



Pierce College Study Tour 2025

China

SEPT. 5- SEPT.17 2025

5 credits: HIS 280 Intro to Chinese Civilization

Study Tour Information Packet – China

*Sept.5 – Sept. 17, 2025

Fall Quarter 2025 HIS 280

Faculty leaders: Liu Yang and Nichole Nicholson

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in studying in China! The 2025 Study Tour to China is an academic program that will take students to Huangshan and Shanghai. In Shanghai, we will visit Yu Garden and City God Temple. Huangshan is known for inspiring Chinese art and literature. Students will visit two UNESCO World Heritage sites: Hongcun and Mt. Huangshan. They will also participate in various classes and cultural activities at Huangshan University. Our visit will include cultural and historic sites, such as Huangmei Opera, Huangmei Opera, Tunxi Old Street, Jingdezhen (the Porcelain capital), and notable villages (Hongcun, Lucun, and Tangmo). Students do not need a background in Chinese History or language studies. All students are welcome to apply!

What is a Study Tour Program?

Study Tour programs combine the excitement of studying abroad with the academic expertise of classes taught by Pierce College faculty in a short time frame. You will have the opportunity to earn Pierce College credits while studying in another country. Study tours are short, 7-12 days long, and they offer more flexibility and affordability to students than more traditional quarter or semester long study abroad programs. Longer term study abroad programs are available through the Washington State Community College Consortium for Study Abroad (<https://www.wcccsa.com>).

Academic Content

Students participating in this study tour are required to enroll in History 280: Intro to Chinese Civilization for Fall Quarter 2025. You will be earning these credits before and during the Study Tour, but they will count toward Fall Quarter. Before applying, we recommend checking with your academic advisor to ensure the program courses fit with your academic plan. Please see the end of this packet for the full learning outcomes for History 280.

Students who have already taken History 280 will have the opportunity to take this study tour program as CMST &240: Intercultural Communication. Students must obtain approval for taking CMST &240 instead of HIST 280 from the program faculty directors.

NON-Pierce College Students: you must apply and register as a Pierce College Student to enroll in the Study Tour Courses. Please follow this link to apply: <https://www.pierce.ctc.edu/apply-admission>.

Please also fill out the Study Tour application and turn it in by the deadline. After you have received your Pierce College ID, you may register for the Study Tour course. Being accepted into the program reserves your spot in the Study Tour courses.

Course Schedule

Register for **HIS 280 or CMST& 240**, which will be a FALL 2025 class (5 credits). Course will meet in person and online in Canvas prior to departure and after returning from China. We will have required in-person orientation activities which will be announced at a later date. The course will include introductions, lectures, discussion, and travel preparation. Academic activities will be intensive during the time spent in China.

What Will We Be Doing?

Learning through unique cultural experiences, and instruction by Pierce College faculty members, and faculty, staff, and students of the host institution.

Weekly Schedule:

This Study Tour is an academic program grounded in experiential learning. Class may be held in a local village or restaurant, or at a local tourist site or partner university. The goal is to provide an enriching cultural experience while still meeting all the course outcomes and credit hours.

Please be aware, to meet this program's academic objectives, we will have a full schedule throughout the study tour. You can expect to have most of the hours in your day occupied by cultural excursions, class time, social outings, and specially planned tourist activities. If you want a unique cultural experience with the opportunity to learn about your host nation with and from local residents, and earn 5 credits through an engaging course curriculum, then this is the program for you.

Expectations for Students on the 2025 Study Tour to China

We expect that all participants fully engage in all aspects of this Study Tour. Being a Study Tour participant requires time, energy, and commitment, including meeting requirements before, during, and after the Study Tour. Below are details about what we expect of Study Tour participants:

We Expect That You Will...

- Purchase your own airfare.
- Share a room with another student member of the program.
- Be responsible for paying for your meals not included in the itinerary. More specific information about meals costs will be provided later.
- Attend ALL pre-travel activities and meetings. These meetings will help you become familiar with the culture of China and learn some of the do's and don'ts while on the study tour.
- Participate actively in all aspects of the study tour, including classes, reflection, and activities. You will respect others in your group and be willing to cooperate. You will be flexible, open-minded, and responsible as a representative of Pierce College.
- Have a valid passport, which will not expire within 6 months of the travel dates. If you are applying for a new or renewed passport, begin the process as soon as you confirm your enrollment in the program. It can take 12 weeks (about 3 months) to get your passport. You are financially responsible for the costs associated with obtaining your passport. Failure to obtain your passport in time and submit a copy to the International Education office by the deadline will result in termination of your enrollment in the program. You will be held financially responsible for any portion of the program paid according to the cancellation schedule.

- Adhere to the Pierce College Code of Conduct at all times. You are a representative of the College while abroad and should always conduct yourself appropriately.
- **We have a zero-tolerance alcohol and drug policy on all program sponsored activities, outings and events.** We will review the terms of the Code of Conduct at our pre-departure orientation.
- Every student is individually responsible for the success of the study tour and must exercise good judgment, respect the rights and feelings of others, and observe the laws and customs of the host country.

In Return, You Can Expect To...

- Receive direction and support from the International Education Team in training and resources before the study tour.
- Experience support from faculty and staff. We will prioritize safety and student well-being during the program.
- Receive transportation, lodging, medical insurance, and excursions included in the cost of the program.
- Be educated about your study tour location and host site.
- Have a once-in-a-lifetime experience!

Cost and Payments

**Study Tour Program Fees	\$1,600
PLUS	
Tuition (estimate)	Based on your residency and credit load

**Study Tour Fees Include: Lodging (twin-shared standard room); all meals included in the itinerary; ground transportation; any fees or costs associated with activities included in the itinerary; mandatory travel health insurance

Additional Costs:

Airfare	\$1,500 (Estimated)
Certain Meals	\$100 (Estimated)
Personal Expenses (souvenirs, gifts, incidentals)	\$200-300 (Estimated)
Cost of a New U.S. Passport if renewal is needed	\$165 + passport photo cost
Chinese tourist visa fees	\$30-\$210 (Estimated)
Optional travel cancellation insurance	\$50-\$200 (Estimated)

Due Dates: IMPORTANT (all dates listed are for year 2025)

Milestone	Date
Application and Acceptance	
Priority Application Deadline	April 1, 2025
15-minute interviews, preferably in person.	April 7 -18 2025 (dates to be determined)
Participants Notified of Acceptance	April 30, 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of passport OR copy of your completed passport application due \$500 deposit and course registration due • Liability forms due 	May 23, 2025
Payments and Deposits Due <i>Tentative</i>	
Deposit	May 23 - \$500 non-refundable deposit
Final Payment Due	August 8 – final \$1,100 payment due. All fees non-refundable after this date
Fall Quarter Class Tuition Due	Fall Quarter tuition deadline (see Cashier’s Office)
*Departure Dates	
Pre-Departure Orientations	TBD
*Departure from Seattle (SEA) to Shanghai International Airport (PVG)	September 5
*Departure from Shanghai International Airport (PVG) to Seattle (SEA)	September 17

***Dates are approximate within 1-2 days of dates listed above**

Study Tour Refund policy

All notification of withdrawal must be made in writing to the Study Tour Professor and/or Study Tour Administrative Staff (Liu Yang, Nichole Nicholson, or Jacque Courduff). Date of email is considered date of withdrawal. All withdrawal statements must be made by the applicant in writing, or they will not be processed.

All deposits are non-refundable. If a student withdraws **on or before** the final withdrawal date, which is the date the final balance is due (August 8), a full refund will be made less the deposit amount. If a student withdraws after the posted withdrawal date, no refund is possible. Deposit and final balance due dates are listed above. Students are encouraged to research Cancel for Any Reason Travel Insurance that can protect you in the event of a last-minute cancellation.

Course Learning Outcomes

History (HIS) 280: Intro to Chinese Civilization

Distribution Area Fulfilled Social Sciences; General Transfer Elective

Course Description

A survey of the major aspects in the development of Chinese civilization from antiquity to the present day.

Course Content

- A. Geographic setting
- B. Major periods in the history of China
- C. Politics
- D. Economy
- E. Culture
- F. Education
- G. Science and technology
- H. Law
- I. Military affairs
- J. Status of the environment
- K. Relations with the United States

Student Outcomes

1. Identify and analyze the pivotal developments in all regions of China.
2. Explain the chief components (religious, economic, political, etc.) of the culture of China.
3. Analyze the interconnections (social, gender, artistic, intellectual, religious, etc.) among different historical movements, changes, and trends.
4. Identify the major problems facing China today.
5. Draw conclusions from history, discussing recent and present trends and their possible impact on the future.
6. Compare and contrast the cultural realms of China.
7. Analyze the position in the world of China today and in the near future.
8. Discuss the impact of China's cultures on the world.
9. Determine an overall plan for an even wider range of mutually beneficial ties between the U.S. and China, based on lessons that are drawn from history.
10. Discuss from a historical perspective major features of the geography, as well as current developments in the political, economic, and cultural spheres of China.

Degree Outcomes

Social Sciences: Graduates analyze and interpret social phenomenon using social science theories and methods.

Critical, Creative and Reflective Thinking: Graduates will evaluate, analyze, synthesize, and generate ideas; construct informed, meaningful, and justifiable conclusions; and process feelings, beliefs, biases, strengths, and weaknesses as they relate to their thinking, decisions, and creations.

Intercultural Engagement: Graduates demonstrate self-efficacy in intercultural engagement to advance equity, diversity, and inclusion through reflections and expressions of cultural humility, empathy, and social and civic engagement and action. Further, graduates examine how identities/positionalities such as races, social classes, genders, sexual orientations, disabilities, and cultures impact perceptions, actions, and the distribution of power and privilege in communities, systems, and institutions.

Lecture Contact Hours 50

Lab Contact Hour

Clinical Contact Hours 0

Total Contact Hours 50

CMST& 240 Intercultural Communication

Distribution Area Fulfilled Humanities; General Transfer Elective

Course Description

An examination of the effects of culture upon the process of communication. Using theory and skill development, students are prepared to communicate effectively both within and across cultures. Formerly: CMST 105

Course Content

- A. The parameters of culture and its characteristics (what is and is not culture)
- B. Worldview components
- C. The 5 questions of orientation
- D. Indicators and predictors of cultural arrangement
- E. Influence of culture on verbal and nonverbal message content and transmission
- F. Influence of culture on social episodes (business, health care and education)
- G. Influence of culture on conversational rituals
- H. Influence of culture on building interpersonal relationships
- I. Cultural ethics

Student Outcomes

1. Explain and apply field relevant terms such as defining culture, ethnicity, race, diversity in written and/or spoken contexts.
2. Explain how cultural world views shape cultural value systems and priorities which impact communication choices, and cultural responses to equity and diversity.
3. Identify key language patterns and components that reinforce cultural world views, such as but not limited to high and low context communication codes.
4. Delineate language factors that shape translation and interpretation issues and apply it across cultural and global contexts.

5. Analyze the role of cultures in determining nonverbal behavior through the study of nonverbals (including, but not limited to kinesics, proxemics, paralinguistics, and chronemics).
6. Identify key cultural factors that shape the forms and norms of how public and private relationships are conducted and apply those factors to their own experiences.

Degree Outcomes

Humanities: Graduates acquire skills to critically interpret, analyze and evaluate forms of human expression, and create and perform as an expression of the human experience.

Critical, Creative and Reflective Thinking: Graduates will evaluate, analyze, synthesize, and generate ideas; construct informed, meaningful, and justifiable conclusions; and process feelings, beliefs, biases, strengths, and weaknesses as they relate to their thinking, decisions, and creations.

Intercultural Engagement: Graduates demonstrate self-efficacy in intercultural engagement to advance equity, diversity, and inclusion through reflections and expressions of cultural humility, empathy, and social and civic engagement and action. Further, graduates examine how identities/positionalities such as races, social classes, genders, sexual orientations, disabilities, and cultures impact perceptions, actions, and the distribution of power and privilege in communities, systems, and institutions.

Global Citizenship: Graduates will be able to critically examine the relationship between self, community, and/or environments, and to evaluate and articulate potential impacts of choices, actions, and contributions for the creation of sustainable and equitable systems.

Effective Communication: Graduates will be able to exchange messages in a variety of contexts using multiple methods.

Lecture Contact Hours 50

Lab Contact Hours 0

Clinical Contact Hours 0

Total Contact Hours 50

15-Day Students Group Itinerary

Huangshan and Shanghai, China

Highlights:

- ✓ Visit a local college
- ✓ Make Chinese friends
- ✓ Try on Traditional Chinese Appeals
- ✓ Learn Chinese Kungfu
- ✓ Learn Chinese Calligraphy Art
- ✓ Learn a Chinese Folk Song
- ✓ Make a Chinese Cuisine
- ✓ Make a cup of Chinese Tea

D1 (Sat) Seattle-Shanghai

- Note: On day one (arrival day), the only meal covered in the study tour program fee is dinner. Students are responsible for purchasing breakfast and lunch en route to Shanghai.
- Suggested for flight to arrive in the evening
- Meet the group, Check-in at the hotel.
- **Accommodation:** Holiday Inn Express or similar

D2 (Sun) Shanghai -Huangshan

AM: Yu Garden, City God Temple Bazaar

Yu Garden was first built in 1559 during the Ming dynasty by Pan Yunduan as a comfort for his father, the minister Pan En, in his old age. Pan Yunduan began the project after failing one of the imperial exams. He named the garden Yu Yuan, yu meaning "pleasing and satisfying to one's parents."

City God Temple is a folk temple located in the old city of Shanghai. It is the site of the veneration of three Chinese figures honored as the city gods of the town.

PM: take High-speed train to 2nd class to Huangshan City. Check in hotel.



Accommodation: Tongjulong Hotel 4* or similar (walking distance to university)

D3 (Mon) Huangshan

AM: Campus orientation at Huangshan University.

Huangshan University: <https://www.hsu.edu.cn/46/list.htm>

PM: Meet with Chinese students, try traditional Chinese costume, visit university specimen room with Chinese students.



Accommodation: Tongjulou Hotel or similar

D4 (Tue) Huangshan

1. Classes

2. Culture about Huizhou and China (1.5 hours, lecture given by Huangshan University)

PM: Culture tour: Hongcun village , Lucun Village

the village **Hongcun** became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2000, because of its exceptional preservation of the architecture and city plan of a rural village in feudal China. Scenes from the film Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon were filmed on location in Hongcun.

Lucun Village boasts its wood carving building, which showcases intricate carvings with superb craftsmanship-- a testament to Huizhou's rich cultural heritage.



Accommodation: Tongjulou Hotel or similar

D5 (Wed) Huangshan

AM: Classes

PM: Cultural activity: build a miniature Huizhou landscape garden



Accommodation: Tongjulou Hotel or similar

D6 (Thu) Huangshan

AM:

1. Classes
2. Learn Chinese Huizhou Folk Songs (1.5 hours, lecture given by Huangshan University)

PM: Culture tour and activity: Tangmo Village, Huangmei Opera, make a rubbing of stone inscriptions

A narrow village stretching along a central canal, **Tangmo** is usually uncrowded, According to village lore, the original Tang dynasty settlers planted two ginkgo trees: only one grew, and that became the site of the village.

Huangmei Opera is a form of Chinese opera originating from Anqing, Anhui province, as a form of rural folk song and dance.

Chinese relied on carving inscriptions into stone as a way of preserving history and culture. **Rubbings** accurately reproduce the inscription, and provide a sharper and more readable image than the original inscription or a photograph of the original.



Accommodation: Tongjulou Hotel or similar

D7 (Fri) Huangshan

AM:

1. Classes
2. Chinese Calligraphy (1.5H, lecture given by Huangshan University)

PM: Cultural tour and activity: Tunxi Old Street, make a traditional Chinese brush pen

Chinese calligraphy is the writing of Chinese characters as an art form, combining purely visual art and interpretation of the literary meaning. This type of expression has been widely practiced in China and has been generally held in high esteem across East Asia.

A **brush** is the traditional writing instrument for Chinese calligraphy. The body of the brush is commonly made from bamboo or other materials such as wood, porcelain, or horn. The head of the brush is typically made from animal hair, such as weasel, rabbit, deer, goat, pig, tiger, wolf, etc.



D8 (Sat) Huangshan- Jingdezhen- Huangshan

Jingdezhen (Jiangxi province): Ancient Kiln Folklore Exhibition Area; Taoxichuan Cultural and Creative Block)

Jingdezhen is known as the "Porcelain Capital" because it has been producing Chinese ceramics for at least 1,000 years, and for much of that period Jingdezhen porcelain was the most important and finest quality in China. The city has a well-documented history that stretches back over 2,000 years.



Accommodation: Tongjulou Hotel or similar

D9 (Sun) Huangshan

Mt. Huangshan (including round-way cable car)

Huangshan, meaning the Yellow Mountain, was renamed because of a legend that Emperor Xuanyuan once made alchemy here. The area is well known for its scenery, sunsets, peculiarly-shaped granite peaks, Huangshan pine trees, hot springs, winter snow and views of the clouds from above. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of China's major tourist destinations.



Accommodation: Tongjulou Hotel or similar

D10 (Mon) Huangshan

AM:

1. Classes
2. Make Chinese Tea (1.5H, lecture given by Huangshan University)

PM: Culture activity: tea picking, roasting and tasting at green tea plantation

The tea is grown near Huangshan (Yellow Mountain), which is home to many famous varieties of green tea. *Huangshan Mao Feng tea*'s English translation is "Yellow Mountain Fur Peak" due to the small white hairs which cover the leaves and the shape of the processed leaves which resemble the peak of a mountain.



Accommodation: Tongjulou Hotel or similar

D11 (Tue) Huangshan

AM:

1. Classes
2. Practice Tai Chi Kungfu (1.5H, lecture given by Huangshan University)



Accommodation: Tongjulou Hotel or similar

Tai chi is an ancient Chinese martial art. Initially developed for combat and self-defense, it has evolved into a sport and form of exercise. Tai chi is a gentle, low-impact form of exercise in which practitioners perform a series of deliberate, flowing motions while focusing on deep, slow breaths.

D12 (Wed) Huangshan

AM:

1. Classes
2. Make Chinese Huizhou Cuisine (1.5H, lecture given Huangshan University)

PM: Cultural activity: make traditional huizhou dessert at Cake Museum



D13 (Thu) Huangshan

AM: Classes

PM: Cultural tour and activity:

visit an ancient paper-making factory, and try paper extraction

visit wood carving factory, make a bamboo slip or brush pot



Accommodation: Tongjulou Hotel or similar

D14 (Fri) Huangshan- Shanghai

AM: Classes

PM: Fare-wall

Get back to Shanghai in the afternoon by high-speed train. Nanjing Road, the bund.



Accommodation: Holiday Inn Express or similar

D15 (Sun) Shanghai- Seattle

- Note: On day fifteen (departure day), the only meal covered in the study tour program fee is breakfast. Students are responsible for purchasing lunch and dinner en route to Seattle.
- Suggested for flight to depart by noon
- Home sweet home

Note:

- From Mon to Fri in Huangshan, students will have lunch and dinner at the university canteen.
- Price is based on twin-shared rooms.