

Taking the Route to a Silk Tongue



Shanghai by night —

As the demand for Chinese, particularly Mandarin, soars, *Hannah Zeiler* suggests immersion destinations for students of all ages

Beijing, also known as Peking, the capital and China's second largest city, has long been at the forefront of Chinese civilization. Beijing has the mystery of an ancient past and the allure of modern development that coalesce to create a truly amazing city. The city is a prosperous metropolis filled with breathtaking historical and scenic sites, as well as remarkable architectural wonders, such as the Forbidden City, which is the largest example of ancient Chinese architecture still standing, and the Great Wall, the only man-made construction on earth visible from outer space.

Hutong School is a new school, founded just over a year ago. During the past year, they have welcomed over 100 mostly European and American students participating in their two main programs: the Internship Program and the Intensive Chinese Program. What makes this school unique is the combination of services they offer and the environment in which everything takes place. Hutong

School is located in a renovated traditional courtyard in the old center of Beijing. This excellent location gives students the chance to experience Chinese culture to the fullest.

China Study Abroad offers programs ranging from Mandarin immersion to martial arts, internships, business classes, homestays, volunteering, and teaching English at over 25 universities and academies located in nine diverse cities across the Chinese mainland (including Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, and Guangzhou). With program lengths ranging from one week to one year, participants can join one of CSA's popular courses or work with a program advisor to design their ideal experience abroad. By taking care of all the necessities before students arrive and continuing to provide wide-ranging services once in China, CSA takes the uncertainty and difficulty out of moving to a new country, leaving participants to study the language, explore the culture, and interact with local people and other foreigners living abroad. Combining

Mandarin Chinese language classes with extra-curricular workshops, language tutorials, social activities, interaction with native speakers, and fun events held throughout the year, China Study Abroad's programs are unique and affordable options for total immersion into the Chinese culture, language, and way of life.

Bridges to China is an affordable program offering great Chinese language and/or martial arts classes. Students are given the option to study a sport alongside Chinese — a great mental and physical break from learning a language. Tai Chi is particularly suitable in this respect, promoting relaxation in studies. Packages are tailored for students from beginners to advanced, and the program offers course length flexibility for students and people with jobs. The school was set up in 2005 by Liam Bates and Hunter, Swiss and Chinese university students with fluency in English, Chinese, and French when they realized that there was a need for a Chinese immersion program for people with an independent spirit.



or day with dance practice on the bund

Shanghai is situated on the banks

of the Yangtze River Delta in east China, and is the largest and most prosperous city in China. Originally a quiet fishing town, Shanghai has grown into an ever-changing multi-cultural metropolis with both futuristic and traditional Chinese features. Full of excellent shopping, lush gardens, magnificent architecture, and buzzing nightlife, Shanghai certainly leaves an unforgettable impression as the dynamic hotspot of modern China.

easyMandarin offers foreigners a bridge into the mysterious and enchanting land of China. What sets this program apart is that the school not only provides students with top-notch Mandarin language tools, but also provides them with a Chinese “partner” and friend to help with any type of situation. easyMandarin is also known for its fun activities, such as Chinese dumpling-making classes, and snowboarding trips to Shanghai’s indoor skiing site. Their intensive Mandarin language immersion program gives students the vocabulary and confidence to get by in China.

MandarinToday is a leading Mandarin-learning institute in Shanghai that aims to spread Chinese culture while offering practical and professional Chinese language courses.

MandarinToday offers an array of courses taught by a qualified team of instructors in small group classes. Their aim is to promote Chinese historical and cultural heritage, to assist foreigners and Chinese expatriates to learn standard Chinese, to understand Chinese culture, and to get acquainted with life in the rapidly changing Chinese society.

BLS China, with 12 years of language teaching experience and over 12,000 stu-

dents, has an international reputation for training quality.

BLS China has centers in three of the most exciting cities in China: Shanghai, Beijing, and Qingdao. Their multilingual teachers are all professional native-speakers with university degrees. Cultural activity programs are offered every week but remain optional to allow students to fully immerse themselves in the language and the city around them.



Tianjin, the third largest city in

China and the largest open seaport in north China, is one of the four municipalities directly under the administration of the central government of the People's Republic of China. It is located on Bohai Bay along the west coast of the Pacific Ocean. Tianjin's history as a foreign concession has resulted in classic European style architecture throughout the city giving it a unique look. The famous explorer Marco Polo once referred to Tianjin as "Paradise City" in the 13th century and it is still praised today for its rich history and culture.

The College of International Education (CIE) at Tianjin University of Technology (TUT) is among the most recommended Chinese-learning institutes by the Ministry of Education of China. The college has excellent teaching facilities, rich data resources, and a comfortable learning atmosphere. The teachers are all experienced in teaching Chinese as a foreign language, use flexible teaching methods, and are very well trained. The university has enrolled overseas students from more than 30 countries all over the world. The International Student Office of CIE helps international students with applications and admission, entry visas, registration, course selection, housing, and residence formalities in China.

Tianjin Foreign Studies University (TFSU) was founded in 1964. As one of eight such universities in China, it offers a number of language and cultural programs to Chinese and overseas students of various educational backgrounds. The clean and quiet campus is an ideal place for the teaching and study of foreign languages, international trade and economics, and foreign studies and academic research. The principal goal of this program is to introduce foreign students to the unique culture and history of China. Through course work, living arrangements, social life, and travel over a five-month period, the program acquaints foreign students with the Chinese people, their language, institutions, and values. Through this contact, both in and outside the classroom, a second important objective of the program is achieved — the personal development of each participant. The idea behind the program is that interaction with people of different cultures promotes better self awareness, increases self-confidence, and improves one's self-image.



On the river in southern China

Guangzhou is the capital and

the sub-provincial city of Guangdong Province on the Pearl River, and is one of the most important centers of foreign commerce in South China. Due to its location on the Tropic of Cancer, Guangzhou has no real winter and flowers are in blossom all year round, hence its nickname "the City of Flowers." The city's history extends back more than 2,800 years which is evident in the remarkable architecture and rich culture. Food is an important part of the culture here and in fact, Guangzhou ranks first in the number of restaurants and tea-houses in the country with their world-famous Cantonese cuisine.

Created through a merger of Guangzhou Institute of Foreign Languages and Guangzhou Institute of Foreign Trade, Guangdong University of Foreign Studies (GDUFS) has now become a key university in Guangdong Province with broad international

reputation in foreign language and trade teaching. The Department of Chinese for International Students is located on North Campus of GDUFS. Since its first enrollment of international students in 1987, the Department has been fostering ever stronger teaching innovation with its highly experienced and responsible faculty. The Department never ceases to upgrade and optimize its innovative teaching scheme while making the most of its 20 years of experience. Featuring a multi-tier program setup and effective communicative competence cultivation methods, courses, and programs are all tailor-made to meet the needs of students from around the world, helping them bridge cultural and language differences, and enhance learning effectiveness.

Founded in 1953, as one of the 20 colleges of Jinan University (known as the Paramount Academy for overseas Chinese),



the College of Chinese Language and Culture is a unique institution of higher learning that specializes in offering long or short-term courses and both degree and non-degree programs in Chinese as a second or foreign language to international students. Apart from general language courses, the College also offers Chinese for Specific Purpose course, such as Business Chinese and Cantonese. Being the largest of its kind in south China, the College annually receives students from more than 30 countries and regions around the globe. Located in the vicinity of the downtown Tianhe cultural district of Guangzhou, the college has easy access to convenient metro and intercity communications systems that join the neighboring Hong Kong, Macao, and other major mainland cities. Jinan University is an ideal venue for international students to learn Chinese and appreciate Chinese culture. **X**

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