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GUIDE STUDIES

Your Guide to Smarter Study Abroad Success



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SMARTER STUDY ABROAD

Especially in Asian cultures, young people are expected to show respect towards older people. University lecturers are very high-profile people in China and the students are expected to respect them. You might be used to challenging your professors in lectures, but you should be careful with this in a new culture. Present your ideas and opinions but please do this with respect.

Try to avoid being even a little late for your lectures and don't call your lecturers by their first names, they will usually tell you how they should be addressed.

Chinese teaching methods are probably different from what you are used to.

Be active and participate in the classroom!

Besides taking active part in lectures and performing well in exams, different workshops and group assignments will affect your grades. AE students come from many different academic backgrounds so the content of certain courses may be more familiar to some students than to others.



Chinese language skills may also differ from student to student, but **teaching will be starting from the basics**. Information on transfer credits is available on our website. Lecturers typically consider the students' wishes for the content of classes. For example, we highly recommend you propose studying some practical vocabulary and phrases to the Chinese language lecturer. After knowing the most important phrases and words, ordering at the restaurant and doing some shopping is much easier. Also, if you know some Chinese, you will usually get a much lower price than the tourists. The information flow in Asia is not the same as in Western countries. Changes in lectures aren't usually informed by email. It's possible that you sometimes come to the university and find out that the lecture has been cancelled at the last minute. This is an example of a cultural difference that you just must accept. Studying should be your number one priority even though changes in lecture times might affect your free time plans. Respect the lecturers and try to understand and tolerate differences. Going to school will help you form daily routines which make it easier to dig deeper in the local culture and the Chinese way of life.

Take part in workshops and study excursions. Try to get to know local students, not just other exchange students. Be an example to other students.

COURSES AND COURSE SELECTION

The AE coordinator will be sending an email after the application deadline for the course selection, where you must fill up your chosen courses with a minimum of 4-6 courses.

Please take note (Each course has a minimum enrollment of 10 students), for the course to proceed or continue)

You can find the courses and syllabi on our [website](#).

CLASS SCHEDULES

The lectures begin after orientation days. Detailed information and the course schedule will be handed out at the orientation. Most likely there will be some changes in the schedule during the semester.

- Class Hour – 45 minutes for 1 class hour
 1. Other courses (40 class hours per course)
 2. Chinese Language-Beginner (80 class hours)

- One lecture lasts 3 hours and 30 minutes, with breaks in the middle.

ATTENDANCE

As in most universities all over the world, you are required to attend classes in China. If you know that you will be absent from a class, you should let your lecturer know. We recommend you to always attend classes. You will have enough time for other activities after the classes.

OTHER STUDENT AND INTERNALIZATION

We are working on making the study programs as international as possible together with the host university. All nationalities are welcome to apply for a study abroad semester through Asia Exchange.

The exchange students who have been there for longer than you have good knowledge of daily life and studying on campus, and we recommend being in contact with them in Shanghai.

It's mainly down to you how much you will interact with different nationalities. AE encourages you to get to know students from different countries as well as local students who will help you get more insights into the local culture and customs.

TIPS FROM ASIA EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Our former student gives you these tips for the classroom and for your spare time:

"Don't resist anything while you are abroad or think that your culture's way of doing things is better than the Asian way. As Bob Dylan so eloquently sang, 'Don't criticize what you can't understand.' "Embrace those things that are uncomfortable, those things that don't make sense, those things that are frustrating. Those are the things that will teach you the most." "Study hard, learn as much as you can both culturally and academically, but always remember to make time for putting that cultural knowledge to use. Study, travel, grow and live in the moment. Nothing could be more important than all of these."

YOUR WAY ABROAD

The world has an interesting way of giving great experiences
to the ones who are passionate about their dreams.

Miia Muukkonen, Asia Exchange student

