



Eligibility

Duke Undergraduates



Date

May 5 - May 14, 2025



Location (China)

Kunshan, Suzhou
Nanjing, Beijing

2025 University Immersion Bootcamp



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"Bridging Cultures and Innovations"

2025 University Immersion Bootcamp for Duke Undergraduates to China

“Bridging Cultures and Innovations”
May 5 – May 14, 2025

The "*2025 University Immersion Bootcamp for Duke Undergraduates to China* " is an enriching educational and cultural exchange program aimed at deepening cultural knowledge and enhancing cross-cultural exchange between China and the United States. This program offers Duke undergraduates a unique opportunity to explore China's vibrant cultural heritage, broaden their global perspectives, and appreciate the value of multiculturalism. By personally visiting cities and regions in China that are symbolically significant, participants will not only witness and experience the unique charm of Chinese culture but also gain firsthand insights into China's rich history, diverse culture, and cutting-edge technological advancements.

Program Objectives:

- **Cultural Immersion:** Embark on a journey through China's most culturally significant cities and regions, including Jiangsu Province and Beijing, to experience the depth and diversity of Chinese culture. From the exquisite gardens of Suzhou to the historical landmarks of Nanjing, and the cultural treasures of Beijing, participants will witness the harmonious blend of tradition and modernity.
- **Global Perspective:** Broaden your worldview by engaging with diverse cultural practices, historical sites, and contemporary innovations. This program aims to foster a deeper understanding of global interconnectedness and the importance of cultural diversity in today's world.
- **Intellectual Exchange:** Participate in forums, academic discussions, and interactive sessions with local experts to reflect on the value of cultural diversity and its role in globalization. These exchanges will not only enhance your cognitive horizons but also inspire you to contribute to international understanding and cooperation.

Program Highlights:

- **Immersive Cultural Experiences:** Explore the delicate gardens of Suzhou, the classical art of Kunshan, the historical depth of Nanjing, and the rich cultural heritage of Beijing. These cities offer a unique blend of historical features, modern industries, and fast-paced urban life, providing participants with a comprehensive understanding of China's past, present, and future.
- **Academic and Intellectual Engagement:** Engage in forums and academic discussions that will challenge your thinking and broaden your perspective. Interact with local experts and fellow participants to share insights and reflections on the value of cultural diversity in the age of globalization.

- **Personal Growth and Development:** This program is not just an excursion; it is an opportunity for personal growth and development. By stepping out of your comfort zone and immersing yourself in a new culture, you will gain valuable skills and experiences that will serve you well in your future academic and professional endeavors.

Herein, we would like to extend an invitation to outstanding undergraduates from Duke University to join us in a journey of discovery and learning in China, where they can freely exhibit their creativity and insights.

Specific details of the program are as follows:

1. Event Schedule for 2025

Program Dates: May 5 to May 14, 2025

Students will arrive at Shanghai Pudong Airport on May 5 and will then check in at Duke Kunshan University. The program concludes on the afternoon of May 14 in Beijing and return arrangements are organized later the same day.

2. Locations

Kunshan, Suzhou, Nanjing, and Beijing

3. Program Organizers/Supporters

Program organizer: Duke Kunshan University (DKU)

Supporters: China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE), Jiangsu Foreign Affairs Office (JFAO), and Jiangsu Education Department (JED).

4. Event Format and Methodology

The activities will consist of cultural tours across Kunshan, Suzhou, Nanjing and Beijing, including field research, seminars, and sharing sessions, among various other rich and interactive events (see Attachment 1 for details). Expert-guided lectures and group work will take the young scholars through a temporal corridor, showcasing the fusion of tradition and modernity and deepening cross-cultural communications and understanding while enhancing their capacities to engage in international dialogues as global citizens. The main working language of the event will be English. A closing ceremony will be held at the end of the activities, and participants will be awarded certificates of participation.

5. Eligibility:

Up to 100 undergraduates from Duke University will be selected, without restrictions on nationalities or field of study.

Note: Candidates should exemplify strong personal attributes and an inclination for fostering intercultural youth fellowship. Students who are eager to learn about China and Chinese cultures are preferred. Participants are expected to be in sound health, respect legal and event rules, and commit to full attendance.

A passport that is valid for at least 6 months after the end of the program (approx. Nov 14, 2025) and has two blank visa pages is required for selected students. If your passport doesn't meet these criteria, consider applying to renew it as soon as possible.

6. Program Costs

DKU will directly cover program fees and essential costs incurred during the program, including insurance, transportation costs within China, accommodations, meals, and program activities. DKU expects to secure funding for international flights for participants, up to a maximum of \$2,000 USD per student. In the event airfare funding will not be available, students will be required to pay for flights out of pocket.

Students will be responsible for their visa costs and processing fees, any additional costs resulting from airfare price differences, and other personal expenditures.

7. International Flights

DKU and participants will work with China-based travel agent CITS or its designated agent to book flights for the program, arriving at Shanghai Pudong International Airport on May 5 and departing Beijing Capital International Airport (PEK) on May 14. If DKU covers flight costs up to \$2,000 USD/student, payment will be made directly to the travel agent on behalf of students.

8. Application Process

Interested students are directed to scan the QR code to access the application form and submit the necessary details. Applicants will be notified of decisions on a rolling basis.

Application Deadline: Beijing time 11:30AM, Tuesday, March 10, 2025.

Please Scan the QR code to sign in:



Or you may sign in using the link below directly:

https://duke.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4GiEt2ouVHYionk

2025 University Immersion Bootcamp for Duke Undergraduates to China Tentative Agenda*

*(*Subject to Change)*

Time	Event	Location
Monday, May 5, 2025		
pm	<u>Land at Shanghai Pudong International Airport (PVG)</u> <u>Depart for Kunshan</u> <u>Check-in at Duke Kunshan University (DKU)</u>	Shanghai Pudong International Airport No. 8 Duke Avenue, Kunshan, Jiangsu
Tuesday, May 6, 2025		
8:00-9:00	<u>Breakfast</u>	Community Center, DKU
9:00-11:15	<u>Opening Ceremony</u> <u>Welcome Remarks</u> University Leadership Senior Officials from Jiangsu Faculty/Student Representatives <u>Keynote speech and exchange of views by professors from DKU</u> Lecture 1 – TBD Lecture 2 - TBD	Theatre, Community Center, DKU
11:15-11:45	<u>DKU Campus Tour</u> Route: Academic Building – Library – Sports Complex – Community Center – Lunch	DKU

11:45–13:00	<u>Lunch at DKU</u>	Community Center, DKU
13:30–14:30	<u>Visiting the Chinese Opera Museum</u> Presenting the charm of traditional Chinese Opera and Kun Opera	No. 2 Bingdilian Road, Bacheng Town, Kunshan, Jiangsu
14:45	<u>Depart for Suzhou</u>	
15:45–18:00	<u>Visiting Pingjiang Historical Street</u> Experience intangible heritage culture	No. 43 Quanfu Road, Kunshan, Jiangsu
18:00–20:30	<u>Dinner at Pingjiang Historical Street and Free Exploration</u>	
20:30	<u>Return to DKU</u>	DKU
Wednesday, May 7, 2025		
8:00–9:00	<u>Breakfast & Check-out</u>	Community Center, DKU
9:00–13:00	<u>Seminar & Group Discussion at DKU</u> <i>TBD.</i>	
14:00–16:00	<u>Transfer to Nanjing by Train (~2h)</u>	From Kunshan South Station
16:00–17:30	<u>Check-in Hanvuan Hotel - Nanjing Agricultural University</u>	Hanyuan Hotel
18:00	<u>Free time</u>	
8:00–9:00	<u>Breakfast</u>	Hanyuan Hotel
Thursday, May 8, 2025		
9:30–10:30	<u>Visiting Nanjing Anti-Japanese Memorial Hall</u>	
11:00–12:00	<u>Visiting The Oriental Metropolitan Museum</u>	

12:00–13:30	<u>Lunch at Nanjing University</u>	
13:30-15:00	<u>Seminar at Nanjing University JHU Center</u>	
15:30–17:00	<u>Visiting Xiaoxihu Historic Area</u> Experience the intangible heritage of Qinhuai lamp color production	
17:30–21:00	<u>Visiting Laomendong & Dinner & Free Exploration</u>	
21:00	<u>Back to Hotel</u>	Hanyuan Hotel
Friday, May 9, 2025		
8:00–9:00	<u>Breakfast</u>	Hanyuan Hotel
10:00–12:30	<u>Visiting JITRI and China-US Youth Dialogue at JITRI</u>	
12:30–13:30	<u>Lunch at JITRI</u>	
14:00–14:30	<u>Visiting Nanjing Normal University</u>	
15:00–17:00	<u>Seminar and Group Discussion by Assigned Topic</u> At Nanjing Normal University	
18:00	<u>Dinner at Nanjing Normal University</u>	
Saturday, May 10, 2025		
8:00–9:00	<u>Breakfast & Check-out</u>	Hanyuan Hotel
9:00–12:00	<u>Transportation from Nanjing to Beijing</u>	
12:00-13:00	<u>Check-in Beijing Hotel</u>	Beijing Hotel TBD
14:00-15:00	<u>Relaxing time in Hotel</u>	
15:30-17:00	<u>Visiting Yenching Academy of Peking University</u> Tour & Group Discussion	

Sunday, May 11, 2025		
7:00-8:00	<u>Breakfast</u>	Beijing Hotel TBD.
8:00-9:00	<u>Departing for Great Wall</u>	
9:30-14:30	<u>Visiting Great Wall</u>	
14:30-15:30	<u>Heading to Tsinghua University</u>	
15:30-17:30	<u>Visiting Schwarzman College of Tsinghua University</u> Tour & Group Discussion	
18:00	<u>Dinner & Return to Hotel</u>	Beijing Hotel TBD.
Monday, May 12, 2025		
8:00-9:00	<u>Breakfast</u>	
10:00-12:30	<u>Visiting Yenching Academy of Peking University</u> Tour & Group Discussion	
12:30-13:30	<u>Lunch</u>	
14:30-19:30	<u>Hutong Cultural Experience & Dinner & Free Exploration</u>	
19:30	<u>Return to Hotel</u>	Beijing Hotel TBD.
Tuesday, May 13, 2025		
8:00-9:00	<u>Breakfast</u>	Beijing Hotel TBD.
9:00-11:00	<u>Group Presentation</u>	Beijing Hotel TBD.
11:00-12:00	<u>Closing Ceremony</u>	TBD
12:00-13:00	<u>Lunch</u>	

14:00-17:00	<u>Visiting the Palace Museum</u>	
18:30	<u>Dinner</u>	
Wednesday, May 14, 2025		
	<u>Depart from Beijing Capital International Airport (PEK)</u>	Beijing Capital International Airport

Seminar Participation

Each student will choose (or will be assigned) one of the following two topics as their primary program focus. Students will be expected to participate in seminar discussions throughout the program and will prepare wrap-up group presentation based on their selection.

Topic A: Urban Green Spaces and Environmental Resilience

Cities like Suzhou, Nanjing, Kunshan, and Beijing have demonstrated exceptional commitment to incorporating green spaces within their urban landscapes. These green spaces, ranging from traditional gardens in Suzhou to cutting-edge ecological parks in Kunshan, urban forests in Nanjing, and expansive green belts in Beijing, serve multiple purposes. This topic explores how urban green spaces enhance biodiversity, mitigate urban heat islands, and provide recreational opportunities for residents.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do urban green spaces in cities like Suzhou, Nanjing, Kunshan, and Beijing contribute to improving air quality, mitigating the urban heat island effect, and promoting biodiversity? What specific ecological and environmental benefits have been observed?
2. What are the social and economic impacts of urban green spaces in these cities? How do they affect property values, community cohesion, and residents' overall quality of life? Are there any observed differences in these impacts based on the size, location, and type of green space?
3. What are the unique challenges faced by rapidly urbanizing cities in preserving and expanding green spaces? How do issues such as land scarcity, population density, and competing land uses influence the development and management of urban green spaces? What innovative strategies have been employed to overcome these challenges?

4. How can urban green spaces be designed and managed to maximize their environmental and social benefits while also addressing issues such as water conservation, stormwater management, and climate adaptation? What are the best practices and case studies from cities around the world that can be applied to Chinese cities?
5. What are the policy and governance frameworks in place to support the development and maintenance of urban green spaces in these cities? How effective are these policies in promoting green space creation and preservation, and what improvements or additions could be made to enhance their effectiveness?
6. How can urban green spaces be integrated into the broader urban planning and design process to ensure that they are accessible, equitable, and well-utilized by all residents? What are the key considerations and strategies for ensuring that green spaces serve as inclusive and welcoming public spaces for diverse communities?

Topic B: Public Health and Sustainable Urban Living

The cities of Suzhou, Nanjing, Kunshan, and Beijing face unique public health challenges as they adapt to rapid urbanization. Issues such as air pollution, lifestyle-related diseases, and aging populations require innovative solutions. Beijing, in particular, has grappled with severe air quality issues due to its size and industrial activity, making its strategies for pollution control a valuable case study for other cities. This topic examines how urban planning, public health policies, and sustainable living initiatives can improve overall health outcomes and quality of life for residents.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are the specific health impacts of air pollution in Suzhou, Nanjing, Kunshan, and Beijing, and how do these vary across different age groups, socioeconomic statuses, and urban versus suburban areas? Consider factors such as respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, overall mortality rates, and the underlying causes of these variations.
2. How effective are current policies and initiatives in mitigating air pollution and promoting sustainable transportation in these cities? Evaluate the implementation, enforcement, and impact of emissions regulations, green transportation programs (like electric vehicles and bike-sharing), and urban greening projects on air quality, public health, and sustainable living.
3. What design elements and policy measures make public transportation systems in cities like Beijing more effective in fostering sustainable urban living and minimizing health risks? Analyze the roles of accessibility, affordability, connectivity, and integration with other transportation modes in increasing public transportation usage, reducing private vehicle dependency, and improving health outcomes.
4. How can urban planning and design strategies promote healthy lifestyles and address public health challenges associated with aging populations in cities like

Nanjing and Beijing? Investigate the importance of age-friendly design features, such as recreational facilities, safe cycling and walking paths, and accessible healthcare services, in creating inclusive and healthy urban environments.

5. What are the benefits and challenges of fostering local food systems and markets in Suzhou, Nanjing, Kunshan, and Beijing for public health and sustainable urban living? Explore how access to fresh, locally-produced food contributes to better nutrition, reduced food miles, and support for local economies, while also analyzing the obstacles to establishing and maintaining these systems.
6. What best practices and lessons learned from Nanjing's public health campaigns and Beijing's efforts to address the needs of an aging population can be applied to other cities? Identify successful initiatives and strategies that have improved public health outcomes, healthcare access, and social support systems for older adults, and discuss their potential for adaptation and scalability in different urban contexts.