



in China & Japan

Eligibility

Sophomore, junior or senior standing (at the time of study abroad) is required with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75/4.0 (at the time of application). No previous knowledge of Chinese or Japanese is required.

Estimated Program Costs

North Central Tuition: Participants are required to pay North Central fall-term tuition. Students on tuition remission or faculty exchange are charged the full cost incurred by the College for the program.

Program Fee: An additional fee includes 15 weeks of lodging, meals in China, orientation, field trips; the fee does NOT include airfare, meals in Japan, departure taxes, books, incidentals, visa fees, and personal travel costs.

Airfare Estimate: The College negotiates group airfare for the best possible rates each year.

Application Procedure

To apply, submit the following documents by January 31:

- Completed North Central College-in-China/Japan application form
- Four recent official passport photos
- Current resumé in English
- One-page Statement of Purpose
- Two letters of recommendation: one academic, one character reference (forms provided)

On Mission

North Central College prepares students to be informed, involved, principled and productive citizens and leaders over their lifetime.

NORTH
CENTRAL
COLLEGE
NAPERVILLE, ILLINOIS
Founded 1861



North Central College in China & Japan

FALL STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM



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Main Features

This program is designed to give students an experience of two East Asian cultures in one 15-week term: participants study for seven weeks in Beijing on the campus of Beijing Foreign Studies University, including an eighth week of travel; they continue their studies in a university setting in or near Kyoto, Japan, for another seven weeks.

All students enroll in one course taught by an accompanying North Central College faculty member and complete their 12-credit schedule with courses in culture and language.

Field trips are included in both China and Japan.

Students take one course in Chinese language and one in Japanese, but no previous study in either language is required.

The program is open to all full-time sophomores, juniors or seniors (at the time of study abroad) with a 2.75 minimum GPA (at the time of application).

Course Offerings

Each student in the program completes 12 credit hours:

GLS 387: Seminar in China and Japan (3.0 credits)

This course is taught by the accompanying North Central College faculty member; topics vary according to the professor's field, but the course focuses on East Asian cultures and is offered in both China and Japan.

GLS 287: Topics in Chinese Culture (1.5 credits)

Offered by faculty at Beijing Foreign Studies University, this course provides an introduction to Chinese culture including field trips.

GLS 288: Topics in Japanese Culture (1.5 credits)

Taught in Japan by faculty there, this course offers an introduction to various aspects of Japanese culture including field trips.

Japanese and Chinese Language Study (6.0)

Students will be placed in language classes at the appropriate level, completing the equivalent of one North Central College term of language study in both Chinese and Japanese.

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Special Features

Cross-Cultural Training: Participants are required to enroll in GLS 277 (Seminar: Study Abroad, 0.00-2.00 credits) in spring term before the fall program takes place. This course focuses on cross-cultural learning and culture shock; students complete required journal entries while abroad and write a final reflective essay when they return. Students are also required to attend pre-departure orientation sessions.

Program Orientation: Staff at Beijing Foreign Studies University and at the Japanese university provide on-site orientations upon arrival.

Mid-Term Travel: Students will have the opportunity to travel on their own for one week in early October.

Field Trips: Participants will have several opportunities, in both countries, to visit the principal historical and cultural sites in the area. Landmarks in China include the Great Wall, Ming Tombs, Summer Palace, Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, Temple of Heaven and the Peking Opera. Visits in Japan include the Golden Temple, Nijo Castle, Kiyomizu Temple, a tea ceremony, pottery studios and numerous other sites in Kyoto, Japan's former capital city.

Program Flexibility: This unique opportunity to study in two contrasting Asian countries is also designed to fit the interests of students in all majors, whether or not they are interested in pursuing Asian language study or an East Asian Studies major. The courses outlined above provide students with a strong introduction to East Asian cultural studies, drawn from direct experience in China and Japan.

Ideal Introductory Language Study: Students interested in studying either Japanese or Chinese have a perfect opportunity to try out both languages, returning home with three credits in each.

General Education Requirements: This program can be used to fulfill the Intercultural Seminar All-College Requirement (ACR) for all North Central students.

Essential Experience: Completion of this program will show any future employers or school admission officials that participating students have clearly understood the importance of East Asia in our interdependent world and have received a valuable personal experience in that region.

