

China Course in China, the academic year 2018 – 2019

This course gives you an opportunity to learn, live in and work with a completely new and different culture. You will gain these experiences as part of a group of Scandinavians, in a setting where there are many opportunities to get to know different aspects of China, for example people, society, traditions, cultures, ethnic groups, and so on.

The course is built upon the student's interest in China and Asia, the desire to get to know some Chinese language, her history, religion and culture. There is also an opportunity to choose different tracks, such as *Culture, Language or Diaconia (Social work)*. There are possibilities to test some creative work such as painting, calligraphy, music, dance, kungfu, Chinese opera and so on at TCG Nordica International Culture Center. Chinese, Swedish, or international teachers teach the subjects.

You will study approximately 20 hours/week. There will be practical work along the study, around the same amount of the time. The practical work will be at TCG Nordica and outside, where you will be responsible for some tasks in the culture exchange between East and West. There is always an opportunity with voluntary work and the workload varies throughout the year.



TCG Nordica, Kunming, China



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About TCG Nordica

T – Tomas Tranströmer,

C – Culture

G – Gallery

The course is housed at TCG Nordica, a Chinese-Scandinavian culture center in Kunming, China. This is a meeting place for people from East and West, for artists, musicians, students, volunteers, and etc. There are culture event all year round, such as exhibitions, concerts, performances, workshops, and of course, make new friends! You can find us on “Lonely planet”, the well-know tourist guidebook.

“TCG Nordica is best described as a gallery–exhibition hall–cultural centre. Live jazz and dance, art and photo exhibitions, an English corner on Monday's (a good opportunity to meet some locals) are all staged here.....” – “Lonely Planet”

The vision of TCG Nordica is to **“stimulate reflection on human worth as expressed in various art forms”**.

About Kunming

Kunming is the capital city of Yunnan, which locates in southwest China, also is home to 26 ethnic groups. The weather is sub-tropical, and the landscape and culture are diverse and

unique. It's a popular tourist attraction in China. Kunming is a rapid developing city, with tradition along the development. There are 7 million people living here. China is the same, a fascinating country, which now goes through a time of quick changes and developments, and in which, you will explore old and new, history and modernization, and other surprises.



The purpose of the course is to ...

- Give an overview of contemporary China through study of current society, history, philosophy, religion, and culture.
- Provide an introduction to the Chinese language through active language studies designed to cope with daily life communication.
- Nurture reflection on the outside world, the differences between countries and cultures in the East and the West.
- Provide the students with the opportunity to focus their studies on one of three tracks:

Culture, Language, or Diaconia (Social work).

- Offer internship - and volunteer opportunities at TCG Nordica and other organizations in Kunming.
- Provide an understanding of faith- and life issues from a Christian perspective based on TCG Nordica's vision.

Schedule

Fall semester: August 20 –December 31, 2018.

Spring semester: January 8 – June 1, 2019.

(According to the Swedish system CSN).

The course starts and ends at Hyllie Park folk high school (HPF) in Malmö.

In Advent and Christmas time we have a lot of practical work and different activities where we show different Scandinavian traditions at TCG Nordica.

The Chinese New Year 2019 is in the end of January and early February, and TCG Nordica is closed during that time.

Audition days in Malmö, Sweden

To be able to join the course you have to come to the audition day in June 1 and 2, 2018 at HPF in Malmö. We start Friday and end Saturday, in the afternoon. We will arrange accommodation and food at the school or in homes during that weekend in Malmö. You will meet the group and get to know one another and the leader of the course. We will give you a lot of information about Asia, China, Kunming and TCG Nordica. You will meet old students who are just coming back and ask a lot of questions. Those days are very important to you to prepare yourself for the year in China. After those days you will know if you are accepted for the coming year course in China.

The course starts the 20th of August 2018 and will have a couple of days at HPF in Malmö. Then we will travel together to Kunming, and HPF will help the whole group to book the round trip flight tickets from Copenhagen to Kunming (and the way back). Round trip flight ticket will cost approximately 10 - 12.000 SEK.



Students from 2016-17 and 2017-18 in China course

Introduction in China

The academic year in China will start with a short study trip to Beijing followed by two weeks of introduction to many practical things about living in China, as well as of the teachers and the schedule. These two weeks will also be used for preparing the first performance. TCG Nordica and the staff will also be presented to you.

The Chinese language

The purpose of this subject is to learn the basics of the Chinese language and to be able to use it in simple ways in daily life. 4-6 h/w is teacher-led lessons by university teachers in Kunming City.

Knowledge about China and Asia

In this subject the focus is on understanding today's China by looking from different angles: from her history, philosophy/religion

and culture. The history of China is fascinating and her culture is rich and deep. China has the largest population in the world. As a country China develops very fast. The differences between countryside and the city are huge, but even within the city the contrasts are big. The subject gives space to discuss and explore both what is being experienced and studied in books.

Creative work

In this subject we meet Chinese teachers who in different ways work with Arts, such as music, painting, calligraphy, dance, pottery, woodcarving. Students can choose to work in a field that interests him/her both individually and in group, both with a teacher and without.

Team time

There will be time for the team to reflect upon faith and life, and also to meet Chinese and foreign people who will share their life stories.

Time in class

Every week there is time to meet as a class for reflection. For this type of education it is important that the students can influence the content and the development of the course as a whole. There will also be time to follow up the practical work.

Practical work

An important part of the course is the practical work. The students take part in some of the planning and implementation of different culture programs at TCG Nordica. The tasks vary from performing at the evening program, giving Chinese people a chance to practice English, managing the sound and light system or work with the website. The work involves building relationships with Chinese people who want to get to know Scandinavian culture, practice English and make friends.

Your individual choice of track will also influence what practical work you will take part in.

Study trips

In the autumn the group will make a study trip together. This will give a good opportunity to get to know each other better, but also to acquaint the group with the countryside and famous places in Yunnan, such as Dali and Lijiang. And to meet some of the many minorities living in the province. There will be other study tours during the year as well. During the vacations (between fall and spring semester, and after Chinese new year) there are many opportunities to go to nearby countries, for example Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and Burma.

Project work

During the Spring semester each of the students work with a project, individually or in a group. The project work belongs to one of the subjects and track. It consists of some creative work, social or other work.

Good to know

The life and work at TCG Nordica is a lot about building relationships. In and through them you will be able to give and receive. You will for sure work some evenings. You will be engaged in some of TCG Nordica's programs and arrangements. There are Chinese volunteers who sometimes perform here, which is one of the groups of people you will meet.

Costs

- Term fee

Term fee is 2000 CNY/term. This includes three study trips and teaching materials. The students pay themselves for study books, which are cheap in China. You pay when you have arrived to Kunming.

- Flight ticket

Round trip flight ticket from Copenhagen to Kunming (and the way back) will cost approximately 10 -12.000 SEK. Usually HPF will help you to book the round trip ticket of Copenhagen and Beijing. Course leader in

Kunming will help you to book the ticket from Beijing to Kunming. Therefore the payments are made separately.

- Housing

The students live in furnished flats, which they share with other students. The cost is 1300 CNY/month x 10 months. It includes water, gas, electricity, internet etc. It does not include drinking water.

The rent is to be paid in cash in CNY monthly or for the whole semester in advance, if it is possible. This amount will not be refunded in the case of leaving the course.

- Food

Eating in China is very cheap. According to estimation one person could eat for 1.500-2.000 CNY/month. At TCG Nordica there is possibility to order coffee, tea, and dessert.

- Money

The Chinese currency is RMB/CNY/Yuan. It is easy to get cash at ATMs using Visa or Master card. Cash is needed everywhere; it is seldom possible to pay with credit card. In February 2018 the currency rate is CNY100: SEK135.

- Transportation

It is easy to travel by bus and metro in Kunming and the cost is usually 2-6 CNY. The best way of transportation may be by bicycle. A new bike costs about 600 CNY.

Visa in Sweden and residence permit in China

We will give more information at the information days.

For 2018-19, the first entry visa is 1300 SEK. You need to switch the entry visa to residence permit when you arrive in China, which will cost around 2500 CNY. It is paid to Yunnan University of Nationalities in Kunming, and it includes residence permit, administration fee, insurance required by the university, etc.

Vaccination

Contact a local vaccination healthcare center.

Insurance

We will inform you about this on the introduction days in May and the cost is 28 SEK per day during the whole year.

Europeiska (ERV). It will be payed during the year in China.

Spare time

It is easy to have a rich spare time in Kunming. Everything is available if you are willing to pay, but you can also enjoy the beautiful nature and take trips to different places in and around Kunming. During the year it might be possible to do shorter journeys in smaller groups and also to have visitors coming.

There will be two days per week with no lessons where you can choose to do your homework, be at Nordica or take time for yourself.

CSN (Swedish financial aid)

Log in at CSN.se and make an application on their website. When you apply for this course you mark if you want to apply for CSN funds. When you apply you need to understand that this course is a Swedish course and the name is “Kinakurs”. (Note! You do not apply for studies abroad ‘utlandsstudier’, because it is a Swedish course, located in another country.)

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Look at www.hyllieparkfolkhogskola.se

You can always follow what’s going on at TCG Nordica at www.tcgnordica.com

You are also welcome to like us on Facebook and follow **Kinakurs**, Hyllie Park folkhögskola.



Further questions?

Get in contact with

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ENJOY OUR COURSE NEXT YEAR!!