

# Application

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

What type of work do you see yourself doing in the next five years?

---

---

---

Have you ever traveled outside of the United States? Where?

---

---

---

Are you a U.S. citizen? \_\_\_\_\_ Do you have a U.S. passport? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe any of your classes or experiences that might be related to this course.

---

---

---

Briefly describe your expectations for the program and what you would like to accomplish.

---

---

---

**Please return application to:**  
**Iris Chi, DSW**

Golden Age Association/Frances Wu Chair for  
the Chinese Elderly Professor  
USC School of Social Work  
669 W. 34th Street, MRF 329  
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0411



# Destinations

## Beijing

The capital of China, Beijing is both an ancient city and a thriving metropolis of 15 million inhabitants. Its historic, cultural and political preeminence dates back nearly six centuries. Yet, in spite of devastating urban renewal, modern Beijing continues to convey an imperial grandeur. Among Beijing's many attractions are Tian'anmen Square, the biggest public square in the world often linked to the cultural revolution; the Forbidden City, the largest and best-preserved example of ancient Chinese buildings and culture in China; the Summer Palace, the most noted and best-kept imperial garden in China; the Temple of Heaven, the largest sacrificial complex in the world; and the Great Wall, one of the seven wonders of the world that spans 2,500 miles and five provinces.

## Peking University

Founded in 1898, Peking University is the first national university in modern Chinese history. Situated in the western suburbs of Beijing, the highly esteemed university has become a recognized center for teaching and research with diverse branches of learning such as pure and applied sciences, social sciences and the humanities, and sciences of management and education. Its entrance criterion is extremely selective, making it one of the most prestigious schools in China.

## Beijing Normal University

Originally founded in 1902 for teacher training, Beijing Normal University is one of China's earliest established institutions of higher learning. Among China's top research universities today, Beijing Normal University is a globally influential institution financially supported by the Ministry of Education and Beijing Municipality. It has become an important education and research base for multidisciplinary and advanced scientific studies.

## China Research Center on Aging

The China Research Center on Aging is a multidisciplinary research institute funded by the Chinese government. The organization conducts research on population aging, provides policy recommendations and helps the state formulate long-term plans on research activities, as well as trains researchers in the fields of aging and develops international academic exchanges.

## China National Committee on Ageing

Established by the People's Republic of China, the China National Committee on Ageing conducts research on the aging of populations for information dissemination, organizes social activities related to aging issues and participates in international exchanges.



USC School of Social Work  
University Park Campus  
Montgomery Ross Fisher Building  
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0411  
www.usc.edu/socialwork



# A Seminar Studying Abroad



An Eastern Approach to  
Successful Aging in

# China

May/June



# Program Overview

An Eastern Approach to Successful Aging in

## China

May/June



The University of Southern California School of Social Work offers a unique global immersion program in Los Angeles and Beijing, China designed for students to broaden their understanding of successful aging from an eastern perspective.

The Eastern Approach to Successful Aging in China offers students an opportunity to become well-informed on issues faced by an aging population and experience how the country is coping with issues of aging in a positive way. Utilizing China as a case study, the program provides intensive discussion and exposure to Chinese culture, helping students expand their knowledge of the country's political, economic, social and cultural issues and gain a new perspective on successful aging.

In addition to learning social gerontology theories and how they relate to healthy aging, students will visit leading institutions in China that deal with aging policy and community care organizations that provide direct services to older adults utilizing traditional therapy and social engagement. Participants can immerse themselves in the social and cultural life of China through daily interactions with faculty and students at Peking University and Beijing Normal University, as well as community groups in the Beijing metropolitan area.

# Program Details

### FORMAT

The three-week program will take place in May and June, starting in Los Angeles with a pre-departure session on Chinese social care systems and culture. This one-week seminar will be augmented with assigned readings about the country's social welfare history and cultural influences. The program will then move to Beijing for two weeks. Daily instruction will combine guest lectures and student discussions with site visits to national agencies, community organizations and other field visits in and around Beijing. Students will gain an understanding of the framework, historic context and present situation of elders' active aging, and how this shapes the delivery of human services and creation of social policy in China. Special emphasis will be given to five major areas of successful aging: intergenerational support, volunteerism, healthy aging, adult learning and political participation.

### PARTICIPANTS

The program is designed for a limited number of graduate-level students who are interested in gaining international exposure and knowledge of eastern approaches to successful aging that could be applicable to working with elderly populations in the United States, particularly those who have immigrated from Asian nations.

### COSTS

Program costs include roundtrip airfare from Los Angeles to Beijing, lodging for 12 nights at a three- or four-star hotel, breakfasts, lunches, local transportation during program hours and field visits to the Great Wall, Forbidden City and other Beijing-area attractions. Costs also include tuition for a 4-unit course and a program administrative fee. Other fees are additional including a health insurance policy if not enrolled in the mandatory USC student health insurance plan and covered by the international study abroad option. All participants will be responsible for their dinners and snacks, non-program local transportation and other incidentals.

### WHAT STUDENTS WILL GAIN

- Knowledge of the major theories of aging including disengagement theory, activity theory, modernization theory, continuity theory, and perspectives on successful and productive aging
- An understanding of the issues related to successful aging, especially in consideration of its cultural contexts
- A familiarity with the major determinates of healthy aging from both micro and macro perspectives
- Exposure to the old age support system in China at both the family and societal levels
- An appreciation for the varied manifestations and meanings of productive aging in both the United States and China
- Awareness of major policies and social service programs in China and their impact on elders and their families
- Reflective learning in another cultural context that enables a higher consciousness of personal, professional and societal attitudes, values and ethics related to aging

# Frequently Asked Questions

### Will I get credit toward my degree?

You will receive a 4-unit credit for completing the program.

### As a non-social work student, can I participate in the program?

Yes, you can choose the SOWK 599 course as an elective.

### Will this program help my chances of finding a job?

With the world growing smaller every day and the economies of all nations becoming increasingly intertwined, employers, regardless of profession, are eager for employees that bring new and innovative approaches that are often shaped by international experiences.

### Is financial aid available?

Scholarships are not available. However, if you are receiving financial aid for your graduate education, you may be able to also use it toward international study. For details, visit the School of Social Work's Financial Aid Office.

### Do I need a passport and visa?

Yes. To obtain a passport for the first time, you will need to go in person to any passport acceptance facility with two photos of yourself, proof of U.S. citizenship and a valid form of photo identification. Your passport needs to be valid at least six months from the intended date of entering China. As a United States citizen, you will also need a visa prior to arriving in China as long as you are traveling as a tourist and plan on staying in China for up to three months. For more details, visit [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov).

### What is the weather like in China?

Typically during June, the average temperature is a high of 89°F and a low of 63°F. Rainfall is normally quite light in June.

### What do I pack?

Casual, light clothing. Jeans are acceptable in the classroom and in the field. You may also want to bring a bathing suit and a light jacket for comfort in air-conditioned buildings. Please note that you will be able to travel with two checked pieces of luggage weighing no more than 50 pounds per piece. You will be charged additional fees for excess luggage and weight.

### What is the money situation?

The local currency used in Beijing is the China yuan/renminbi (CNY/RMB). The current exchange rate is approximately 1.00 CNY = .134756 USD (as of November 2007). You can exchange money at banks and exchange bureaus, as well as use credit cards (preferably MasterCard and Visa) and ATM cards. The BOA ATM card is recommended since no extra fee will be charged if you use the ATM machines of China Construction Bank.



# Application

An Eastern Approach to Successful Aging in

## China

May/June

### BASIC INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

School address \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE/AGENCY AFFILIATION

Name of school or agency \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Degree to date \_\_\_\_\_

Expected degree \_\_\_\_\_

Expected graduation date \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID # (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_