



Summer in China Study Trip, 2015

Case Study written by Yessica Lerma



Thanks to the Confucius institute at LSBU, I had the best summer of my life in 2015. Joining the Mandarin classes not only challenged my intellectual capacity, but also enabled me to have an unforgettable experience in China and make lots of new friends.

In Beijing and Harbin we stayed at really nice hotels and received first class treatment. We visited and investigated amazing places including the Summer Palace, Beijing Hutong, Tiananmen Square and the Olympic park. These places were full of culture, history and beauty. We also visited the Great wall (one of the 7 wonders) and climbed it; reaching the top was one of the best sensations of my life.

We were able to interact with Chinese students and practice our Mandarin with them; they also practiced their English with us. It was a lot of fun helping each other and it caused much laughter and merriment whilst we built great friendships.

We also participated in some sports competitions with the Chinese students. Activities included rope jumping, tug-of-war, and ball games – I feel we did surprisingly well! The Chinese students then performed various dances, songs, and martial arts. We really enjoyed watching this.



In Harbin we learned about the basics of Chinese medicine and experienced some acupuncture treatment.

We also had the pleasure of trying real Chinese cuisine. Everyday we tried a variety of dishes, and I enjoyed them all! My particular favorites included fried rice, duck and chicken. Authentic Chinese food is really healthy as they use a lot of vegetables.

Overall the experience was excellent; my only complaint is that I wish it could have lasted longer. I would recommend this experience to anyone who has an interest in Chinese language and culture.

Feedback form

1. What aspect of the Summer in China Study Trip appealed to you the most?
 - The cultural explorations
2. What China related experiences have you had prior to this trip?
 - None
3. Where does your interest in Chinese language and culture stem from?
 - I attended an event hosted by the LSBU Confucius institute and loved seeing the different performances, dances and clothing. I was also fascinated when I heard the performers speaking Mandarin with each other. Following on from this I decided to start Mandarin classes and explore Chinese culture.
4. What were the highlights of your trip to China? What is your best memory?
 - My best memory was reaching the top of the Great Wall and admiring the stunning views, feeling on the top of the world and thinking only about me and the sky!
 - My second best memory was the closing ceremony party, at which point we had to say goodbye to our kind Chinese friends. It was really emotional as we had become very good friends and we knew we would miss each other.
5. What was the most valuable thing you learned on the trip?
 - This is a difficult question as I learnt so much. I learnt that Chinese people are really kind and disciplined, they are hard workers who respect and love nature. I admired different aspects of their culture including the way they respect senior citizens. Overall I really rate their core values.
6. How do you think this trip will help your career and employability?
 - I think employers will value the fact that I visited a country with one of the fastest growing economies in the world and acquired an understanding of



their culture. U.K. based companies have many business links with China and so my ability to interact closely with Chinese people will prove invaluable.

7. What advice would you give future participants?
 - China is amazing, and this is a great opportunity! Practice your basic Mandarin before traveling so that you can bargain and order food, take a good camera to capture the memories and don't forget to ask all of your new friends for their contact details (whatsapp, wechat etc.).
8. What do you hope to do when you graduate?
 - I hope to pursue a career in law, ideally in an international corporation which has a branch in China. I would also like to carry on learning Mandarin in China.
9. Add any further comments here:
 - I would like to thank the Confucius Institute for a first class experience. The support from all the staff made this experience even more special. This trip really widened my horizons and helped me set clearer future goals.