Experience China Immersive Summer Course, East China Normal University, Shanghai, China

Monday 24 July – Friday 4 August 2017

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Introduction

Generously supported by Hanban, the Office of Chinese Language Council International, this two-week intensive language course organised by UCL Institute of Education takes place at Shanghai East China Normal University (ECNU). It is an excellent opportunity for secondary or primary teachers in the UK to learn basic Chinese with a view to teaching beginners’ level in their schools on return to the UK.

Eligibility

To take part in this course, you must:

- be a secondary or a primary school teacher based in the UK
- be a current PGCE trainee teacher based in the UK
- have no or little knowledge of Mandarin Chinese
- have not taken part in the Experience China course before
- plan to deliver beginner’s level Chinese on your return
- have support from your school to teach beginners’ level Chinese on your return
- be prepared to continue your study of Chinese on your return to the UK.

Costs

The following costs will be covered by Hanban:
- Tuition at Shanghai East China Normal University
- Teaching material
- Accommodation on a twin room basis (a supplement will need to be paid if you wish to upgrade to a single room, see below)
- Some cultural activities

Participants will be responsible for meeting the following expenses:
- Return flights between China and the UK
- Visa
- Insurance
- Any cultural activities that are not part of the official programme
- Travel for free time at evenings and weekends
- Medical costs incurred

The course content

The aim of the course is to equip you with a basic knowledge of Chinese language. You will receive 30 hours of tuition each week. The emphasis of the course will be on developing
your pronunciation, speaking and listening skills, although reading and writing will also be covered.

Topics covered are likely to include the following:

- Origins/history of Chinese language
- Basics about Pinyin, tones, characters and grammar
- Greetings and introduction about yourself
- Numbers
- Family and pets
- Food and drinks
- Hobbies (likes/dislikes)
- Other topics related to daily life

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

**Speaking**

- introduce yourself and family
- count from 1 to 100
- list basic food and drink items and order them
- talk about hobbies using likes and dislikes
- speak about other topics related to daily life
Listening
- understand words/phrases related to the above topics
- understand the gist of the sentences or short paragraphs on the above topics

Reading (Chinese characters)
- read numbers 1-100
- recognise key characters of the topics above
- read sentences and short text and get understand them
- identify basic radicals and understand how radicals work
- count the strokes correctly

Writing (Chinese characters)
- basic strokes
- stroke order
- radicals
- combination of characters to form words
- copy characters correctly
- write numbers 1-100
- write basic characters related to the above topics

Other
- Have a basic knowledge of Chinese language
- Have a good foundation to lead to further study of the language
- Have an understanding of how to teach Chinese as a foreign language.

Online Course and continuing your Chinese studies

We request that successful applicants learn the basics of Mandarin before joining the course in Shanghai so they can make full use of the two week experience. If successful with your application you will be given access to the IOE online course for self study free of charge once your place on the Experience China course is confirmed.

The online course will also be available to teachers upon return to the UK so that you can continue progressing with your studies.

About Shanghai East China Normal University (ECNU)
ECNU is an excellent normal university founded in October 1951. It was one of the first 16 universities officially graded as a National Key University in 1959. ECNU was also one of the first 33 higher education institutions authorized, by the State Council in 1986, to establish their graduate schools.

Adhering to the school motto of “Seek Truth, Foster Originality; and Live up to the Name of Teacher”, giving full play to the advantages of its liberal and science disciplines, ECNU has been making notable achievements in skills-training, scientific research, community service and international exchange, contributing significantly to the development of Chinese basic education and teacher education, and the advancement of economics, sciences and society locally and nationally.

With two campuses located in Minhang and Putuo District respectively totalling an area of over 220 hectares, East China Normal University has long been reputed as a “Garden University” for its beautiful campus scenery (see photo on the right).

The campus where your classes will be held is in Minhang next to Zhongshan Park. There is easy access to many bus routes and several underground stations. Taxis to the centre of Shanghai are also reasonably affordable.

For more information about the university, please refer to the following website:

http://www.ecnu.edu.cn/

**Flights**

You will be responsible for the cost and organisation of your flights to China. The average cost of a return flight range from £600-£900. If you travel from Shanghai Pu Dong International airport to ECNU, both the underground and taxi are convenient. More detailed directions will be available to the successful candidates.

If you have special dietary requirements, you should inform the airline when booking your flights. Please note, special requirements normally catered for by airlines are as follows (vegetarian, vegetarian non-dairy, vegan, kosher, halal, diabetic gluten free, non lactose) and some airlines require a form to be completed in the case of a severe nut allergy.

If you will be carrying syringes or other medical equipment on the flight, please obtain a letter from your GP to confirm why the equipment is required. In addition, if you need to take your
medication regularly, we would recommend carrying this in your hand luggage in case of delays to flights or baggage collection. Again, it may be necessary to carry documentation regarding your medication.

Visas

In order to travel to China, you will be required to apply for a visa and you can find the cost of the visa fee from the link below.

http://www.visaforchina.org/

You will be responsible for organising this either directly applying by person or using a recommended travel agent, although the IOE CI will provide a letter of invitation from Shanghai East China Normal University.

At the time of travel, you must hold a passport which is valid for 6 months from the return date. For example, if you return to the UK on 4 August 2016 then your passport must be valid until 4 February 2017. If your passport falls short of the valid days, we recommend you renew it as soon as possible.

➢ Please note: All visa applications must be lodged with the Chinese Visa Application Service Centre either directly or through a travel agency (see below for visa centres).

http://www.visaforchina.org/

London visa centre

12 Old Jewry, London, EC2R 8DP
Call: 0207 710 6000
Fax: 0207 710 6001
E-mail: ukcentre@visaforchina.org

Manchester visa centre

First Floor, 75 Mosley Street, Manchester, M23HR
Call: 01612361070
Fax: 0161 244 5883
E-mail: manchestercentre@visaforchina.org

Edinburgh Visa Centre
You can also apply for a visa through a travel agent. The travel agents that we recommend for assistance (for a fee) are China Travel and Diversity Travel. Their contact details are:

**China Travel Service & Information Centre Ltd**

124 Euston Road, London NW1 2AL, United Kingdom  
Tel: 020 7388 8838  
Fax: 020 7388 8828  
E-mail: cits@chinatravel.co.uk

**Diversity Travel**

9-10 Staple Inn, London WC1V 7QH  
Tel: 020 3544 3550  
Email: visas@diversitytravel.co.uk  
www.diversitytravel.co.uk/visa.php

**Insurance**

We strongly recommend that you take out travel insurance for the duration of your trip to China.

**Money**

At the time of writing, the exchange rate is 8.3 RMB (also described as Yuan) = £1 (http://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/convert/?Amount=1&From=GBP&To=CNY).

You will need to bring enough money to cover your subsistence costs including meals as well as to pay for any activities and sight-seeing you wish to carry out during your spare time and any souvenirs you wish to buy. UK debit cards are now widely accepted in ATM's in China.

**Accommodation**

You will be staying in simple accommodation/hotels within a short distance of the campus where classes will be held. Twin rooms shared between two people with access to a
bath/shower room will be provided. You can upgrade to a single room for approximately 1,500 to 2,000 yuan (approximately £200- £250, calculating at £20-£25 per night) for the entire stay. This sum must be paid to the hotel/accommodation. You may be asked to leave your credit card details on arrival as a security deposit. Please note that any additional expenses you incur, such as room service and telephone calls, are your own responsibility.

Please note that Shanghai East Chinese Normal University will select the accommodation / hotel and changes are not permissible.

Food and Dietary requirements

There are several canteens on the campus and vegetarian food can be found in all of the canteens. There are also restaurants outside the campus. Compared to British restaurants, the prices are usually relatively lower.

Salads and fruit should be washed with purified water or peeled where possible. Ice cream is usually OK if it is a reputable brand name but beware of ice cream which is sold on the street or has melted and refrozen.

Tap water is not considered safe to drink anywhere in China although it is chlorinated in most cities. Bottled water or soft drinks are fine. However, Chinese vendors do not always store bottles in clean environments so it may be best to wash off the bottle or can before opening it.

Outside the university, dietary requirements such as vegetarianism/veganism or religious observances such as halal meat/kosher food are not widely understood in China in the same way as they are here in the UK because they are not as widespread. However, it is safe to opt for vegetarian option.

Vegetarian/vegan participants may find themselves limited to a smaller number of dishes and are unlikely to be given a separate meal. The IOE CI will provide cards with Chinese explanations of these requirements but participants are asked to be flexible in their approach and be prepared to explain carefully and many times that they do not eat meat.
Participants who are strict about only eating kosher food for example will find it extremely difficult to find this food during the trip and may need to consider a vegetarian diet.

The same applies if you suffer from an allergy.

If you are allergic to something, please contact the IOE CI.

**Health advice, disabilities and medical conditions**

If you have a pre-existing medical condition which requires special arrangements, you must inform the IOE CI as soon as possible so that necessary arrangements can be made.

You should also inform airlines/travel agents of any special requirements. If you take medication, you may need to obtain a doctor’s note. Please check with the travel agent and/or the IOE CI if this is applicable.

For up to date health and travel advice regarding China, please visit:

http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/destinations/asia-(east)/china.aspx

Please consult your GP or Practice Nurse to establish if vaccinations are required for travel to your destination.

Finally, enjoy your time in China and immerse yourself in a culturally rich and diverse environment.

(From left to right - Shanghai Yu Garden, Pearl TV Tower.)