

The Program

During fall 2006, Bates College will sponsor a semester abroad program in Nanjing, China, where currently enrolled students and entering first-year students can study Chinese language, culture and economics. No prior experience with the Chinese language is required.

Beginning in late August, students participate in a one-week orientation program on the Bates campus. The orientation session gives students information on social conditions in China, teaches some basic sentence patterns and phrases in Mandarin and prepares students to get along in Chinese society.



Professor Yang and Bates students visiting Qufu — standing where Confucius taught his students 2,500 years ago.

Between September and December, students continue language instruction in Nanjing at the level which best suits their proficiency and take two courses taught by Bates faculty in English. Students live in a guest house for international students and faculty at Nanjing University. Each guest house room is air-conditioned and has its own bathroom. Students can choose either a Bates student or a Nanjing University Chinese student as a roommate.

Nanjing and Nanjing University

Nanjing, also known in English as Nanking, meaning “southern capital,” served as China’s capital for six dynasties since the third century and has a recorded history dating back to the Warring States Period (476-221 BC). Today, Nanjing is a modern metropolis with a population of approximately 6

million, and is one of China’s major cultural centers. The downtown area is a very green and pleasant place, with broad tree-lined boulevards.

Nanjing University, one of the top five universities in China and the first to enroll international students, is generally acknowledged as having one of the best Chinese-as-second-language programs in Asia.

The Courses

Self and Society in Chinese Culture: Classics and Folktales

Professor Shuhui Yang

This course explores concepts of self and society expounded in classics and reflected in traditional tales, popular stories and legends. How does selfhood differ in East and West? How do heroes and protagonists diversely express their authors’ vision? How do stories, poems and plays express and/or reveal different views on interpersonal relationships? Such questions will be approached from both literary and non-literary perspectives. The first half of the course is devoted to the reading of a number of classical texts of Confucian, Taoist and Buddhist thought, and the second half to literary works in which these thoughts are reflected.

China’s Economy: Selected Topics

Professor Margaret Maurer-Fazio

China’s economy is now the world’s third-largest. China has experienced stellar economic growth and performance in the post-Mao period. The gross national product today is more than five times its 1978 level. Hundreds of millions people have been raised above the poverty line — one of the biggest improvements in human welfare anywhere at any time. The dynamism of China’s economy creates opportunities and challenges for itself, for its trading partners, and for its East Asian neighbors.

This course investigates the policies and institutions that have contributed to China’s recent economic and social development as well as some of the controversial issues which challenge China today. Topics examined include: the decollectivization of agricultural production, Chinese urban life under reform, family planning policies, the Three Gorges



China: Past and Present





Students practicing Shaolin Gongfu.

Dam, the effects of the reforms on women's status, China's entry into the World Trade Organization, the environmental effects of the rapid growth of the last two and half decades and the implications of China's recent reevaluation of its currency. These issues are explored both inside and outside of the classroom.

Intensive Chinese

Faculty from Nanjing University

Courses at beginning, intermediate and advanced levels, taught by professors from Nanjing University, are designed to help students conduct themselves in the surrounding culture. All the courses will work toward a rapid improvement of comprehension, speaking, reading and writing skills.

Extracurricular Opportunities

Lessons in martial arts, Tai Chi Chuan (Taiji), Chinese painting, calligraphy and traditional Chinese music can be arranged.

Bates Faculty

Margaret Maurer-Fazio, co-director, associate professor of economics and associate dean of the faculty. Professor Maurer-Fazio speaks Chinese and is knowledgeable about modern and contemporary Chinese society and economics. She has visited China frequently, beginning in 1981, and also lived in Taiwan for two years while studying Chinese and carrying out dissertation research. Her research focuses on labor market issues in

China. She took students to Taiwan in 1996, co-directed the 1997, 2000 and 2003 Bates Fall Semester Programs in Nanjing, and traveled extensively in China with students in the springs of 1999, 2001 and 2004 while teaching environmental-protection and economic-development issues.

Shuhui Yang, co-director, professor of Chinese. Professor Yang is an expert on Chinese literature, philosophy and society. He grew up in China and is a native speaker of Chinese. His current research focuses on Ming and Qing Dynasty vernacular fiction, a genre that originated in the area where we will be based. In 1996 he took students to Beijing, Taishan and Qufu, Confucius' hometown. In 1997, 2000 and 2003 he co-directed the Bates Fall Semester programs in Nanjing.

Travel

Extensive travel within China is an integral part of the program. Potential site visits include:

- The bustling port of Shanghai
- The Great Wall and Forbidden City in Beijing
- Silk Road sites in China's northwest
- Jiangxi Province, home to Jinggang Shan, the famous Red Army Base of the 1930s
- Fujian Province, located across the straits from Taiwan and home to many Taiwan-invested factories
- China's northeast, formerly known as Manchuria
- Inner Mongolia, home to many of China's herders
- Shanxi Province
- Yunnan, home to many of China's minorities
- Tibetan counties in western Sichuan that are sites for ongoing ecotourism research

Fees and Credits

This program is an integral part of the Bates curriculum. Completion of the 2006 Bates Semester in China provides participants with four Bates credits, including three in Chinese language and culture and one in economics. Students must

take all four courses — they are considered co-requisites for one another. Grades count towards students' cumulative average.

All expenses, including travel to and from China and course-related field trips, are covered by regular Bates fees. Students may want to bring personal spending money for entertainment, gifts and weekend trips not part of the program.

For More Information

Enrolled students, entering first-year students and interested students from other colleges should contact one of the program organizers listed below.

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Applications are available from Georgette Dumais or the Off-Campus Study Office in Lane Hall. Completed applications from enrolled students should be submitted to the Off-Campus Study Office by December 1, 2005, for early decision or by February 10, 2006, otherwise. (Students applying by December 1 will be sent notification of their status during winter break. Students applying by February 10 will be sent notification by March 8.) Students in the class of 2010 should contact one of the organizers as early as possible and submit a completed application by May 12, 2006.

Information on the safety, security and crime situation in China is available on the travel Web site of the U.S. Department of State (www.travel.state.gov/). Information on the health situation and recommended immunizations is available on the Web site of the Centers for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov/travel/). Students and families are urged to review the information on both of these sites.

China



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