



CHINA STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM





Why Study Abroad in China?

In today's interconnected world, it is vital to understand the world on a global scale. One of the best ways to learn is to participate in an exchange program. From new languages to differences in cultural norms and expectations, having the ability to communicate thoughtfully with others has become a necessity. There is no better way to expose yourself to new cultures than by studying abroad in a thriving city in China.

Mandarin is one of the most spoken languages in the world, with 1 in 6 people being native speakers. Coupled with the expanding reach that China continues to achieve in the global economy, it is undoubtedly becoming the most important language to know. While Mandarin may not be the easiest language to learn, even a basic understanding of how to communicate will provide you with a clear advantage. If you can understand the Chinese culture and their common behavioral traits, you understand nearly 20% of the world's population!

About Forte

Forte International Exchange Association was established in 2000 as a non-profit cultural exchange program to promote public diplomacy. With offices based in both the United States and China, Forte offers high school students the chance to study and participate in an academic and cultural exchange program, which will benefit their language skills and outlook.

At Forte, we believe by assisting students in their exchange program, we are providing them with the opportunity to explore their independence and improve their foreign language skills, thus fostering the exchange of ideas between people of different countries and China, which can build understanding between cultures.

Our mission statement: “Fostering mutual understanding and cultural exchange between the United States and other nations worldwide.”

Student’s Eligibility Criteria

Students must be at least 15 years old, but no more than 18.5 years old at the start of the exchange program. Students should have a good academic level, or at least a C average GPA (grade point average). While Chinese proficiency is not required, potential students should have the desire to learn and study in Mandarin.

Students should be in good health, both physical and mentally, to withstand living abroad for one academic year. Potential students will have the opportunity to participate in various extracurricular activities and sports at their school in China. When the program ends, students are expected to return to their home country.



High School in China

In the first three months of their exchange program, students should expect to receive intensive Chinese lessons with no less than five class hours per week. Students are required to attend classes on time. Classes will be attended Monday through Friday, usually starting around 7:30am or 8am and finishing around 5pm. Students may be required to wear a uniform while attending school.

Courses taken will draw up a curriculum schedule based on general high school textbooks and add additional courses such as Spoken Chinese, Chinese History, Chinese Geography, Calligraphy, Folk Arts, Ethnic Music, Martial Arts, the Education System of China, Education reform, and related subjects. Students will most likely be required to attend additional language classes with a focus on learning the Chinese language, culture, history, art, and music with language-specific teachers or Forte staff, which may take half of the student's day.



Schools at all levels in mainland China (including all primary and secondary schools, high schools and most universities) have a two-semester system, with the first semester running from September to January and the second semester from February (depending on the date of lunar New Year) to the end of June.

Living in China

Exchange students will have the opportunity to live with a compensated host family or reside in a dormitory at a local boarding school.

A Forte host family recognizes the significance of international cultural exchanges and have a sense of multicultural integration. Families should have certain housing conditions, located in a safe neighborhood and the financial security to be eligible to host. Host families will be compensated monthly for their hosting duties.

Responsibilities of a Forte host family include:



- Provide a safe and comfortable home environment;
- Treat students as a member of their own family;
- Provide a bed per student and meals;
- In case of an emergency, students should be granted access to a home telephone;
- Make it as convenient as possible and provide safe transportation for students going to and coming from school;
- Encourage students to take an active part in their school activities and trainings organized by Forte;
- Maintain monthly contact with school leaders and Forte contacts through telephone, email, home visits, or other means;
- If students encounter any difficulties in their studies, the host family should offer help;
- If the natural parents request to visit their child during their program, the host family should immediately inform Forte's Shanghai office and make it clear that Forte does not encourage this.

Exchange students will get to experience independence by living in a dormitory at a local Shanghai boarding school.

Students will live in a shared bedroom and bathroom, and no kitchen. In the shared bedroom the beds can be turned into lofts or bunk beds, freeing up the space below for desks and a walk-in closet. Dorm assignments will be kept strictly same gender.

If living in a dormitory, for select weekends and holidays, exchange students will have the opportunity to live with a compensated Chinese host family for a short term.



National Holidays (2019 and 2020)

Year 2019

Mid-Autumn Festival

July 13th – July 15th (3 days)

National Day

October 1st – October 7th (7 days)

Year 2020

New Year's Day January 1st

Spring Festival

January 24th – January 30th (7 days)

Qingming Festival April 4th

Labor Day May 1st

Dragon Boat Festival

June 25th – June 26th (2 days)

National Day

October 1st – October 7th (7 days)

Mid-Autumn Festival October 1



*The above holidays are subject to change