



**NANYANG
TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY**

College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences



NTU International Summer School in China Programme 2012

Programme Report

Prepared by: College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University
Updated: October 2012

Content

Message from the Dean	1
Executive Summary	2
Updates and Outcomes	2
Logistical Details	2
Faculty Members	2
Students	3
Academic Courses	3
Study Tour	4
Cultural Courses and Exchange Activities	4
Other Experiences	4
Academic Results	5
Estimated Expenditure per Student	5
Acknowledgment of Sponsors	5
Feedback from Faculty and Students	6

Message from the Dean

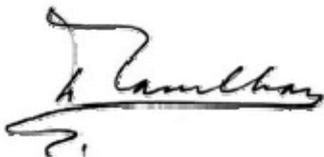
The inaugural run of the NTU International Summer School in China Programme concluded successfully on 5 August 2012. This was a novel experiment in global education and student feedback has been tremendously positive. It would not have been possible without the kind support of university partners and donors.

This report highlights the activities and outcomes of the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences' (HASS) effort to offer Singapore, China and international students a truly international learning opportunity in China. All 28 students left the Summer School with a deeper understanding of China, and of Singapore's effort in promoting sustainable urban development. This was certainly evident to students when they visited the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-City.

Once again, on behalf of all the students and faculty members who participated in and benefitted from the Summer School this year, I extend my heartfelt thanks to all university partners and donors for your support.

Although the Summer School is only less than a year old, committed partners have been vital to the programme's burgeoning success. Today our international partners' support remains more important than ever. I look forward to existing university partners' continued support and new partners' active engagement as we plan for the International Summer School in China Programme 2013!

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. K. L. Chan', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Professor Alan K.L. Chan
Dean
College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences

Executive Summary

The inaugural run of the International Summer School in China Programme started officially on 30 June 2012, as 28 students, four faculty members, and one graduate student assistant hailing from Singapore, United States and Canada made their way to Tianjin, China.



Summer School students in Tianjin City, China

The 28 students from Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore; Tianjin University and Nankai University, China; Bryn Mawr College and Haverford College, United States; as well as University of Toronto, Canada, took part in the five-week programme, held on the campus of Tianjin University.

Each student took two credit-bearing courses, interdisciplinary in nature, in comparative cultures and city and space, both team-taught by NTU and Bryn Mawr faculty. They also participated in a one-week study tour, which took them to places such as the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-City (SSTEC) and the historic city of Pingyao in Shanxi Province, China.



Summer School students in Pingyao, China

The College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS), NTU, has started planning for the second edition of the Summer School, possibly with more universities participating. New courses will be added as the programme expands.

Updates and Outcomes

The following sections contain updates on the entire programme, throughout the five weeks in Tianjin, from 30 June to 5 August 2012.

Logistical Details

Date and place

Period: 30 June to 5 August 2012 (5 weeks)

Venue: Tianjin, China

Host University

Tianjin University

No.92 Weijin Road, Nankai District

Tianjin, P.R. China, 300072

(Most classes, except study tour, will be conducted on campus)

Accommodation

Start Epoch Hotel (启元大酒店), a facility of the Tianjin University

No. 276 West Anshan Road (Anshan Xi Dao), Nankai District

Tianjin, P.R. China, 300073

Room-type: Standard Room, twin-sharing

Faculty Members

Professors Francis Lim and Daniel Jernigan of NTU participated in the programme as course leaders, together with Professors Gary McDonogh and Cindy Wong of Bryn Mawr College.



From left: Professors Francis Lim, Daniel Jernigan, Cindy Wong, and Gary McDonogh

Professor Francis Lim co-taught a course with Professor Gary McDonogh called Space Place and the City. The class dealt with public and private spaces, memory, tourism, and issues of the public sphere.



Prof McDonogh teaches onsite during the study trip to Beijing

The other course, which ran concurrently, was Cultural Encounters: Understanding and Deconstructing East and West. This class combined film studies and literary analysis in a discussion of Orientalism, Occidentalism, and related debates, and was co-taught by Professors Daniel Jernigan and Cindy Wong.

Besides being the course leader for Cultural Encounters, Professor Daniel Jernigan was also the resident faculty who stayed in Tianjin for all five weeks to assist students academically, and to some extent, socially.

Students

A total of 28 students participated in the programme, with the breakdown as follows:

- 15 students from NTU, Singapore,
- 3 students from Tianjin University, China
- 3 students from Nankai University, China
- 3 students from Bryn Mawr College, United States
- 3 students from Haverford College, United States
- 1 student from University of Toronto, Canada

Originally two students from Toronto registered for the programme, but one had to withdraw due to unforeseen circumstances. From NTU, we went through a stringent selection process to identify students with a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 3.5 and above, with the majority having CGPA of above 4.0. Preference was given to students who demonstrated a strong interest in Asian studies, China, and in acquiring an international experience.

All 28 students were from very diverse academic disciplines, ranging from arts and humanities, social sciences, business, and science.

Academic Courses

Two credit bearing courses were offered, and both were mandatory for all students.

These included:

- HL8201 Cultural Encounters: Understanding and Deconstructing East and West; and
- HS8201 Space Place and the City

Cultural Encounters: Understanding and Deconstructing East and West

This course introduced students to the new global reality and interrogated constructed dichotomies by examining cinema from Hollywood, Hong Kong, China and Europe in order to better understand processes of representation, differentiation and convergence. During the course students came to understand that this encounter was not new by being introduced to the travels of Marco Polo, the idealisations of the east of Romantic poets and also came to understand how these attitudes continued to have impact in contemporary literature.



Prof Jernigan discusses cultural dichotomies in class by examining cinema from East and West

Space Place and the City

This course engaged students in a variety of experiences and discussions of the nature of space and place in the city –the abstract forms and geometries as well as social and cultural constructions of meanings that shape urban life from intimacy to internet. To do so, faculty and students weaved together readings, site visits and reflections upon the varied experiences students brought to the class, linking readings with reflections on Asia, North America and Europe as well as the host cities of Tianjin and weekend travels. Students contemplated topics such as the relation of public and private, the nature of individual and collective experience, constructions of inclusion and exclusion, meanings of religion and secularity, and the changes they experienced in real and virtual spaces.

Students participated actively by weekly reflections and a final project drawing on these materials.



Prof Lim reviews with students their study trip experiences in Pingyao, in relation to the concept of urban space and place

Study Tour

A key feature of the Summer School was the out-of-class study which was an integral part of each course.

These trips were part of the academic courses, which involved both traditional classroom learning and experiential learning. Faculty-led tours provided students first-hand opportunities to investigate other cultures, enhancing academic development.

Specifically, the study tours spanned over three weekends, or nine days, and have exposed students to both Chinese culture and contemporary developments in China.



The students are duly impressed by both the Binhai New Area and Beijing Urban Planning Exhibition Halls

Central to the study tour was a visit to the Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-City, which was kindly hosted by the Keppel team in Tianjin, on 14 July 2012.

Cultural Courses and Cultural Exchange Activities

The Summer School offered students two optional cultural courses in Chinese Culinary and *Taiji*. Each course provided 90 minutes per week of instruction; students were taught by instructors from Tianjin University.



Aspiring *taiji* enthusiasts trying to keep up with the Chinese instructor (lady in green, obscured from view in photo)

HASS has also arranged for Tianjin University and Nankai University to identify student ambassadors who had been instrumental in introducing to the Summer School students local culture and way of life. A series of cultural exchange activities took place after school, mostly in the evenings, where Singapore, Chinese and international students gather. Students benefitted greatly from these informal gatherings.



Students and Chinese university ambassadors having fun at one of the cultural exchange activities

Other Experiences

Besides cultivating a deeper understanding of China's historical and contemporary developments and the Chinese culture, students from different countries have forged strong friendships. Outside the classroom, students bonded together in various activities, where lifelong friendships were forged, networks were established and memories were made.



Food Glorious Food! Students having a go at street food behind their hotel in Tianjin



Students embrace one another and shed parting tears just before the first group of Singapore and international students depart from Tianjin on 4 August evening

There is no doubt in our minds that engagement with China is critical to Singapore's continued economic growth. Through the Summer School, we believe we have nurtured a group of potential future leaders who can engage China and foster closer ties between Singapore and China.

Academic Results

Most of the 28 students did relatively well in the two courses. For the course on cultural encounters, 68% of the students (19 students) scored a B+ and above. The corresponding number for the course on Space Place and the City stood at 71% (20 students). This is no small achievement for both the faculty and students given the depth of the curricula, the amount of readings, and more importantly, the vast diversity in students' academic disciplines.

Estimated Expenditure per Student

With the generous support from donors like Keppel Corporation, Dou Yee International Pte Ltd, Hong Leong Foundation, Lee Foundation, NTU sponsored the S\$3,500 programme fees for local students, through a scholarship. As a result of such sponsorship, each NTU student expended slightly less than S\$2,000 in exchange for an invaluable academic and cultural experience in China.

Estimated expenses of each NTU student

Estimated Expenses (S\$)	S\$
Programme Fees	
Tuition Fee (2 courses at \$700 per course)	S\$1,400
Study Tour	S\$600
Cultural Courses	S\$100
Hostel Accommodation (\$40 per day for 5 weeks)	S\$1,400

Estimated Expenses (S\$)	S\$
Total Programme Fees	S\$3,500
Miscellaneous Expenses	
Meals (\$3 per meal for 3 meals per day for 5 weeks)	S\$315
Books, personal expenses, etc	S\$100
Air ticket	S\$1,200
Visa – Business Visa (F), Single Entry	S\$50
Medical Insurance	S\$100
Total Miscellaneous Expenses	S\$1,765
Total	S\$5,265

Acknowledgment of Sponsors



As part of NTU's commitment to recognise our sponsors for their unfaltering support, we have announced to students, through the Summer School brochure, our generous sponsors.

Additionally, we have also acknowledged sponsors in speeches made by the Dean of HASS, at all Summer

School events. Besides faculty and students, these events were well attended by senior staff and officials from both Tianjin and Nankai Universities.



Prof Alan Chan, Dean, HASS, welcomes Chinese University officials and Summer School students, on 1 July 2012



Dr Li Qiang, Party Branch Secretary, School of International Education, Tianjin University (left) with Prof Alan Chan, Dean, HASS (right), at the Summer School Closing Ceremony, on 4 August 2012

Feedback

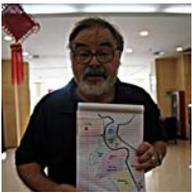
From faculty and staff



"I really do think that NTU has a good opportunity to accomplish something very nice as this project goes forward. Just as Singapore is well situated to serve as a kind of cultural/business mediator for all

things political/industrial between China and the West – I think that one of the strengths of this program is along the same lines, as the Singapore students serve as nice go-betweens culturally and linguistically for the North American students as the encounter China for the first time – even while adding Tianjin students to the mix means that all of the students (Singaporean and North American) are inevitably forced out of their comfort zones to connect with China in numerous in diverse ways."

Prof Daniel Jernigan, NTU



"Visiting Beijing was an amazing learning opportunity for the class... It was great when we were talking about public and private space to be able to collectively reflect on the experience and to see how

everyone's culture and past experiences informed various ideas.

Tianjin had more concessions in its history than any other Chinese port city and much of the architecture and planning from the period still remains... Tianjin really allowed students to see China's history played out in its buildings."

Prof Gary McDonogh, Bryn Mawr College



"This summer school is quite distinctive. I don't know of any others that are quite like it, and very few that are even vaguely similar. There are summer schools based at

institutions where an international group of students come on their own volition to be taught by faculty from that institution. But deliberately putting together an international group of faculty who will team-teach to a group of students selected to represent a range of countries, so as to engender fully cross-national insights—this is pretty unusual."

Susan Sutton, Senior Advisor for International Initiatives, Bryn Mawr College

Feedback

From students



"... For the weekend trips in particular I enjoyed the tour of Tianjin eco-city, where I learnt quite a bit from the Singaporeans working there regarding the construction of an eco-city out of wastelands, a remarkable feat in itself."

Teo Seow Tian, NBS, NTU



"Everything has been great so far - we are enjoying ourselves on the tours and the lessons are interesting."

Jeremy Sng, WKWSCl, NTU



"It was a wonderful experience. We really got into some very interesting cultural exchanges with our fellow students both inside and outside the classroom. Having the Singaporean students involved was great because they're bilingual and were able to help all of us communicate with one another."

Briana Alterman, Bryn Mawr College



"I found the experience very interesting because of the diversity in not only nationality but educational background. We had students studying cities, journalism, business, communications, and more."

Maruyi Lu, Bryn Mawr College



"Everything is going well here, a little hectic at times but it's all part of the experience."

Alizee Zapparoli-Manzoni-Bodson, UOT



"I do like this summer programme. It provided me not only an opportunity to learn more knowledge and gain more experience, but also learn about some difference between our cultures, education and so on."

Xia Bi Xuan, Nankai University

NTU International Summer School in China Programme

Office of the Dean

College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences

Nanyang Technological University

Level 5, 14 Nanyang Drive, Singapore 637332

Email: d-hass@ntu.edu.sg | Tel: +65 6790 6792 | GMT+8h

Website: www.cohass.ntu.edu.sg