**Encounter in Zhenjiang, a Legendary City**

**——Language and Culture Program at** **Jiangsu University**

China is blessed with a civilization of 5,000 years in history and a prosperous economy today. The evolution visible in every walk of Chinese life and the striking contrast between its past and present make China an extraordinarily appealing destination. Students studying in China can catch an unforgettable glimpse of the culture that is shaping our modern world. China will indulge you with opportunities, adventures and perspectives.

Jiangsu University (JSU), located in the city of Zhenjiang, offers a variety of Chinese cultural and language programs for overseas students. JSU’s programs, designed by students and teachers together, have a unique charm. The programs are geared for students with no or little exposure to China or Chinese language. During their stay in JSU, teachers will guide students into developing a sound foundation of the language in an immersive Chinese ambience. Classes, generally medium-sized, are taught by passionate, bilingual and professional teachers. Students may also participate in dozens of cultural activities and excursions to gain an insight into one of the world’s oldest continuous civilizations

**Language and Culture Center**

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**1. Programs**

**a. One-Week and Two-Week Summer Exchange**

These programs, designed for the purpose of briefly introducing Chinese culture, may be applied by students with no or little knowledge of Mandarin Chinese. Students will attend language classes and participate in cultural activities daily.

The language courses are aimed at helping students develop their speaking and listening skills. By the end of the program, students will have a basic knowledge of Mandarin Chinese and master some common phrases for everyday use.

Students attending the Two-Week Exchange will have an opportunity to travel to the West Lake, one of the UNESCO’s world heritage sites located in Hangzhou, a picturesque city that has long inspired Chinese poets, scholars and artists since the 9th century.

**b. One-Month Summer Exchange**

This program, designed for the purpose of extensively introducing Chinese culture and providing students with a solid foundation of Mandarin Chinese, may be applied by students with no or little knowledge of Mandarin Chinese.

The intensive language classes incorporate all four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. By the end of this program, students are expected to pass Level 2 of HSK, the Chinese Proficiency Test.

In addition to daily language classes, students may choose and specialize in one of the nine traditional Chinese Arts listed below. Traditional Chinese Art classes, instructed by expert(s), will be conducted twice a week.

* Calligraphy
* Chinese Painting
* Herbal and Traditional Medicine
* Beijing Opera
* Kung Fu
* Chinese Cuisine
* Traditional Music and Zither
* Ancient Arts and Crafts
* Tea Ceremony

Students may also sign up for trips to nearby historic cities such as Nanjing, Suzhou, Shanghai and Changzhou.

**c. One-semester program**

For one semester, in addition to all the aforementioned courses, we offer a Chinese course that will well prepare students to pass HSK3. With some extra payment, more trips or a second Chinese Art program is also available. With this perfect Chinese environment, we offer an immersive approach to study Mandarin Chinese, a very successful way in learning any language. These experiences will be so wonderful that we fear you may already miss them the moment you board the plane back home. Furthermore, we offer optional internship or part time jobs according to your preferences and qualifications. If you are interested in traditional Chinese Art, you may take part in an internship program.

**2. Zhenjiang**

A medium-sized city of 3,000,000 residents in Jiangsu province, an easterly coastal province, is well known as the “Romantic Oriental Town” of China. With a history of more than 3,000 years and legendary tale of Lady White, Zhenjiang has been ranked among the best tourist destinations in China. Zhenjiang will keep students busy exploring its mountainous parks along the Yangtze River and its old yet charming Xijin Ferry. Students will also have the opportunity to taste the city’s local cuisine and practice their Chinese with the forthcoming residents.

**3. Language**

Mandarin Chinese is the official and standard language used in China’s Mainland, Taiwan, Singapore and Malaysia. During their stay, students will learn how to speak Mandarin Chinese. Teachers will use Mandarin Chinese and English alternately in class.

**4. Accommodation**

Depending on the program a student is enrolled in, two types of accommodations are available to choose from: Jiangsu University’s on-campus dormitory, or a Chinese host family in Zhenjiang.

***a. On-Campus Dormitory***

Jiangsu University has two residences on campus exclusively for international students. Each dormitory is furnished with a washroom and equipped with a television, an air conditioner and free Internet access. Both residences have an English-speaking receptionist on duty during the day and 24-hour security all year round. Students will share their room with one roommate.

***b. Chinese Host Family***

Students enrolled in the *One-Month Summer Exchange* and the *Semester Exchange programs* have the option to live with a Chinese host family in Zhenjiang throughout their stay. This accommodation option is free of charge to students.

All host families have been carefully chosen by Jiangsu University’s administrative team concerned. All these families live in the city proper of Zhenjiang, no more than 10 kilometers away from the university campus. Host families are volunteers ready to share their culture and warm-heartedness with the international exchange students.

In a typical Chinese both parents go to work and in the City of Zhenjiang most families have only one child. It is also common for grandparents to live with the family, or live close by and visit it often. Most Chinese families live in multi-story apartment buildings. Students are likely to share a room with the son or daughter of a host, but in some families they may have a separate room of their own. Jiangsu University will help students arrange traffic between the university and their host homes.

**5. Meals**

Six on-campus canteens, including one Muslim-Halal canteen, serve 3 meals a day to students and the facility and staff. Exchange students will be given an electronic meal card with which they can deposit money and purchase meals at any of the canteens.

Students may also avail themselves of the supermarkets, street food vendors and local restaurants located on nearby streets off the campus.

Students living with a Chinese host family may choose to have meals with the host family. On these occasions, students should tell the host families their meal schedules and dietary restrictions. In case there is any difficulty in communication, Jiangsu University program coordinators and volunteers are ready to provide translation and communication services for you.

**6. University Facilities**

Jiangsu University covers an area of 1,026,000 square meters. On the beautiful campus you can find dozens of parks, gardens and ponds, The University is equipped with a hospital, a gymnasium, 2 swimming pools, a university library and dozens of college libraries, and 8 canteens – all of which are available to students and staffs.

Conveniences on campus are secured by privately owned printing shops, bicycle repair stations and supermarkets located across the campus, as well as rental bicycles and campus shuttle buses carrying students to their destinations.

**7. Program Itinerary**

**One-Week Summer Exchange**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Day 1 | Survival Chinese | * Campus tour
* Chinese language activities
* International Student Forum: "One word, Many Languages"
 |
| Day 2 | Chinese Festivals | * Chinese folk experience
* Paper Cut
 |
| Day 3 | Chinese Cuisine | * Make Chinese moon cakes
* Try Zhenjiang noodles
* Trip to Jingkou Pavilion and a nostalgia night on Binjiang Avenue
 |
| Day 4 | Local Landscape | * Trip to Jinshan Park
* Watch “Watch Snake” water show
 |
| Day 5 | Kung Fu | * Kung Fu, Tai Qi and Tai Qi Dragon Sword workshop
* Trip to Xijindu, Zhenjiang’s old port district
 |
| Day 6 | Romantic Zhenjiang | * Watch “White Snake” opera performance
 |
| Day 7 | Multicultural Charm of China | * Chinese show
* Farewell dinner party
 |

**Two-Week Summer Exchange**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Day 7 | Leisure Day | * Meet Host Family
* Rest
 |
| Day 8 | Trip to Hangzhou | * Visit West Lake
 |
| Day 9 |
| Day 10 | Charm of Chinese Characters | * Writing exercise of Chinese characters
* Leisure afternoon
 |
| Day 11 | China on your Fingertips | * Trip to Wuliutang
* Listen to master play Guqin and Guzheng
* International Student Forum: “Multicultural Charm of China”
 |
| Day 12 | Poetic Book | * Try Chinese calligraphy and painting
 |
| Day 13 | Cultural Bridge | * Trip to Pearl S. Buck Museum
* International Student Forum: “Bridge between Cultures”
 |
| Day 14 | Talk Show | * Chinese speech
* Farewell dinner party
 |

**8. Eligibility**

Before filing an application, students must meet the following eligibility requirements.

* Above the age of 16.
* Be in good academic standing and good health.
* Basic English proficiency.

Follow the link below and complete our online application. Application is free of charge.

http://oec.ujs.edu.cn/pub/eng/

**9. Program fee**

4000 RMB Per person, for a ten-person one-week program；2500 RMB Per person, for a twenty-person one-week program；6000 RMB Per person, for a ten-person two-week program；4500 RMB Per person, for a twenty-person two-week program.

For all programs, the program fee covers the following items:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Transportation to and from a local Chinese airport
* Required Chinese government health check
* Student health insurance
* Orientation before departing and upon arrival in Zhenjiang
* Tuition fees
* Certificate of completion
* One-to-One Chinese Tutoring
 | * Visa assistance in China
* Dormitory deposit, bedding and laundry service
* Careful choosing of an eligible Chinese host family
* Supervision and support from a program coordinator
* Student re-chargeable meal card
* Student ID Card\*
* Student counseling services
 |

\* Only available to one-semester exchange students.

The program fee does not include:

* Airfare to and from China
* Visa application fees in home country
* Optional trips organized by Jiangsu University. These trips range from 500 RMB in Jiangsu province, and up to 1,000 RMB outside the province.
* Pocket money
* Meals

There is no application fee.

Once accepted into the program, students are required to pay the program costs in USD before the given deadline. Only wire transfer and credit card payments are accepted. Upon arrival in China, students shall not be required to pay any other fees to the university.

**10. Additional Financial Information**

Contact your home university, local government and local embassy for available bursaries and scholarships.

Students are recommended to prepare 350 RMB per week as pocket money. This should be enough for 3 meals a day in a week as well as entertainment and other living expenses.

Upon arrival, there will be Chinese volunteers helping students visit the local bank for currency exchange.

**11. Visa**

Once accepted into the program and program costs have been paid for, students may go ahead and obtain a visa. It is mandatory for students of all nationalities to obtain a visa into China.

See your local Chinese embassy or local Chinese Visa Application Center to apply for and obtain a visa.

One-week, two-week and one-month summer exchange students must have an **L Visa** before entering China. This is a tourist visa.

One-semester exchange students must have an **X2 Visa** before entering China. This is a student visa for a study period of no more than 180 days. Jiangsu University will mail students the necessary documents to apply for this visa.

**12. Opportunities after the Program**

Upon completion of the Cultural and Language Exchange program, students are welcomed to further their studies at Jiangsu University.

Jiangsu University offers a total of 12 English-taught degree programs: 12 undergraduate and extensive post-graduate programs. Successful students of exchange programs are eligible to apply for a scholarship towards any of Jiangsu University’s degree programs. Both full and 50 percent scholarships are available.

**13. Testimonials**

Every class and workshop was so interesting and fun because of the nice and friendly teachers and volunteers. It was quite easy to learn and improve our Chinese because the teachers were really dedicated and we felt a lot of sympathy. After a few days, my Chinese got better and better.

We also spent time with the teachers and volunteers in our free time, after our classes and workshops. Every minute with them was beautiful.

Those two weeks in China at Jiangsu University were one of the best part of my life so far. I already miss my new friends over there.

To all who are not sure whether they should go to Jiangsu University or are still hesitating, just do it! It will be an unforgettable experience.

***Michel Leitner, 18, Austria***

*Two-Week Summer Exchange, 2015*

The Chinese language program at Jiangsu University (JU) is top notch. I came to JU as an exchange student in 2013, and came back again as a language student in 2014.

In my two years here at JU, I have exceeded all my expectations of where my Chinese level would be. The small class sizes certainly give you a solid foundation, but it is the one on one relationships you build with course instructors that sets JU's program apart from the rest. Our informal relationships with professors were what really encouraged and promoted us to go beyond our comfort zones and use the language outside the classroom.

Thanks to JU’s language courses, by my second year I was able to take a winter internship with Hilton Hotels, working as a bilingual operations manager trainee.

A really memorable moment of the program was when I realized how far I had come with Chinese. I was talking to a friend back in Canada about a discussion my class had in *Comprehensive Chinese*. As I told my friend we were discussing the social and legal conditions for married women in China, she stopped and asked me if my class was actually able to converse on such a topic in Chinese. I didn’t realize it till then, just how second nature the language had come to my classmates and I. From starting off with simple 你好’s in *Beginners Chinese*, to having passionate debates on contemporary Chinese history and society, the Chinese Language program at JU has really provided me the opportunity to develop a strong grasp of the language.

 ***William Russell, 22, Canada***

 *One-Year Exchange, 2013 to 2014*

 *Chinese Language Certificate Program, 2014 to 2015*

**14. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

**Where are students commonly coming from?**

We welcome and have hosted students from all over the world. Former students of Cultural and Language Program have been from USA, Canada, Austria, Germany, Poland, Britain, Hungry, Japan, Thailand, Indonesia and Korea.

**Who is the program designed for?**

The program is designed for young adults with an interest in Chinese language and culture. Participants are often upper-level high school students and undergraduate university students from various countries around the world. The minimum age is 16 years.

**When was the Cultural and Language Program founded? How many students have participated to date?**

The program was founded in 2008 and we have had approximately 400 students to date.

**How do I get to Zhenjiang?**

We offer free transportation service to all students from and to local Chinese airports. We recommend students fly into the following airports:

* Nanjing Lukou International Airport
* Shanghai Pudong International Airport
* Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport

Nanjing is the capital of Jiangsu province, 83 kilometers away from Zhenjiang. Shanghai is 257 kilometers away from Zhenjiang. Shanghai Pudong International Airport serves most international flights.

We ask students to request airport transportation service, and send us your flight itinerary well in advance.

**My flight arrives very late at night, at 23:30 PM. Will you still offer free airport pick up for me?**

Yes. We offer free airport pick up and drop off services to all students, at any local airport and at any time. We ask that you request airport transportation service well in advance,

**I have strict medical conditions. Can you work around them?**

Yes, we will try our best to accommodate your medical conditions. Please list and explain all conditions clearly in your application.

**I have no knowledge of Chinese language. Can I apply for the program?**

Of course, our programs are designed for you in mind. Our facility staff are bilingual in Chinese and English, and use English instruction in beginner classes. We suggest students have basic English proficiency.

**Who are the One-to-One Chinese tutors?**

Our tutors are current Chinese students at Jiangsu University. All tutors are undergraduate students, majoring in Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language.

**I would like a certificate and transcript from the program. Is this possible?**

A Certificate of Completion will be issued to students upon completion of the following programs:

One-Week Summer Exchange

Two-Week Summer Exchange

One-Month Summer Exchange

A transcript may only be granted to students on the Semester Exchange program.

**Who will be my roommate?**

We match roommates of the same gender together. We also try to match students of similar age, nationality, native language and religion together in efforts of minimizing cultural tensions.

**Is there Wi-Fi in the dormitory?**

Each dormitory room is equipped with free Ethernet Internet. Free Wi-Fi Internet is available in common areas across campus. We suggest long-term exchange students to purchase an Internet router, and the dormitory personnel can help students set up Wi-Fi in their dormitory room.

**Is it safe for me to bring my laptop, tablet and other valuable belongings?**

Yes. All dormitories have 24-hour security service and each student must use a personalized key card to access the dormitory building and their assigned room.

**Will my dormitory room be stocked? What toiletries should I bring?**

Short-term students will find their dormitory room stocked with bedding and toilet paper. We ask you to bring all other toiletries with you. The campus has multiple supermarkets in case you need to purchase toiletries.

**Is there a curfew at the dormitory?**

Yes. The dormitories main entrance is locked at 11:00 PM from Monday to Thursday, and 12:00 AM on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Late students must sign in before being granted entrance into the building.

**Is there a laundromat nearby?**

Short-term students may give their laundry to our cleaning staff to handle, free of charge.

Otherwise, there is a self-service laundry room on each floor of the dormitories. Each laundry room has a free-operated washing room, laundry sinks and drying racks. Students must air dry their clothes on the common drying racks, or in their dormitory room.

**I have friends and/or family members near Zhenjiang. May I visit them?**

Yes, we encourage you to visit friends and family members after daily activities. Notify a program coordinator in advance of your plans and leave us with an emergency telephone number.

Please discourage students to miss program activities to visit friends and family members, and suggest you make time after the program’s end date to make personal visits.

**How can I contact my family and friends back home?**

We best suggest students use telecommunications software via the Internet to contact family and friends in their home countries. Below are our recommendations of software programs with free video and voice calling features.

* Skype
* WeChat
* WhatsApp
* QQ

Students may also bring their mobile phones and our Chinese student volunteers can help purchase a local SIM card.

**My family members will be travelling with me. May they join the program?**

Yes, anyone above the age of 16 and has an interest in learning Mandarin Chinese and Chinese culture are welcomed to join the program. Family members must also apply for the program and program coordinators can pair family into the dormitory rooms together.