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## The UN Chinese Language Programme goes to China

*Posted: Wednesday, 27 October 2011, New York | Author: Department of Management*

For the last 8 years, the UN Chinese Language Programme has offered an intensive three-week-long summer study programme in China. This programme is generously sponsored by the Chinese government and hosted by Nanjing University with support from the U.N. The programme is open to all the students taking Chinese who are at Level 2 or above classes at UNHQ and OAHQs. The support from the Chinese government covers tuition and housing. Upon the approval of the executive offices, Secretariat staff members participating in the programme can receive Special Leave With Pay.



So far about 350 people from New York, Geneva, Vienna, Bangkok and Nairobi have participated in the study programme. During the programme, students attend classes 4 hours per day / 20 hours per week, which is equivalent to one and a half terms at the U.N. Courses include conversation and reading classes, which are all taught by instructors of Nanjing University.

The designation of Nanjing University as the host of the programme has well been received by participants. Nanjing University is one of the most highly reputed universities in China. The university has close relationships with the U.N. Many of its faculty members have worked at various UN agencies. It is the alma mater of USG Sha Zukang of DESA. In 2002, the university awarded an honorary doctorate to former Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In 2010, Secretary General Ban Ki-moon received an honorary doctorate from the university. Nanjing University is located in the historical city of Nanjing, the ancient capital of six dynasties and the capital of the first Republic of China. During their stay in Nanjing, participants not only improved and practiced their Chinese language skills, but also had opportunities to explore the city, experience the culture and interact with the local people.

Each year, Nanjing University arranges a variety of extracurricular activities to enrich the programme. This past summer, extracurricular activities included a visit to the Office of Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language at the Chinese Ministry of Education, two city tours and an out-of-town trip to Mount Lushan.

In addition to improving participants' language skills and understanding of Chinese culture, the study programme also fosters networking and friendship among participants. Following their return from China, participants in various duty stations have organized a number of "reunions".

The 2012 Study Programme is now open for registration. The programme dates are Monday, 9 July to Friday, 27 July, 2012. Interested people please contact Yong Ho, the study programme coordinator, at [ho@un.org](mailto:ho@un.org) for details and an application form.

### What previous participants have said:

"I feel truly privileged to have been a part of the UN/Nanda programme, it enhanced my study of Chinese, as well as my knowledge of Chinese culture"

"There can't be a better opportunity to increase your knowledge and to experience a

real life as a language student in an environment as nice as Nanda. I love the experience, met fantastic people, and shared very good moments."

"I got to interact and learn together with people of all ages from different cultures all over the world. It was an experience like no other and I would gladly do it again."

### **Useful link**

**United Nations Chinese Programme**



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