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COLLEGE SURVIVAL WORKSHOPS

PREPARING STUDENTS IN CHINA FOR STUDY ABROAD

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COLLEGE SURVIVAL WORKSHOPS PREPARING FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION

Chinese students often focus single-mindedly on getting into the college of their dreams. Once admitted they face new challenges adjusting to unfamiliar academic, social and cultural expectations many find overwhelming. Students who fail to adapt are likely to suffer from stress, poor academic performance, and in severe cases face expulsion from school or tangles with the law.

College Survival Workshops help by preparing students for academic life abroad before they leave China. We offer U.S. style classroom experiences that give students confidence to navigate their new environment, and help them develop the skills needed to get the most out of their overseas education.

STUDY ABROAD: WHAT CAN GO WRONG

In 2014 an estimated [8,000 chinese students were expelled](#) from U.S. universities, mostly

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According to a recent survey, over half of college students from East Asia had no close American friends. Most blamed their isolation on lack of social and language skills. Researcher Dr. Elisabeth Gareis concludes the lack of friendships hurts language learning and academic performance, and increases stress. Her findings are reinforced by a study of 130 students from China enrolled at Yale University, which found 45 percent suffered from symptoms of depression.

College freshmen everywhere face new adjustments. In addition to living far from their family, Chinese students must cope with a set of social and academic expectations that are radically different from what they've previously experienced. In the classroom they face new pressures to think creatively, be analytic, and speak up in class. Their skill of sponging up knowledge isn't rewarded to the same degree as it was back home. In the dorm, they are likely to encounter social norms that make them uncomfortable, or activities that make them feel they don't fit in.

WHAT CAN BE DONE

College Survival Workshops arm students with soft skills that schools in China do not traditionally foster. Participants gain experience in self-expression, teamwork and class discussion. Students learn which common-sense behaviors in China are likely to backfire overseas, and how to avoid these social blunders. They gain self-confidence to leave their comfort zone, explore the world, and, most importantly, cope with the unexpected.



CONFUCIUS
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL, Chengdu



PEKING UNIVERSITY
HIGH SCHOOL
Beijing



PEOPLE'S UNIVERSITY
HIGH SCHOOL
Beijing

ABOUT OUR WORKSHOPS

College Survival Workshops help students acquire skills to cope with inevitable feelings of alienation *before* they leave China.

The program is designed specifically for the needs of PRC students based on a thorough understanding of their prior academic experience and the cultural environment they grew up in. The workshop draws on the latest U.S. pedagogical techniques to help students become familiar with academic expectations of U.S. colleges that place high value on self-expression, discussion and critical thinking. Participants become familiar with social

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bridge ethnic and racial differences.

Jocelyn stimulated students to think independently and express themselves.

Yang Renwang, teacher, People's University Affiliated High School

College Survival Workshops draw on video, readings and images to introduce students to their new learning environment. We engage students in interactive exercises involving teamwork, debates, role-playing and performance presentations.

It was a valuable experience for our students.

Lou Conover, deputy headmaster, Confucius International School, Chengdu

The half-day, two-day and week-long or semester-long curriculum can be uniquely designed to meet a student's individual needs or meet an organizations' priorities. Workshops can be conducted in English or in Mandarin and English.



THE FOUNDER'S STORY

College Survival Workshops' innovative multimedia curriculum was created and curated by award-winning U.S. journalist, filmmaker and educator, Jocelyn Ford.

With over 35 years as a foreign correspondent in East Asia, Jocelyn has made

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Japan and China for a leading U.S. public radio business program, *Marketplace*, Jocelyn turned to entrepreneurial filmmaking. Her passion for teaching took root during screenings of her transformative film *Nowhere to Call Home* at universities and high schools in China. The workshop idea emerged from the discussions and conversations with young Chinese at top-ranked academies, including Peking University and People's University affiliated high schools.

A graduate of Oberlin College in Ohio, Jocelyn grew up in Amherst, Massachusetts, a town known for its elite colleges. The daughter of a physics professor graduate of MIT and a school teacher and civic volunteer with a degree from Wellesley College, as a child Jocelyn was surrounded by educators with a passion for making the world a better place.

Jocelyn's work in radio has garnered her the Overseas Press Club and National Press Club awards in the United States. Her documentary *Nowhere to Call Home* has been translated into 11 languages. Following the U.S. premiere at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York, the critically acclaimed film has won awards worldwide.

For more information, email SparksThatMatter@gmail.com



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