

## Studying Chinese in China or Taiwan

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The department of Chinese Studies strongly encourages students to spend a semester (or at least a summer break) in China or Taiwan to study the Chinese language and experience Chinese culture at first hand. You cannot expect to learn to speak Chinese well unless you are prepared to study it intensively in-country. If you are able to spend a whole year studying Chinese in-country, that is obviously even better.

Many universities in China and Taiwan offer Chinese-language courses for overseas students. There are semester-length courses and short courses, typically ranging from four to eight weeks. Some universities also offer intensive courses that can be taken during the Australian summer. At present, the department does not make arrangements on behalf of students but does assist you by providing information and advice.

Please read the information below and all the pages within this section of the website carefully (see the menu on the left of this screen for the other pages). If you still have questions, please contact the department's [International Coordinator](#).

### Selection of study location and institution

The department has a list of recommended universities for students who wish to spend one or two semesters studying Chinese in-country. These universities are:

- Beijing Normal University [www.bnu.edu.cn/eng](http://www.bnu.edu.cn/eng)
- Shandong University [www.sdu.edu.cn/english](http://www.sdu.edu.cn/english) (exchange program available)
- Fudan University, Shanghai  
[www.fudan.edu.cn/englishnew](http://www.fudan.edu.cn/englishnew)
- Suzhou University <http://eng.suda.edu.cn>
- Xi'an Foreign Language University  
<http://campus.fortunecity.com/princeton/321/hxy01.html>
- Sichuan University [www.scu.org.cn/home/home.asp](http://www.scu.org.cn/home/home.asp)

In addition, the University may negotiate or renew student exchange agreements with other Chinese universities from time to time. You can find out what agreements are currently in place by selecting "China" in the "Country" box of the **International Office's Exchange Partner Database** – [sydney.edu.au/internationaloffice/partnersindex.shtml](http://sydney.edu.au/internationaloffice/partnersindex.shtml). However, for the most up-to-date information, it is always wise to check directly with the International Office.

There are undoubtedly other good in-country language programs available. You are not obliged to select your institution from the above list, but if you want to credit your in-country study towards your degree, you must seek department approval before you commit yourself to studying at a non-listed institution. There is no guarantee that credit will be granted for programs that have not been approved in advance.

### We recommend that you consider the following when choosing your Chinese in-country program:

- Quality of the language program
- Local language and accent
- Living conditions and local environment
- Tuition costs and living expenses
- Range of non-language studies and extra-curricular activities (e.g., excursions) offered within the language study program
- Range of disciplines and studies that would be available to you at the university beyond the Chinese-language program
- Administrative efficiency and quality of host care (e.g. whether foreign students are met at the airport and helped to settle in the local environment)

Useful websites for studying in-country information:

- Chinese Scholarship Council <http://en.csc.edu.cn/>
- Taipei Economic & Cultural Office  
[www.cultural.teco.org.au](http://www.cultural.teco.org.au)

### Semester dates for Chinese in-country study

**China:** Universities in China usually have two semesters:  
First semester: last week of August – end of January  
Second semester: end of February – mid July.  
Intensive courses are run throughout the year, including during the Australian summer, in many universities.

**Taiwan:** Universities in Taiwan tend to have four terms.  
Fall Term: September–December;  
Winter Term: January–March.  
Spring Term: March–June.  
Summer Intensive: June–August.

### Summer programs for overseas study

Students who have completed CHNS1102 or CHNS1202 are especially encouraged to attend summer programs in China organized by other Australian universities during January and February. Information on programs that accept students from the University of Sydney will be posted here when available. Please also watch out for information about the annual information session about in-country study in China. This is usually held in August.

## Enrolment in Chinese in-country study

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Subject to department permission, students may enrol for up to 24 senior credit points of Chinese in-country study by using the codes listed below.

### What are the in-country units?

The in-country study unit codes and names are as follow – all units have the same content description:

- CHNS2650: Chinese In-Country Study A
- CHNS2651: Chinese In-Country Study B
- CHNS2652: Chinese In-Country Study C
- CHNS2653: Chinese In-Country Study D
- CHNS2654: Chinese In-Country Study E
- CHNS2655: Chinese In-Country Study F
- CHNS2656: Chinese In-Country Study G
- CHNS2657: Chinese In-Country Study H

*Enrolment in an approved semester-based program of study (normally intermediate or advanced Modern Standard Chinese language-training) at a tertiary institution in China or Taiwan. Students can earn 6 credit points for every 52 hours of Chinese-language class in China or Taiwan, to a maximum of 24 credit points in any one semester. Credit may also be awarded at the rate of 6 credit points per 4 full weeks of intensive study after completion of an approved summer in-country Chinese-language program.*

### The prerequisites for all these units of study are:

CHNS1102 or CHNS1202 (or a sequel within the same stream); or any senior CHNS unit of study whose numeric code has 60 as the second and third digits. Native speakers of Chinese who can read Chinese fluently and seek special permission to undertake in-country study after first year must present a coherent academic rationale to the department.

As the in-country-study units earn senior credit points, they are not open to students who, at the commencement of their in-country program, are still at an elementary level in Modern Standard Chinese. "Elementary" in this context means "at such a level that the appropriate enrolment in Sydney would have been CHNS1101, 1102, 1201 or 1202." Students who fall into this category may apply for junior-level credit following normal Faculty procedures.

Students who wish to study elementary Chinese while on exchange at a Chinese university may apply for permission to enrol in CHNS1801 and/or 1802. The department discourages such applications, as they are inconsistent with the principle

that "Language exchange students must have achieved 65% or higher in all language units." This presupposes that junior units in the target language have already been taken. However, students who intend to study elementary Chinese alongside other subjects taught in English through an exchange program that was not set up primarily to provide in-country language study opportunities may apply for enrolment permission directly to the chair of department.

#### How to apply for permission to enrol

If you are applying to go on exchange, bring the form from the International Office to the [Chair of department](#), preferably in consultation hours.

If you want to study on a non-exchange basis at one of the universities listed above under "Selection of Study Location and Institution," you may apply directly to the chair of department for enrolment permission. The best way of doing this is to come to her office in her consultation hours (or make an appointment). Provided that you meet the prerequisites, she will give you a letter of permission that you can take directly to your own faculty. You should also fill in the department's registration form for Chinese in-country study (see "[Pre-departure Registration](#)") and give it to the [International Coordinator](#) as soon as your plans have been finalised.

If you want to study on a non-exchange basis at any other university, you should first go through the approval procedure described below under "Approval and Application Procedure." When the [International Coordinator](#) informs you that your choice of institution is appropriate, she will also inform the chair of department. Once the chair of department has been informed, you will be able to obtain enrolment permission from the chair.

#### Is it in your best interests to enrol?

In certain circumstances, you will not have a choice. In particular, if you are going on exchange, you must enrol appropriately here at Sydney. However, if you are not required to enrol, you should consider whether it is in your best interests to do so. Many students will find it financially more advantageous not to enrol before departure but to apply for credit after their return (see "Applying for Credit for Chinese In-Country Study", below).

Enrolment prior to departure may be advisable for students who receive the Youth Allowance. However, enrolment would make you liable for HECS. Recipients of the Youth Allowance who plan to undertake in-country study should seek advice from a Welfare Research Officer at the Student Representative Council. Phone: +61 2 9660 5222 (this is a switchboard; ask to speak to a Welfare Research Officer).

You are advised to seek advice from your own faculty or the International Office (in the case of international students) as to which option - enrolment prior to departure or application for credit after your return - will better suit your individual circumstances. The Student Centre or Student Services may be able to give you useful information on enrolment and financial matters.

#### What will you need to report your result(s)?

After your return to Sydney, you will be required to bring the official transcript issued by the Chinese university at which you were enrolled to the [Chair of department](#), preferably in consultation hours.

The transcript may show the number of hours of classroom study that you undertook. If it does not, you must bring other formal documentation that indicates either the total number of hours in each component of the program, or the number of hours per week and the total number of weeks.

Examples of acceptable documentation include official course information materials and letters that are both on official letterhead and stamped with an official seal. The documentation can be in either Chinese or English.

## Approval and application process

Department approval is primarily intended to ensure that the program you plan to undertake will be at the appropriate level and at least equivalent to the program here in terms of content, workload and academic quality. We will recommend credit only for study undertaken at the universities listed under "Selection of study location and institution", below, or at other reputable tertiary institutions with satisfactory Chinese-language programs.

If you hope to go to China on exchange, you should apply through the International Office, following International Office procedures (bring the enrolment permission form directly to the chair of department).

**The guidelines below apply only to students who will not be going to China on exchange. If you decide to study at one of the recommended universities, you should proceed as follows:**

1. Visit the website of the university to which you intend to apply, and download the application forms. The [International Coordinator](#) is available to offer help and advice if you encounter difficulty.
2. Send your application to that university before the deadline.
3. When you receive an offer of a place, apply for the appropriate visa (see "Travel Information – Passport and visa" below).
4. Fill in the department's registration form for Chinese in-country study (see below, under "Pre-departure Registration") and give it to the [International Coordinator](#) as soon as your plans have been finalised.

*If you want to study at a university other than those recommended, you should first provide the [International Coordinator](#) with the following information and materials:*

- The name and location of the institution and, if possible, the contact details of the person(s) in charge of the program;
- The program and course outlines, including detailed information on the number of contact hours, the length of the program, teaching materials, course content and, if possible, assessment.

The [International Coordinator](#) will then inform you whether it is appropriate to proceed with the following three steps:

1. Download the application forms for the university to which you intend to apply and send your application to that university before the deadline.
2. When you receive an offer of a place, apply for the appropriate visa (see under "Travel information", below).
3. Fill in the department's registration form for Chinese in-country study (see below, under "Pre-departure Registration") and give it to the [International Coordinator](#) as soon as your plans have been finalised. You will normally be able to collect a copy signed by the chair of department from the envelope outside her door within a week from the day that you submitted the form. This copy will be your only evidence that the department regards your program as acceptable for academic credit.

#### Pre-departure Registration

Before your departure, you must fill out the in-country study registration form and leave it with the [International Coordinator](#). Please do this as soon as your plans are clear.

The form can be obtained from the counter of the general office of the School of Languages and Cultures (Level 5 of the MacCallum-Brennan Building) or downloaded here:

- [Registration Form for In-Country Study](#)
- [Contact Details Form for In-Country Study](#)

## Travel information

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### Insurance and health matters

You must take out full insurance prior to your departure. It is entirely your own responsibility to ensure that all your risks are fully covered.

Undergraduate students who are enrolled at the University of Sydney while studying overseas are covered by the University's Personal Injury, Public Liability and Professional Indemnity policies while they are undertaking University activities as part of their course requirements. The policies do not provide cover for any recreational or social activities.

If you are not enrolled at the University of Sydney during your in-country study, you will not be covered by any of the University's insurance policies.

**It is therefore important that, prior to leaving Australia, ALL undergraduate students take out their own travel insurance policy to cover any medical expenses incurred or loss/damage to personal possessions while overseas.**

Contact the **Risk Management Office** - [sydney.edu.au/risk/](http://sydney.edu.au/risk/) if you require further information.

You should also seek medical advice on health precautions and necessary vaccinations. Consult your doctor at least eight weeks prior to departure, as some vaccines need a few weeks to become effective. You may be required to undergo a medical examination before your visa can be issued. Leave plenty of time for medical test results to be processed.

### Passport and visa

It is your responsibility to make sure that your passport will be valid until after your return to Australia.

#### For visas to China:

Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China in Sydney  
39 Dunblane Street, Camperdown NSW 2050.  
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon, Monday to Friday  
Phone: +61 2 8595 8002, +61 2 8595 8000.  
Fax: +61 2 8595 8001.  
<http://sydney.chineseconsulate.org>

#### For visas to Taiwan:

Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Sydney  
MLC Centre, Suite 1902, King Street, Sydney, NSW 2000.  
Phone: +61 2 9223 3233.  
Fax: +61 2 9223 0086.  
<http://www.teco.org.au/main.htm>

### Tuition, accommodation and cost of living

#### Costs in China:

- The average tuition fee for a two-semester Chinese language program in China is about US\$3,000 per person.
- The average tuition for a four-week program in China is about US\$500.
- Many Chinese universities charge an application fee of about US\$50.
- Most Chinese universities have dormitories for overseas students. Average rent for a twin-share room is US\$10.00 per person per day. You may choose to pay double price to rent the room on your own. It is increasingly easy to find private accommodation off campus.
- Average monthly living expenses may be about US\$400 excluding rent.

#### Costs in Taiwan:

- Average tuition for each term (see "[Semester dates](#)") is US\$3,500 at a Taiwan university in addition to a

registration fee of about US\$50. Some universities in Taiwan offer financial assistance.

### Government travel advice

It is recommended that, before leaving for China or Taiwan, students consult the travel advice provided by the Australian government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), especially at times of international instability. It is important to check the DFAT website (<http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/>) frequently.

### Other information

It is advisable to travel with traveller's cheques initially. After your arrival in China, you can open an account at a local branch of the Bank of China (Zhongguo Yinhang). Funds can then be transferred into your account from outside China. At airports and major shopping centres in Beijing and Shanghai, there are ATM machines from which key cards issued by Australian banks can withdraw cash in RMB. ATM facilities may be available on your university campus, but you should plan on the assumption that they will not be.

## Applying for credit for Chinese in-country study

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You can apply for credit only after completing your in-country study, obtaining an official transcript, and returning to Sydney with that transcript. However, it is important to read the information below before you go to China, so that you know what documentation will be required and can make sure that you obtain it.


Here are the details of the application procedure:

1. Go to your own faculty and obtain a copy of the official form for applying for credit for university-level study completed elsewhere. You may be able to download this from the faculty's website. Faculty of Arts students should [click here](#) to download the "Departmental Recommendation" form as well as the "Application for Credit" form. Complete those sections of the forms that are intended for the student to complete.
2. Bring the form(s) to the [Chair of department](#), preferably in consultation hours. As well as the form, you must bring the official transcript issued by the university at which you were enrolled. This document may show the number of hours of classroom study that you undertook. If it does not, you must bring other formal documentation that indicates either the total number of hours in each component of the program, or the number of hours per week and the total number of weeks.

Examples of acceptable documentation include official course information materials and letters that are both on official letterhead and stamped with an official seal. The documentation can be in either Chinese or English.

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### International coordinator:

2010: Dr Y ^āY æ \*  [Y^āYæ@sydney.edu.au](mailto:Y^āYæ@sydney.edu.au)

### Chair of Department:

2010: Dr Yiyang Wang [yiyang.wang@sydney.edu.au](mailto:yiyang.wang@sydney.edu.au)

# Registration for Studying Chinese in China or Taiwan

## Department of Chinese Studies

This form must be completed and returned before departure to the International Coordinator (Chinese Studies), by any student who intends to do in-country study. If you are unsure of your details whilst in China/Taiwan, contact us ASAP when you know them by phone ((61) 2 9351 2869), fax ((61) 2 9351 2319), E-mail [arts.sladmin@sydney.edu.au](mailto:arts.sladmin@sydney.edu.au), or by returning the "Contact Details" form.

### Student contact details:

Surname:		Other name(s):	
SID:		International or local?	
Current full Australian address			
Home phone			
Mobile			
Name and address of emergency contact person in Australia or your home country:			
Your email address:			

### Contact details while in China/Taiwan:

Full address while in China/Taiwan:			
Full address in China/Taiwan, in Chinese characters (if possible)			
Chinese/Taiwanese phone number: (if possible)			
Name, address and phone number of institution(s) where you will be studying while in China/Taiwan. If more than two, attach separate sheet.			
1.		2.	
Date from:	To:	Date from:	To:
When do you plan to leave Australia?		When do you plan to return?	

Please complete either A or B:

<b>A. Will you be enrolled in any University of Sydney units of study while you are in China?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>If so, please list the units of study.</i>	
<b>Units of Study:</b>	

<b>B. Do you intend to apply for credit for some or all of your in-country study after your return?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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**To be signed by all registering students:**

I acknowledge and understand that my in-country study and associated travel are undertaken at my own risk and that it is my responsibility (1) to take out comprehensive travel insurance for the whole period of my in-country study and (2) to retain the official transcript and any necessary supplementary documentation regarding my in-country study. I understand that I must show the original of the transcript and any supporting documentation to the chair of department (or nominee) on my return to Sydney and that actual marks for my in-country study will not appear on my University of Sydney transcript.

**Signature:**..... **Date:** .....

**International Coordinator's comments**

**Name:**..... **Date:**..... **Signature:**.....

**Comments:**.....  
.....  
.....

**Chair of Department comment:**

**EITHER (if "A" completed):** I have given enrolment permission for the unit(s) of study specified above.

Yes  No

**OR (if "B" completed):** The department will normally recommend credit for studies undertaken at the above institution(s), subject to the production of a transcript certifying that a sufficient number of hours have been satisfactorily completed.

Yes  No

**Name:**..... **Date:**..... **Signature:**.....



## CHINA & TAIWAN IN-COUNTRY STUDY STUDENT CONTACT DETAILS

Please take this form with you to China / Taiwan and return it to the SLC administration team at the address below as soon as you know your full in-country contact details. Please take two copies of the form if you expect to transfer from one Chinese institution to another.

<b>Name (surname/given names)</b>	
<b>SID:</b>	
<b>Name of the institution where you are now studying</b>	
<b>When do you plan to leave this institution?</b>	
<b>Your present full address in English:</b>	
<b>Your present full address in Chinese characters:</b>	
<b>Your present phone number (or number where a message can be left):</b>	
<b>Fax number:</b>	
<b>E-mail address:</b>	

**Please fill out and return this form (or email/fax your details) to:**

School of Languages and Cultures  
Room 506, Brennan MacCallum Building (A18)  
University of Sydney, NSW 2006 Australia  
**E-mail: [arts.sladmin@sydney.edu.au](mailto:arts.sladmin@sydney.edu.au)**  
Telephone: +61 2 9351 2874  
Fax: +61 2 9351 2319

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**TEAR OFF AND KEEP : UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY CONTACT.**

**Please keep the SLC administration team informed of any changes of address while you are in China/Taiwan.**

**Contact details are:**

School of Languages and Cultures  
Room 506, Brennan MacCallum Building (A18)  
University of Sydney, NSW 2006 Australia  
**E-mail: [arts.sladmin@sydney.edu.au](mailto:arts.sladmin@sydney.edu.au)**  
Telephone: +61 2 9351 2874  
Fax: +61 2 9351

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