that our day camp classes provide a unique opportunity for their children. However, you should not focus on teaching those students who are much older or much younger than the rest of the class; rather, you should simply teach as many students as possible.

Because our day camps are located in remote and poor regions of China, classrooms do not have very many supplies. The students will probably have a pen/pencil of some sort, some paper, maybe scissors and a few crayons or markers. The classrooms have desks or tables and chalkboards. For all classes, FS students should bring most of what they will need. Local teachers may be present (but may also wander in and out of the classroom), or they might not attend your class at all.

Interacting with Chinese

Over the course of field trips, students will meet Chinese people in a variety of settings. Students must understand that Chinese culture can be very different from Western culture, especially in a formal setting. When meeting new people, students should be mindful of their environment and be as courteous and patient as possible.

Though FS students have spent time in China before and have been exposed to some aspects of Chinese culture, rural areas remain much less modern and Westernized than does Beijing. While traveling, students will learn the importance of "keeping face" in China. The Chinese people who assist Field Studies program will bend over backwards to help our students. Sometimes, they may even help out when it seems unnecessary or even unwanted. Regardless of the circumstances, students should always be polite and thank anyone who tries to help in any way.

Dining table culture in China is especially different from that of Western culture. FS students will attend a number of formal dinners. As such, students should try to be as culturally sensitive as possible. Formal dinners include many foods and courses; dinners may last for hours. If an important person attends the dinner, he or she should be given the seat of honor (the seat located furthest from the door). Often, the hosts will offer food to students before eating any themselves. This is a sign of respect – students should try to politely decline and let the hosts eat first. Additionally, students should always thank their hosts repeatedly. At the end of the meal, hosts

will often say a toast to their guests, and vice-versa. This often consists of a brief statement of gratitude, followed by cheers of *baijiu* – Chinese liquor. Though Chinese may be persistent when offering alcohol, students should not feel obligated to drink, and can toast with tea or soda. However, students should be prepared make toasts of their own to thank their hosts.

Reflective Journals

While traveling throughout the countryside, students will experience many interesting and inspiring encounters. Because there is no assigned work during the Field Study period of the program (other than preparing for presentations and day camps), students must remember to reflect and record their encounters by combining their immediate thoughts about the experience with newly developed language skills.

The content of the journals can be a mix of personal experiences, impressions, and interpretations. Though there is no explicit requirement of length or complex language, students should invest time and thought into their reflective journals. The journal can be personal, but its content should be organized and its language formal. Journals need not take the form of an essay, but should not represent a simple stream of events or thought, either.

Students may find it difficult to find time to write in their reflective journals during day camps and conferences, so it may be useful to write short notes and develop the thoughts later. To that end, students should consider carrying a pocket-size notebook.

Outreach Activities

After returning to the U.S., students are expected to share their experiences with people in their community. Students should start planning these activities while they are still in China. These activities may take many forms, but ultimately these activities should aim to inform fellow students and local communities about what they learned during their time in China. Many students give lectures and discussions at their college, high school, elementary school, or public libraries. Students may also pursue other options such as participating in a poster session or presenting at a conference. If students do not return to the U.S, they should consider an alternative activity such as writing an article for the school newspaper or website.

HEALTH CARE

Medical Insurance

All participants of the program must submit proof of proper medical insurance coverage for their stay in Beijing. If you are currently insured and have ascertained that your coverage extends to Asia, this should be indicated on the health insurance form that is sent in the acceptance packet.

If you need to purchase insurance or need additional coverage, we recommend HTH Worldwide Insurance Services. For more information, you may refer to the HTH website at www.hthstudents.com. Be sure to mention that you are a participant of the Associated Colleges in China program.

Inoculations

In the admissions packet you received electronically, there is information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that addresses the issue of inoculations as well as a variety of health matters. You should read this document carefully. At this time, no immunizations are

required for travel to the People's Republic of China from the United States. If you are traveling to China from an infected area (many Southeast Asian and African locations are considered infected areas), immunizations may be required.

Although inoculations are not mandatory for travel from the United States, ACC strongly recommends the following vaccinations:

- Hepatitis A, and booster upon return
- Hepatitis B, if students does not already have it
- Japanese Encephalitis
- Tetanus, if recent shot has not been given
- Typhoid Fever
- Polio booster
- Rabies vaccine
- Anti-malarias can be purchased and taken in China once students are made aware of field trip destinations

Please be sure to schedule the vaccinations as early as possible since many of them are administered in a series with three to six months between shots. Also, some immunizations may have slight side effects.

You should also ask your doctor for advice regarding immunizations (including tetanus and flu shots). You may also call the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta (404-639-3311), log on to their web site at <http://www.cdc.gov> for the most current information, or call the U.S. Department of Public Health Disease Control in Maryland (301-443-2610).

To minimize your chances of suffering from diarrhea (拉肚子 lā dùzi), you must take a few precautions. That is, stay away from raw vegetables, choose fruits that can be peeled, eat cooked meat, and never drink tap water (it is absolutely okay to brush your teeth with tap water as long as you do not swallow it). Instead, use bottled or boiled water. As for eating the skin off fruit, it is best to wait at least one week. Allow your stomach to adjust to Beijing's food.

You should bring a copy of your immunization record with you as well as an adequate supply of any prescription or non-prescription medications (Pepto-Bismol, cough syrup, various pain relievers, etc.) that you might require. Any pre-existing medical condition, especially upper respiratory and gastro-intestinal problems, may be exacerbated by life in China. If you become ill, you should seek medical attention immediately. It is a good idea to find out if you are allergic to penicillin because it is often prescribed in China.

Local Clinics and Hospitals for Emergencies

Medical services on par with international standards – at costs comparable to the U.S. – are now widely available. Some of these clinics and hospitals will bill certain foreign medical insurance companies directly, however, it is more common that the participant pay for medical procedures up front and submit claims to his or her insurance company at a later date. Participants should be prepared to pay by cash or credit card for medical services at the time of service. The following clinics and hospitals are recommended:

Hospitals (医院)

Within campus: Campus Clinic (校内: 校医院)

Outside campus (校外):

Beijing University Dental Hospital (Opposite campus's small East Gate)
No. 22 Zhongguancun South Street
Haidian District, Beijing
Tel: 6217-9977
北大口腔医院
北京市海淀区中关村南大街 22 号 (学校小东门对面)

Haidian Hospital
No. 29 Zhongguancun Street
Haidian District, Beijing
Tel: 6255-1396
北京市海淀区中关村大街 29 号

Beijing University's People Hospital
No. 11 Xizhimen South Street
Xicheng District, Beijing
Tel: 883-26666

Important things to keep in mind, regardless of which hospital you go to: Generally speaking, ACC participants cannot use direct billing because they are considered to be in China for a "short" period of time. Please use a credit card to pay the bill (cash is fine, too). Always register with your English name in the hospital for the sake of reimbursement. Ask for a written diagnosis or certificate and keep the receipts in a safe place. You absolutely MUST know your insurance company's reimbursement policy well. Remember to ask a parent or guardian to notify the insurance company of any hospital visits and send all appropriate documents. The ACC office will help make copies of these documents in case they are lost.

** In case of an emergency, you or the authorities should call the ACC office at (6595-9258) or the Field Director (6597-6260, 13910020019) after hours. Family members who have concerns or wish to get more information should call the ACC office in Beijing or the Field Director. **

Mental Illness

Participants with a history of mental illness of any kind should make sure that they are emotionally prepared and sufficiently stable to join the program. Such problems are inevitably aggravated by the new demands and personal responsibilities of a foreign setting. If you, your parents, or your physician has not been entirely candid with us, we ask you to call us immediately. The ACC Board reserves the right to withdraw a participant with mental problems from the program.

LIVING IN CHINA

Currency and Money Management

Renminbi (RMB), the basic unit of Chinese currency, is also called “yuan” or “kuai,” which is divided into ten “jiao” or “mao,” which is in turn divided into ten “fen.” The recent average rate of exchange has been between 7.0 and 6.8 RMB to the dollar.

Currency upon arrival and departure: You cannot secure Chinese currency outside of China, but you will be able to exchange currency in the airport lobby (at either an ATM or a bank window) upon arrival. When you leave China, your excess Chinese currency may be reconverted to U.S., Canadian, or Hong Kong currency (or you may take it out of the country with you for use during a future trip to China). To reconvert Chinese currency into foreign currency, you must present receipts for the original exchange from foreign to Chinese currency, so be sure to keep these receipts in case you need them upon departure.

Access to funds in China: MasterCard and Visa can be used at nearly any ATM. Be sure to check with your local bank or card carrier and notify them that you will be traveling abroad in order to avoid complications. If you have an American Express card plus an American or Hong Kong checking account, you may get cash (U.S. dollars or RMB) or purchase traveler’s checks for up to that company’s limit. ATMs are becoming more common in China, but not all foreign ATM cards work on these machines (even when the banks at home insist that they work in China), so be sure to check before leaving for China. We recommend that you use MasterCard or Visa as they are widely accepted throughout China.

Western Union Services and Other Ways to Transfer Money

If you ever find yourself in a financial bind, e.g. surviving the very last two weeks of ACC on but 50 kuai or even less, you can phone someone and ask for a Western Union money transfer.

1. Bring proper identification, i.e. passport;
2. Record the transfer’s transaction number; and
3. Know *exactly* how the sender has written out his or her name, including middle initial.

Otherwise, the Western Union agent will not give you the transfer. It usually takes a day or two for wired money to clear, but approximately three weeks to a month for international money orders.

Another method for transfer: Money may also be wired through a bank or it can be sent as an international money order (available at most post offices in the U.S.).

We recommend bringing adequate funds with you in order to avoid requiring emergency funds being sent from the United States. The best way to do this is to bring extra money in the form of traveler’s checks (the unused portion may be re-deposited into an account upon returning to the United States), or bring a Visa, MasterCard, or American Express along with personal checks.

Spending Money

As stated in the previous section, we suggest that you travel to China with an adequate supply of money in the form of traveler’s checks. Participants are responsible for paying for most meals and all incidental costs (personal entertainment, shopping, etc.).

The amount of spending money you should bring depends on the amount of shopping and independent travel you wish to do in China. While prices have not increased significantly in recent times, higher-quality goods and services and travel opportunities are becoming increasingly available. It is a good idea to bring more money than you think you will need. Students who participated in last year's program have reported that for the summer session, \$600-\$900 is a sufficient amount of spending money. Students who plan on doing extensive traveling or who plan on buying many gifts may wish to have more money on hand. Please keep in mind that the currency exchange rate is going higher!

Food and Meals

The amount of money you spend on food varies greatly depending on the kind of restaurant you choose. As of this writing, we have found that an average of \$8-\$10 is the typical expense for three simple meals a day, assuming that you stay away from four star hotels and Western restaurants.

More details about menu favorites and restaurants will be provided in the orientation package you will receive upon arrival at the dorm.

Post Office

To send letters and postcards, drop by the 小邮局 xiǎo yóujú (small post office) located on campus. To send packages and luggage, you'll have to take the bus to the 大邮局 dà yóujú (large post office) on Changan Street (you can inquire about the direction in the ACC office). Please note: All international post offices provide boxes/packaging services for a small fee, and because all the contents of your package must be screened by a post office official before it can be sent, they prefer that you use their packaging services.

As for receiving packages, letters, and the like from family and friends, give them the ACC office address. Most packages will arrive in the dormitories, unless they are too large. In that case, you must pick them up at the post office.

Please note: Tell your parents and family members not to mark the value of the contents as too high when sending things to China. Packages with values exceeding \$100 will be subject to further charges at customs.

Mail gets here faster if the address is written in Chinese, so you may want to print out and make copies of the address in Chinese characters to speed up the process.

ACC FS Program
College of International Education
Minzu University of China
27 South Zhongguancun Street
Haidian District, Beijing, China 100081

ACC FS Program
中央民族大学国际教育学院
北京市海淀区中关村南大街 27 号, 100081

Cell Phones, Phone Cards and Skype

Setting Up Your Cell Phone: Phone service in China operates on an essentially pre-paid system. Cell phone use should be reserved primarily for local calls because making direct international calls from your cell phone is expensive. Additionally, there are two options for cell phone use in China: you can either bring your own phone from home or buy a cell phone once you get to China.

If you plan to use your own cell phone, you must first “unlock” the SIM card code that keeps you from using other carriers. Most cell phone companies use SIM cards (except for Verizon), so you can just take out your old SIM card and use a Chinese SIM card. (Verizon phones cannot be unlocked because they do not use SIM cards.) Before the new SIM card will function, however, you must “unlock” your phone by inputting a special code that will allow you to use another phone company’s SIM card. To do this, call your phone company’s customer service line and tell them you are going abroad and wish to use the same phone. They should give you the code free of charge. Record this code and bring it with you to China where the employees in a cell phone store will input the code after inserting the new SIM card.

You may also buy a cell phone in China. A new cell phone costs anywhere between 500-1000 RMB. To set up a phone number, you can visit just about any cell phone store. The cost of the phone number usually includes a 100 RMB phone card. The phone company will alert you once you have used almost the entire 100 RMB in phone calls and text messages (note: sending a text message is usually cheaper than calling someone). Save your SIM card in case you return to China in the future.

Phone Cards for International Calls: You can buy a phone cards at various stores and news stand around campus.

Skype: This is the least expensive way to keep in touch. If you have not already downloaded the Skype application, do so now. Invest in a microphone or a web camera with built-in microphone and you can communicate immediately with your friends and relatives – all for free if you have the application installed.

Computers

Minzu University has a computer lab on campus that provides high-speed internet access. If you have a laptop computer we encourage you to bring it with you (and it is also convenient for checking email and surfing the Internet in your room). Since most notebook computers have adjustable power, students should not have trouble with the difference in voltage. Students should, however, check their computers to make sure that 220 voltage is acceptable. To use the Internet from your room, you will need to bring an internet cable.

MS Office 2000 or XP used on PCs is Chinese-capable without any additional software, though the Chinese capability needs to be activated. It would be best if this is done before you depart for ACC. If your computer equipment is different from this, and if you anticipate using your computer for Chinese, you should consult with your Chinese teacher on your home campus before departing for ACC. You should bring your computer's purchase documentation with you in case your computer needs servicing while in China. Also, while you are traveling in China, the office can help you securely store your computer.

Here is some advice from former ACC students on computer needs:

- Make sure you are familiar with the terms and conditions of your computer's warranty provided by the manufacturer.
- Make sure you have a currency converter for the power adapter so as to avoid a power surge or other electric-related problems (battery, etc.).
- Bring all of the adapters for your peripheral devices such as cameras and MP3 players.
- If you have a Macintosh Apple Computer, bring your video-out adapters. If you have a PowerBook or PowerBook Pro, you absolutely want to bring your DVI to VGA adapter and Apple Remote (especially if you use Keynote for slide show presentations). Also, if you need service, there are support lines in China that can be found on the Apple China website.
- Bring a USB storage device.
- Bring earphones.
- If you run in to a file format error (you can't open a multimedia file given to you by ACC), go to <http://www.zamzar.com> and follow the prompts to upload and convert the file type. One of the most recognizable and universal file formats is MPG. It works with Quicktime, which is built into iTunes.

Electrical Appliances

Students may bring a portable CD player in order to prepare for class, but they are not necessary. Students can use their computers in order to prepare lessons and iPods can also be used. Class CDs can be uploaded onto your computer and transferred to your iPod.

The electric current in China is 220 volts, 50 cycles. Therefore, if you bring appliances from the U.S., you will need a voltage converter to convert U.S. equipment from 110 volts. Electrical outlets in China are also much different from outlets in the U.S., so you may need adapters for your various appliances. These are widely available in China, but you may also find them at Radio Shack and most stores that specialize in electrical appliances.

An alternative is to buy Chinese-made electronics, though the quality is less consistent. CD players, CDs, and various sized batteries are all sold in China.

Please remember to make photocopies and bring any insurance/warranty information for your electronics. This will come in handy when dealing with the company overseas.

SAFETY

Alcohol Abuse

One is tempted to say the legal drinking age in China is around eighteen, but a quick look around some bar areas reveals that young teenagers are likely downing Car Bombs while violating their high school program curfews. There is no enforced legal drinking age in China, which means that you are afforded the freedom to drink as you wish – a problem only compounded by how inexpensive alcohol is around these parts.

ACC is increasingly concerned about the alcohol culture within the ACC community and expects you to behave responsibly. The problem of alcohol abuse represents one of the most serious threats to the health and safety of ACC students. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Remember, you are in China as a representative of the US. The Chinese legal system does not care whether you are a citizen or not (it just cares that you have broken the law).

Lessons in 白酒 báijiǔ and 二 èrguōtóu (A type of white liquor)

While Chinese people are accustomed to drinking 白酒, you likely are not. Chinese “white liquor” can be as strong as 120 to 130 proof. If you are not diligent, you may end up under the table. Please be advised that while visiting with your host families, teachers, or friends, you may find yourself in situations where you are invited – perhaps even strongly encouraged – to drink alcohol. You may refuse such invitations without offending your companions by saying the following: “我不行了” wǒ bùxíng le (I cannot drink anymore), “我快醉了” wǒ kuài zuì le (I’ll quickly become drunk), and “我没有酒量” wǒ méiyǒu jiǔliàng (I have low tolerance). You can also say “不起, 我不喝酒” duìbùqǐ, wǒ bù hējiǔ (Sorry, I don’t drink alcohol).

Mixing medication and alcohol is never a good idea. Finally, don’t expose yourself to danger or put yourself in a situation that might risk the reputation of ACC. Keep in mind that while in China, you are not only representatives for your home institution, but for ACC as well. Don’t allow your friends to drink until they’re stumbling and slurring their words. Take care of one another.

Illegal Drugs Will Not Be Tolerated

Possession of illegal drugs may result in official action by Chinese authorities. The right of “habeas corpus” does not apply abroad and pre-trial detention can last several months. Also, Chinese officials may conduct searches at customs entry and exit points for drugs and other contraband. Anyone found with contraband is subject to punishment as specified in Chinese law, and neither ACC nor the U.S. embassy can interfere with the work of the Chinese legal system. For this reason, ACC strictly forbids drug use among students enrolled in our program. If the ACC resident staff finds a student using or carrying any illegal drugs, including marijuana, the student will be immediately expelled from the program. The ACC advisory committee reserves the right to dismiss from ACC any student who violates the laws of the host country, including those that relate to the use, possession, or distribution of drugs.

Going Out

In the past, ACC students have lost their wallets, bags, and purses because they assumed someone would watch their belongings once they stepped away from the group. Please keep an eye on your things and never bring your passport out unless you really must do so.

While a vast majority of Chinese people genuinely want to talk with you and are more than willing to help you, you must still be careful about your choices. There are some Chinese people who will try and cheat you, and not only because you are a foreigner.

If you are approached by anyone on the street who then offers to take you somewhere else, especially **restaurants, tea houses or bars**, it is a much better idea to politely turn them down. Often these people are hired by these establishments to bring in customers who are then expected to pay when the bill comes, and it can be very expensive. If you do find yourself in this kind of situation do not let them know you have a credit card. **Try to lower the bill and pay with cash, especially if you find yourself in the company of some very large and tough looking new friends.** Usually the prices they give you are fake, so offer to pay as much as you have and then leave. The most important thing is to protect your safety, so please be careful. Additionally, try to get a receipt and tell ACC staff and/or faculty as soon as possible. There are no guarantees, but ACC will help you try to get the lowest price possible.

Other safety tips: Be alert when going out alone at night (i.e. don't bring your handbag with you), biking on the street, and walking across the street - cars in Beijing will not stop for you. Avoid going to 三里屯 alone and try not to stay there too late.

Register at the U.S. Embassy on-line as soon as possible – if you lose your passport, it will be much easier to get a replacement. Notify ACC whenever you leave the group/place where the group is staying.

WHAT TO BRING

Clothing

Durable, washable, comfortable clothing is best for all seasons. Aim to stay cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Style is not as important as comfort and general tidiness. Chengdu is quite hot and humid during the summer. Use your own judgment and dress accordingly. Sandals are common for men and women. Also bring sneakers and walking shoes, cotton socks, a bathing suit, cool pajamas, and loose summer trousers. A pair of good sunglasses (available in some Chinese retail stores) will protect your eyes from glare and the ubiquitous dust and grime, especially if you wear contact lenses.

Toiletries

American and many joint-venture products such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, soaps, shampoos, tampons, and other toiletries are available in joint-venture stores and even some local Chinese stores. Based on reports from last year's participants, however, we do recommend bringing extra of a certain product if you have a strong preference for a specific brand of toiletry (some students found it difficult to find an adequate supply while in China). It is also a good idea to bring your own deodorant since it is very expensive and difficult to find in China.

When traveling around China, it is a good idea to carry a small first-aid kit equipped with aspirin, antibiotic ointment, and Band-Aids.

LIST OF SUGGESTED ITEMS TO BRING

- Backpack for outings and field trips
- Deodorant (this is an imported good in China and thus very expensive so bring enough with you to ensure the brand you prefer at a reasonable price)
- Portable CD player/iPod for class purposes (listening & language learning CDs)
- USB Memory Stick
- Music
- Tampons
- Traveler's checks
- Contact lens solution
- Credit cards
- Dental floss
- Pictures of family & U.S.
- Vitamins
- Cold medicine, decongestants
- Aspirin/pain-reliever

- Good socks
- Anti-diarrheal/laxative
- Sneakers
- Pepto-Bismol/Kaopectate
- Insect repellent/Benadryl for mosquito bites
- Cough drops
- A portable alarm clock
- Sunglasses
- China guide books
- Sunscreen
- Camera (and film if you use slides and faster speeds)
- Plastic (Nalgene) bottle for the hot water dispensers

LIVING IN CHINA: FAQs

Can we drink the water in China? All tap water must be boiled before consumption. Each room has an electrical boiler to boil water. For cold drinking water, you may either buy bottled water or cool the boiled water in your own bottle.

Do I need to bring my own sheets, towels, etc.? The rooms are furnished with pillowcases, sheets, blankets, towels, etc. The dorm's custodial staff changes linens weekly. Please be courteous to the dormitory staff and maintain good relations with them. This is obviously in your own interest. The same applies to your contacts with the staff of the dining hall.

Do I need to bring my own hangers? No. The university does not provide them, however they are available very cheaply at local stores.

Will there be a problem for me to practice my religion in China? Only the Falungong, which the Chinese government considers to be a cult, should not be publicly avowed. Freedom of religion is being touted these days. It is true that some Chinese consider all religions, and especially the traditional Chinese religions, to be beneath the dignity of a modern cultivated person, but interest in religion has been rising among the Chinese. In the U.S. there has been a rise in all religions among the educated youth, and several ACC students recently wanted to do independent projects on religious issues (such as Buddhism) in China, and they were able to do so quite successfully.

I know that ACC has a very strict language pledge. What about communicating via telephone and e-mail with my family and friends? We do take the language pledge very seriously, however we understand that your family and friends for the most part cannot speak Chinese. Of course you may speak English to them on the phone, however we request that you keep your dorm door closed during those times so as to avoid too much English floating around the hallways.

May I have friends stay overnight with me in the dorm? Are there regulations or cultural mores that should be followed in Chinese dormitories that would differ from what I'm used

to? The dormitory has rules pertaining to visitation hours and overnight guests. Normally, guests are not permitted to stay in your room overnight, but if the dormitory has empty beds, your friend may arrange to stay for a small fee. Guests should also be prepared to leave their passport at the front desk. Keeping an overnight guest of the opposite sex in your room is strictly forbidden, and will result in a stiff penalty.

How much am I likely to spend on local transportation during a term? Are the buses and subways expensive? Public transportation is extremely inexpensive, ranging from 1 RMB for the non-express buses, 3 RMB for the in-city subway system, to 8 RMB on the express bus clear across town. Taxi's are metered, and cost 10 RMB for the first mile or so.

CONCLUSION

Please be sure to consult your e-mail on a regular basis from now on. We will be keeping you updated with information about visas, day camp course topics, program preparations and other issues via e-mail. It is quite important that you do not miss these messages. We regularly use school e-mail addresses. If you tend to use an alternate address more frequently, please notify us so that we can change your address on the mass mailing list. We will also be posting information on Google groups.

This concludes the information we want to share with you for now. We ask you to reread all the preceding pages carefully and please let us know if you have any questions.

Please do not hesitate to call or email the ACC Program Coordinator with any questions you might have. Because of the number of matters involved, it is extremely important that we keep in close touch between now and your day of departure.

Meanwhile, best wishes for a successful summer field studies.

Hong Gang Jin
Professor of Chinese
ACC General Director

Suggested readings to prepare for ACC:

Lijia Zhang and Calum MacLeod, *China Remembers*. (London: Oxford University Press, 1999)

Jung Chang, *Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China*. (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1991).

Cheng Li, *Rediscovering China: Dynamics and Dilemmas of Reform*. (Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 1997).

Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl Wudunn, *China Wakes: The Struggle for the Soul of a Rising Power*. (New York: Vintage Books, 1994).

Peter Hessler, *River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze*. (New York: Harper Collins, 2001).

Orville Schell and David Shambaugh, eds. *The China Reader: The Reform Era*. (New York: Vintage Books, 1999).

Warren I. Cohen, *America's Response to China: A History of Sino-American Relations*, 4th edition. (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000).

Patrick Tyler, *A Great Wall: Six Presidents and China*. (New York, Public Affairs, 2000).

James Mann, *About Face: A History of America's Curious Relationship With China*. (New York: Vintage Books, 2000).

Robert E. Allison, ed., *Understanding the Chinese Mind: The Philosophical Roots*. (Hong Kong, Oxford University Press, 1989).

Paul S. Ropp, ed., *Heritage of China: Contemporary Perspectives on Chinese Civilization*. (Berkeley, University of California Press, 1990).

W.Hu and C. Grove, *Encountering the Chinese*, 1991

C. Blackman, *Negotiating China: Case Studies and Strategies*, 1997

J.K. Fairbank, *China: A New History*, 1992

Perry Link, *Evening Chats in Beijing*, 1992

A. Thurston, *China Bound: Revised*, 1994