**Major/Minor:** Business Economics, Global Studies

**Country:** China  
**Program:** Fudan University, Business Economics  
**Term & Year Abroad:** Spring ‘09

*What type of student should go on this program (ex: personality traits, major, etc)?*

Students applying for this program should be Business/Economics major or should have a strong interest in learning about the Chinese economy. They should be willing to try new foods and be adventurous. They should be open to new customs and be willing to immerse themselves into a new culture.

**Instructors**

- **What were they like when compared to UCSB instructors?**
  The instructors are a little more difficult to get to know on a individual basis. They don’t really have set office hours but are usually available through email. They also like when you speak up in class and share your opinions.

- **Could you call them by their first names?**
  Generally it is disrespectful to call professors by their first names unless specified otherwise. Calling them professor is acceptable.

- **Was the student/instructor relationship more formal than at UCSB?**
  Yes. Like I mentioned, it is a little difficult to get to know the professors on an individual level. But they are open to different opinions and points of view so don’t hesitate to speak up.

- **Were they available for help during office hours?**
  Email is the best way to contact your teachers.

**Courses**

- **Were the courses more difficult when compared to UCSB courses?**
  The courses were generally the same difficulty level as UCSB courses. Many of our courses had grad students from around the world but we didn’t find it too hard to keep up.

- **Was the grading system similar to UCSB?**
  Yes it was the same letter grade system.

- **How did the course structure differ? Ex) did you have many assignments or just finals?**
  It depends on the course. One of my courses consistened of 8 three pages essays. Another required a couple classroom projects and a final paper. Keep in mind that they don’t really give out a syllabus so its up to you too comtact you teacher and go to class to know when things are due.

- **Did you have oral and/or written exams?**
  All of my exams were written.

- **Was the final exam schedule flexible or inflexible?**
  Finals are pretty much inflexible unless there is an emergency.

- **What kind of academic support, if any, did you receive?**
  None
Did you find you needed to be more independent and take more initiative abroad?
Yes. Since there wasn’t really a set syllabus, I found myself having to contact the professor and my classmates more often to make sure that everything was getting done in a timely manner. We had many oral presentations too that I was not quite used to.

Was classroom participation expected?
Yes. The professors encourage classroom participation.

How were the host university courses different than UCSB courses?
Structure. You must stay on top of your work. Also, there were no hard copies of the reading material. Everything was online.

Were classes usually on certain days/times and for how long?
Each class was only on one day for 3 hours with two 10 minute breaks.

What is the class culture like? How important was it to be punctual? Could you eat/drink in class?
It’s important to be on time for class as it is here at UCSB especially if the professor takes role first thing in class. Some professors didn’t mind if you ate in class but you should ask first. Or you could just wait and eat during the breaks. The lectures are similar to the lectures that you experience here at ucsb.

Language
- In which languages were the courses offered?
All my courses were in english. You can also take language courses.

What language did you take your courses in?
English.

If you took your courses in a foreign language, please provide info about your overall experience, difficulty of courses, language acquisition, placement exams, etc.

Host University
- How large is the university? Student enrollment and approx campus size (smaller than UCSB)? Is it an urban campus with many tall buildings or just a few building?
Fudan University is a little bit bigger than UCSB. There are many tall buildings, some are really old and some are brand new. There are also a lot of grass fields where you can hang out before class or study.

Do the local students live on campus, at home, or off campus?
Most local students live on campus but on the opposite end of the international dormitory.

If not located in the city center,
- How far or close is it to the city?
It’s about a 30 minute subway ride.
- What type of public transportation could you take – cost?
Subways are relatively cheap (around 4 RMB for one way ticket). Taxi’s are another choice but it’s pricier (11RMB start up rate). And there’s the bus system which is the
cheapest but a little difficult to navigate. You can purchase a transit card that you can put
money on that works with all three public transportation methods.
- **Could students take cabs -cost?**
  Yes. It’s about a 35RMB ride downtown unless it’s past midnight when the prices goes up
  (it’s around 45-50RMB)
- **How long would it take to get to the city center?**
  About 35 min. depending on traffic.

- **Are there student clubs on campus that UC students could join?**
  Yes. There are multiple sports clubs and other activities. My friends and I joined the volleyball club
  where we had tournaments every Mondays against both local and international students. It was really
  fun. I also had a friend that was in a play on campus.

- **Is there a bookstore on campus? Where did you get your books?**
  There are many knock-off book stores on campus but the main bookstore is about a five minutes walk
  from campus. None of my classes required books. Some required readers but those were handed out
  in class.

- **Is there a computer lab on campus? Or, should students bring laptops?**
  I believe there are computer labs in the library but I never checked that out. I would suggest bringing a
  laptop because I did a majority of my school work in my room or in the lobby of the dormitory with
  friends.

- **What types of establishments are in the university’s neighborhood? (cafes, stores, etc)**
  There is a plethora of restaurants and eateries around campus so don’t worry about going hungry.
  There are also convenience stores nearby and also one in the lobby of the dormitory. There is also a
  Walmart nearby where you can buy basically anything you can think of. There is also a mall right near
  Walmart where there is an H&M, ZARA’s and some more local stores. There is a Mc. Donalds,
  Burger King, and Starbucks in the same shopping center. Also there are some dive bars and karaoke
  places nearby as well.

**Housing**
- **What types of accommodations are available to UC students?**
  I stayed in the international dormitory and loved it. It was nice because all of the friends I made were
  in the same building. I did have a couple of UC friends that stayed in apartments across the streets so
  that might be another option.

- **How close are they to campus?**
  The international dormitory is at the north end of campus.

- **How did you find your housing?**
  I found housing through EAP through email.

- **Where did you live and with whom?**
  As I said, I lived in the international dormitory in a single which was nice because that luxury is close
  to impossible in IV. But some of my friends lived in doubles and loved their roommates.

- **If you lived off campus, was it difficult to find an apartment and roommate?**
  N/A
- Were the rooms nicer or not than I.V./UCSB dorms?
The rooms are pretty nice. It easy to clean because of the hardwood floor. The rooms are fully
furnished with a bed, closet, desk, and tv. You also have your own balcony and bathroom which is
nice. There is also A/C and a heater which will be your life saver.

- Was it more expensive than living in I.V.? How much was a typical rent cost in US
dollars?
The cost was way cheaper then living in IV. I believe that I paid a little over 400 US a month for a
single and the doubles are a little cheaper then that.

- How/who did you pay for housing?
You pay for housing in full upon arrival. They have people in the lobby of the dorms collecting cash
(it has to be in RMB).

Food
- What was the food like?
The food was really saucy. They don’t use salt or oil too lightly there. Everything was really good in
the beginning but I found myself having to incorporate international foods in as well. I definitely mad
Indian food, sushi, Mexican food, and pizza a lot during the weeks.

- Where did you eat most of your meals? Cafeterias, restaurants, street vendors, etc?
During school hours I usually ate at the cafeterias for convenience. Otherwise I would eat at the local
restaurants. Street food is a must at night. They are set up in front of the dorm enterance between
9pm-2am and you can get anything from chow main, fried chicken/potatoes, soup,.skewers, etc.

- How much was an average meal?
There is a wide range. Street food is relatively cheap as well as local restaurants (around 5-10 RMB).
International foods and nicer restaurants range from 25-80 RMB.

- What time of day did people eat lunch/dinner?
Lunch breaks were generally from 11:30 - 1pm. Dinner was usually around 5:30- 7pm.

- Would it be difficult for vegetarians to find meals?
No its not too hard. Most places will take the meat out of the dishes if you ask for it. My friend also
got very good at taking meat out of her meals if the cook forgot.

Travel/Safety
- If not discussed above, describe the public transportation system around your host
university/city?
There are richshaws that are illegal but cheap and fast (5RMB). The subway is also close (15 min
walk or 2 min taxi ride). There are also bus stops all around.

- Did you feel safe in your host city? Are there tips you would offer future students?
Yes I felt very safe. My friends and I walked around at night and felt completely safe. The only thing
I would worry about is pick-pocketers. To avoid this, keep your bags close to you and try to have
purses and bags that zip up.

- Describe the public transportation in your host country?
Public transportation is very convenient. You can pretty much get anywhere on the subway. Try to avoid traffic hours if you can because the subways can get extremely crowded (between 7 - 9 am and 6-7pm)

- **Was it difficult/easy to travel to neighboring countries?**
  Traveling was easy and cheap. You can take a buses, trains/sleeper trains, or fly. I enjoyed night trains because you save money on a hotel for the night.

**Host City/Country**
- **What was the weather like?**
The weather is not the best. It is cold and rainy in the winter. Then you get a couple weeks of nice weather until monsoon season comes where it is humid and rainy. But you get quite used to it. The weather didn’t bother me too much.

- **Describe your host city…which California/US city is it similar to (if any)?**
  I would say that Shanghai is the New York of China. There are so many high rises, lights, and international businesses there. The city never sleeps. You can get food, go for a drink, or go to a club at anypoint in the night. The city is very modernized and is in a process of a whole city clean up for the world expo next year. There are also so many festivals and performing artists that come throughout each month (for example: Kanye and Ratatat performed when I was there and it was so much fun). Shanghai also hosted the X-games and the F1 races. There is just so much to do in the city!

- **What were some interesting/fun things that you did in the host city?**
The highlights of my stay in Shanghai included going to the Ratatat concert, participating in the lantern and dragon boat festivals, going to the X-games, all you can eat sushi for 85 RMB, going clubbing at night, quiz nights on Thursday’s at Salabims, hanging out at friends apartments, walking the bund, home cooked meals at my local friends family home, random trips on the subway, shopping at QiPuLu, got dresses made, and the list goes on and on.

- **How international was your host city in terms of tourism, cultural diversity, and international businesses?**
  Shanghai is very international. During the summer you will see many tourists wandering around the city. There are many international businesses set up in Shanghai so you will see a lot of foreigners around especially around Xintiandi and the French concession area.

**Culture**
- **Describe the cultural differences that you observed/encountered.**
  - **Time & punctuality**
    Being on time is important no matter where you are
  - **Eye contact & staring**
    Not a big problem. Locals love to stare at foreigners.
  - **Relationships**
    Publically, couples act the same as they do here
  - **More formal dress in general, for women, for school, etc?**
    Very different attire. Not more formal but just very different styles.
  - **Alcohol consumption**
    You can have open bottles anywhere on the street and in the dorms. There is no drinking age so they are pretty lenient about drinking.
What culture shock did you go through?
Food. I was not used to the intense flavors and oils. Also the traffic congestion; I almost got run over by motorists quite a few times.

Other?
Be mindful of table manners (ex. Do not stick your chopsticks in your rice because it signifies death, etc.)

Banking
- Were credit cards widely accepted?
In bigger stores and restaurants credit cards are accepted but not so much in local areas. Generally speaking, you should always have cash on you especially for transportation.

- Did you open a local bank account? Was it easy?
I did open a local bank account and it was relatively easy. I just had to fill out some paperwork and have my passport handy. It was nice having a bank account there because I avoided any fees that came with using my US ATM card to withdraw money.

- If you did not open a local bank account, was it easy to withdraw money from the ATM? Which banks were popular & had low ATM fees?

- Were there ATMs on campus?
Yes there were ATMs on campus and also different banks within walking distance.