# 2010-11 Spring Study Abroad Evaluation

**Nanjing, China**

## Page 1, Q3. Major

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>Sep 20, 2011 2:19 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>DWA</td>
<td>Jun 15, 2011 11:30 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Page 1, Q4. Program (City, Country, Program Sponsor)

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Nanjing, China, CIEE</td>
<td>Sep 20, 2011 2:19 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Nanjing, China, CIEE</td>
<td>Jun 15, 2011 11:30 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Page 2, Q2. To what extent did you succeed in accomplishing your goals? Why did you succeed or not?

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>I was able to learn Chinese (and use it) in a more practical setting - daily life, communicating with teachers, getting to know my host family, etc.</td>
<td>Sep 20, 2011 2:21 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>very successful</td>
<td>Jun 15, 2011 11:30 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Page 3, Q1. How many students were on the program?

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>25-30</td>
<td>Sep 20, 2011 2:25 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>around 24</td>
<td>Jun 15, 2011 11:31 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Page 3, Q2. How many Oxy students?

1  3  
2  3  

Page 3, Q3. Please comment on the goals and academic abilities of your fellow students. How were they similar/dissimilar to yours?

1  I was not pursuing an academic major while in China - I went for more personal/heritage-seeking reasons. Most of my fellow students were International Relations or Asian Studies majors. But I think my experience was just as fulfilling, if not more.  
2  everyone was mostly on the same page  

Page 3, Q4. Describe the background of your classmates, e.g., all Americans, all Oxy students.

1  All Americans, but from all across the country and different backgrounds. Besides Oxy students, there were several students from Soka University, the other students didn't previously know each other.  
2  mostly americans, one japanese girl and a brazilian guy  

Page 3, Q5. Describe your housing situation.

1  I lived with a local host family who had been doing the program for 4 years - I was their 8th student. I lived with a mom, dad, little sister, and "ayi" who primarily cooked the meals and did the cleaning. It was a 30-minute walk/15-minute bike ride from school located right near the downtown area - near shopping and the Nanjing Metro.  
2  lived in a nice homestay with a Sichuanese couple. Their daughter lived nearby with her husband, they spoke a little bit of english, which was very helpful in the beginning  

Page 4, Q2. In which of the following did you participate:

1  Taught English for free (many students did this as a source of income).  

Sep 20, 2011 2:25 PM  
Jun 15, 2011 11:31 AM
### Page 4, Q3. List any courses and/or professors you would recommend.

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>the courses are mandatory, but all the teachers were great.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Page 4, Q4. List any courses and/or professors you would suggest avoiding.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>the culture class sucked</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Page 6, Q2. Did you contact Oxy alum living abroad as part of the Alumni and Study Abroad Partnership Program (ASAPP)?

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
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<tr>
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<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Page 6, Q3. What strategies can you recommend for meeting locals and making friends?

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>If you choose to live in the dorms, you will most likely get to know the Chinese roommates really well and get to know their friends. If you live with a host family, do as many activities with them and opportunities will open up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>don't be shy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Page 6, Q4. Were there aspects of the culture with which you were not comfortable?

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Daily traffic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>the entire lack of raw vegetables and the need to cook everything in oil was occasionally hard to stomach.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Page 6, Q5. What suggestions do you have for future participants for engaging with the culture?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Suggestion</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Keep an open-mind, try to see things from a non-Wester perspective, get outside of your comfort zone and realize that if you get used to being uncomfortable it won't be so uncomforting.</td>
<td>Sep 20, 2011 2:29 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>don't go in with any eating criteria, just eat what's put in front of you</td>
<td>Jun 15, 2011 11:34 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Page 7, Q1. How much did you spend on airfare to/from your program?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>Sep 20, 2011 2:33 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$1000 roundtrip</td>
<td>Jun 15, 2011 11:37 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Page 7, Q3. What was the approximate exchange rate during your stay?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Exchange Rate</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6.5 RMB to 1 USD</td>
<td>Sep 20, 2011 2:33 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1 USD = 6.87 CNY</td>
<td>Jun 15, 2011 11:37 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Page 7, Q4. How much did you spend on books and supplies?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>100-200 RMB</td>
<td>Sep 20, 2011 2:33 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>nothing</td>
<td>Jun 15, 2011 11:37 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Page 7, Q5. How much did you spend on local transportation to/from daily class?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Sep 20, 2011 2:33 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$16 USD</td>
<td>Jun 15, 2011 11:37 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Page 7, Q6. How much did you spend on personal travel during your time abroad? Please specify length and nature of your personal travel.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>approximately $500 Personal transportation costs: train to/from Shanghai plane</td>
<td>Sep 20, 2011 2:33 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Page 7, Q6. How much did you spend on personal travel during your time abroad? Please specify length and nature of your personal travel.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$1500 USD, by train to Shanghai and Beijing and by airplane to Thailand.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Page 7, Q7. Describe how you took your meals, e.g., groceries prepared in kitchen, dining hall etc., and how much you spent on meals weekly, not including, bars, clubs etc.?

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<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Homestay provided breakfast/dinner every day of the week. I spent approx $20 USD/week on lunches.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Breakfasts and dinners were provided by my host family, I bought lunch every day for around $3 USD.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Page 7, Q8. What would you recommend as a minimum monthly budget for incidental expenses, excluding travel? Please include recommendations for such items as: local transportation to/from daily class, telephone calls, internet, laundry, museums, concerts, movies, cafes, restaurants, pubs and clubs.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$300/month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Page 7, Q9. How do you recommend taking your money abroad? Did you open a local bank account?

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bank of America and China Construction Bank have a partnership that doesn't charge BOA customers with a foreign transaction fee if you use your debit card. There are CCB ATMs all around the city and it's pretty convenient. There's a 1,000 RMB daily withdrawal limit, but that's a lot of money!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Credit/Debit card from Bank of America is the best way</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Page 8, Q1. What sort of items or clothing did you take along and then find you did not need?

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<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Toiletries and personal grooming items are readily available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Page 8, Q2. What did you take that you found most useful?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Winter clothes</td>
<td>Sep 20, 2011 2:36 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>khaki pants</td>
<td>Jun 15, 2011 11:39 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Page 8, Q3. What do you wish you had brought along?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>More gifts for homestay/teachers/local friends</td>
<td>Sep 20, 2011 2:36 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>warmer clothes for the first month</td>
<td>Jun 15, 2011 11:39 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Page 8, Q4. Were there any items you wanted that you were unable to obtain?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Deoderant</td>
<td>Sep 20, 2011 2:36 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>Jun 15, 2011 11:39 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Page 8, Q5. In general, how would you describe the weather in the area in which your program was based?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Extremely cold in winter; extremely humid and muggy during spring/summer</td>
<td>Sep 20, 2011 2:36 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>freezing at first, really really hot by the end</td>
<td>Jun 15, 2011 11:39 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Page 8, Q6. Did you have access to computers and/or email? If so, please describe what type of computer services you used. Did you use your Oxy email?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bought a personal VPN service that worked pretty well throughout the semester despite occasional internet upsets</td>
<td>Sep 20, 2011 2:36 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>I had to buy a VPN to get around the Chinese firewall, so access to the internet was limited, but I was able to use my oxy email.</td>
<td>Jun 15, 2011 11:39 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Page 10, Q1. Any suggestions to the IPO for improving Occidental’s on-campus orientation or other services?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Suggestion</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>maybe have students that went already prepare a standard meal from their time</td>
<td>Jun 15, 2011 11:41 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Page 10, Q1. Any suggestions to the IPO for improving Occidental’s on-campus orientation or other services?

- abroad during the small group orientation

### Page 10, Q2. What information about your program could be emphasized more to prospective applicants?

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>how the Chinese gov't might impact your stay</td>
<td>Jun 15, 2011 11:41 AM</td>
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</table>

### Page 10, Q3. Describe the overall strengths and weaknesses of the program.

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</table>
| 1 | **Strengths:** weekend trips, language classes, living arrangements, location  
**Weaknesses:** culture course, opportunities to push you off-campus, not really part of the university setting | Sep 20, 2011 2:38 PM |
| 2 | strengths in accomplishing the language growth and interacting with locals, weaknesses in the culture class. | Jun 15, 2011 11:41 AM |

### Page 10, Q4. Do you have any suggestions for the program director(s) and/or staff off-campus?

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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>nope</td>
<td>Jun 15, 2011 11:41 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Page 10, Q5. For what sorts of students, if any, would you recommend this program?

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>people who want to learn Chinese</td>
<td>Jun 15, 2011 11:41 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Page 10, Q6. Are there students you would especially recommend not enrolling in this program?

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>picky eaters</td>
<td>Jun 15, 2011 11:41 AM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>