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

The ECNU program is a great program for any student who wants to improve their Chinese skills. The Chinese teachers make accommodations for students at any level of Chinese language. And the class schedule still leaves plenty of time and opportunity to explore the city. The living situation in ECNU is really fun and makes it easy to bond with everyone on your program. All around, this program is great as an introduction to Shanghai. It is also a great 2-3 month introduction to China because it is a great Chinese city that still has a lot of the amenities and comforts we are used to in America.

The Joint Program in International Studies (JPIS) is tailor made for global studies, international studies, and political science majors. Sociology and history majors could also benefit from this program. The reason I recommend this for global studies major and similar social science majors is because the classes/units transfer more favorably for these majors.

As for the individual, studying in China is for someone who is willing to experience something completely new and foreign. Each person has to be willing to be open to new experiences and learn how to live in a fast-paced city such as Shanghai.

**Instructors**

- **What were they like when compared to UCSB instructors?**
  I thought that the professors in China were more formal and strict. Teachers are highly respected in China so it is important to be respectful of the teachers.

- **Could you call them by their first names?**
  I probably wouldn’t call any professor by their first name, it would probably be considered unprofessional. However, at ECNU each student is paired with a tutor who helps with homework and verbal communication skills. That relationship is very casual and most of us did hang out with our tutors outside of tutoring times.

- **Was the student/instructor relationship more formal than at UCSB?**
  The student/instructor relationship was much more formal in China than at UCSB. Students have to remember that in China, Fudan is considered a top ranked university in all of China and that it is a privilege to attend. It’s like the equivalent of attending an Ivy league in the states. The professors expect respect and attention in class.

  The teachers at ECNU had a more casual relationship with students. Most of the teachers are pretty young and that makes class more fun and relatable.

- **Were they available for help during office hours?**
  Teachers were always available for questions but mostly we would talk to the teachers right after class or during class breaks instead of at preset office hours.

**Courses**

- **Were the courses more difficult when compared to UCSB courses?**
I thought that courses were comparable to UCSB. The reading load is just as heavy and the tests are mostly essays.

- **Was the grading system similar to UCSB?**
The grading system was very similar to the system at UCSB. At ECNU the classes were similar to Chinese classes at UCSB just a little more intense because it is an immersion program, with a little added emphasis on verbal communication. At Fudan, the tests and grades were all similar to any UC class.

- **How did the course structure differ? Ex) did you have many assignments or just finals?**
At ECNU, we had weekly quizzes and assignments, and then a cumulative final at the end.
At Fudan, we had midterms or midsemester projects/papers and then a larger, mostly essay-based final at the end. We also had to write research papers similar to what would be expected from a class at UCSB.

- **Did you have oral and/or written exams?**
At ECNU we had both oral and written exams because class is broken up into verbal class and writing class.
At Fudan, we had mostly written essay exams, however I did have one oral group presentation in one of my elective classes.

- **Was the final exam schedule flexible or inflexible?**
The final exam schedule was pretty inflexible. Everyone took the exams on the same day unless they were sick.

- **What kind of academic support, if any, did you receive?**
We received a lot of academic support. At ECNU each student in our program was placed with a tutor from the university’s English Teacher graduate program. They would meet with us once a week to help with homework, questions, or any random help they could provide like good places to eat or local shopping spots. At Fudan, we mostly felt comfortable with the material and relied on each other for academic support rather than professors.

- **Did you find you needed to be more independent and take more initiative abroad?**
Definitely. You have to become more independent and take initiative in order to truly enjoy living in the city. Shanghai has a lot to offer and the more effort you put into exploring and really living in the city, the more you will love your experience. Also, because you are a foreigner, a lot of local Chinese people won’t necessarily know how to help you if you have complicated questions, so you’ll have to go out a seek your own answers with your own initiative.

- **Was classroom participation expected?**
Classroom participation was an important part of Chinese classes at ECNU. Everyone had to participate and read out loud.
At Fudan, classroom participation is less important. Students don’t really get called on to participate like they would at UCSB.

- **How were the host university courses different than UCSB courses?**
I thought they were really similar to UCSB courses. As far as expectations, reading load and grading scale goes, it was all very similar.

- **Were classes usually on certain days/times and for how long?**
At ECNU, the classes were every day in the morning from 8-12
At Fudan, each class meets only once a week for 3 hours with a break inbetween to get snacks.

- **What is the class culture like? How important was it to be punctual? Could you eat/drink in class?**
  Class culture is similar to UCSB. It's important to be on time and eating/drinking really depends on the professor.

**Language**
- **In which languages were the courses offered?**
  Classes were in Chinese at ECNU. All Fudan classes were taught in English unless you wanted to take Chinese language classes.

- **What language did you take your courses in?**
  Chinese classes at ECNU. And English in Fudan.

- **If you took your courses in a foreign language, please provide info about your overall experience, difficulty of courses, language acquisition, placement exams, etc.**
  You get placed when you arrive for your first class, they place you into different tiers of difficulty and then you can move up or down the first week depending on how comfortable you are.

**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?**
  Both universities are comparable to UCSB as far as size. They both have several large, tall buildings and the campuses are gated off and surrounded by the urban city.

- **Do the local students live on campus, at home, or off campus?**
  Local students mostly live on campus.

- **If not located in the city center,**
  - **How far or close is it to the city?**
    ECNU is pretty centrally located. It sits 5 minutes walking distance from a subway stop which easily accesses the city’s main subway station where you can link to anywhere in the city easily.
    Fudan is much farther out, probably 30-40 minutes by cab to reach the city center and a little more to reach it my public transportation (i.e. bus to metro to city center)

  - **What type of public transportation could you take – cost?**
    I took a combination of a lot of different types of transportation. Buses are 2 rmb per ride (20cents). Metros are typically 3-4 rmb (50cents) per ride, but sometimes you have to switch stations that charge again so one way can range from 3 rmb to 8 rmb. Cabs are to the city center from Fudan are normally around 40 rmb (5-6 dollars) which you could split with other people especially if you are taking cabs to go into town at night for dinner, drinks, or clubbing.
  - **Could students take cabs -cost?**
Cabs are relatively cheap compared to America. A small base fee and then 11 rmb ($1.50) per mile, 14 ($2) rmb after 11 pm. It adds up if you take only cabs, but it is totally worth it if you are going somewhere in a rush or you have 3 other people to split the cab fare with.

- **How long would it take to get to the city center?** From ECNU – 5 minutes walking to metro and then 10 minutes by metro to the city center. From Fudan – 40-50 ish minutes by metro to city center, but 30 minutes by cab (its best to take cabs after dark because the metros run irregularly late at night)

- **Are there student clubs on campus that UC students could join?**
  The main club that people joined is called English Corner, which pairs Chinese local students with international students for language exchange.

- **Is there a bookstore on campus? Where did you get your books?**
  At ECNU, the teachers give you books after you get placed.
  At Fudan, all the readings are digital, so just bring your own flashdrive and you do your readings on a computer.

- **Is there a computer lab on campus? Or, should students bring laptops?**
  Im sure there are accessible computer labs on both campuses, but everyone on both of my programs brought their own laptop. Dorms at both ECNU and Fudan had internet access that worked on our laptops.

- **What types of establishments are in the university’s neighborhood? (cafes, stores, etc)**
  Everything that would be around any university neighborhood, restaurants, cafes, copy shops, stores, supermarkets, etc.

**Housing**

- **What types of accommodations are available to UC students?**
  ECNU has really nice foreign student dorms.
  Fudan is either International Student Dorms or the Tonghe apartments.

- **How close are they to campus?**
  They are all located either on campus or across the street from campus.

- **How did you find your housing?**
  The study center found us housing options.

- **Where did you live and with whom?**
  I lived with UC students on our program. We do not have the option of living with local students.

- **If you lived off campus, was it difficult to find an apartment and roommate?**
  Almost everyone lived through provided housing, but if you wanted to live in other housing, it was not difficult to find.

- **Were the rooms nicer or not than I.V./UCSB dorms?**
  The ECNU international dorms were really nice, each double room had its own bathroom and there were beds with linens and blankets as well as internet already inside the rooms
The Fudan rooms are a little bit older. You had to get your own bedding, but there were bathrooms for each room with communal kitchens at the end of each hall.

- **Was it more expensive than living in I.V.? How much was a typical rent cost in US dollars?**
  It depends on the rates for that year, but the housing is comparable to IV rent.

- **How/who did you pay for housing?**
  You pay for housing upfront before you move in.

**Food**

- **What was the food like?**
  The food is amazing in China. We always ate really good food, you just have to be kinda adventurous when you are exploring new food places.

- **Where did you eat most of your meals? Cafeterias, restaurants, street vendors, etc?**
  We ate most of our food at local restaurants and from street vendors.

- **How much was an average meal?**
  The average meal was extremely cheap compared to the US. Meaning, you can get a giant bowl of noodles for 7RMB (=1 dollar)

- **What time of day did people eat lunch/dinner?**
  People eat lunch and dinner at similar times than in the US.

- **Would it be difficult for vegetarians to find meals?**
  It wouldn’t be terribly difficult to find vegetarian food, you would just have to make sure you tell all the restaurants that you are vegetarian. (same goes for people with food allergies)

**Travel/Safety**

- **If not discussed above, describe the public transportation system around your host university/city?**
  The public transportation is really good. There are buses, metros, cabs and also pedicabs you can take to get anywhere in the city. Shanghai is really large, so their metro is kinda spread out, but once you get used to using it, it is very convenient.

- **Did you feel safe in your host city? Are there tips you would offer future students?**
  Yes, we all felt really safe. The level of crime is very low in Shanghai except for petty crime, meaning pickpocketing. But that is avoidable if you are aware of your surroundings.

- **Describe the public transportation in your host country?**
  Public transportation is very crowded but efficient. I think they do a far better job with public transportation in Shanghai than anywhere in the US and they do it with much MUCH more people. Living in a crowded city like Shanghai, you have to learn to live with crowded public transportation, which is annoying sometimes, but the public transportation will get you where you need to go cheaply and pretty quickly.

- **Was it difficult/easy to travel to neighboring countries?**
It is very easy to travel to anywhere in China on vacation but going out of the country depends on what kind of visa you hold. If you have a multi-entry visa its really easy to travel out, there are two international airports in Shanghai and many different train stations or bus depots.

**Host City/Country**

- **What was the weather like?**
The weather in Shanghai is varied depending on the season. It is a very very hot, humid and long summer. A short and temperate fall. And a really rainy and cold winter. So when you are packing, you have to pack for lots of different types of weather.

- **Describe your host city…which California/US city is it similar to (if any)?**
  I always describe Shanghai as a mix between the Chinese version of Manhattan and Paris. Global, fast paced, romantic, exciting, as well as a little overwhelming at first until you get used to the pace.

- **What were some interesting/fun things that you did in the host city?**
  There are a million things to do in Shanghai, from exploring the city, sightseeing, shopping, clubbing, amazing restaurants and sports groups. There are a million possibilities.

- **How international was your host city in terms of tourism, cultural diversity, and international businesses?**
  Shanghai is one of the most international cities in Asia. Tourism is extremely strong and cultural diversity in improving. Shanghai is a hub for international business so is really is an interesting place to live. A testament to how international the city is, is the availability of different types of international food to eat. You can pretty much get food from anywhere in the world.

**Culture**

- **Describe the cultural differences that you observed/encountered.**
  - **Time & punctuality**
    People are more on time and punctual than in the US, so its important to remember that.
  - **More formal dress in general, for women, for school, etc?**
    Dress is more formal for women, meaning more covered up.
  - **Alcohol consumption**
    Alcohol consumption is similar to the US.
  - **What culture shock did you go through?**
    Culture shock as far as getting used to living in a new city, but I didn’t really go through that bad of a culture shock because there are many ammenedities that you can get in Shanghai.
  - **Other?**

**Banking**

- **Were credit cards widely accepted?**
  China in general is a cash based society. People rarely if ever swipe cards to purchase anything. Because everyone carries cash, there is a significant amount of counterfeit money that floats around and locals will try to pass it off to you, the visiting foreigner, so you have to be careful about that.

- **Did you open a local bank account? Was it easy?**
  I did not open a local bank account, but some people did and they found it to be generally quite easy.

- **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?**
The two main banks in China are Bank of China and China Construction bank. Both banks have ATMs everywhere. In order to avoid opening a local bank account, it is easy to find sister banks like Bank of America. BOA is a sister bank to China Construction which makes it very easy. Your parents or you can deposit money into your Bank of America checking account and you use your BOA debit card to withdraw money from any Construction Bank ATM without a fee. The ATM automatically converts the dollars to RMB based on the current exchange rate and you pull out the money in China.

- **Were there ATMs on campus?**

I did use the ATMs on campus because they were the wrong bank, but there were Construction Bank ATMs around the corner from both ECNU and Fudan which made it very easy to access money.