

Dear Students,

Congratulations, and thank you for signing up for **Rio Hondo College's 2026 Study Abroad Programs in China (Cultural Exchange) and Taiwan (Chihlee University Program)**.

We are excited to inform you that you have been selected to participate in both programs. This will be an incredible opportunity to experience two cultures in one journey!

Please review the important information below carefully.

1. Travel Overview (Multi-City Route)

Route: Los Angeles (LAX) → Shanghai (PVG) → Taipei (TSA/TPE) → Los Angeles (LAX)

Airport Codes for Reference:

- **PVG: Shanghai Pudong International Airport**
 - **TSA: Taipei Songshan Airport**
 - **TPE: Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport**
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2. Suggested Flight Schedule

Below is the recommended flight plan for students attending both programs:

Segment 1: Los Angeles → Shanghai (China)

- Departure: June 16, 11:30 AM (LAX)
- Arrival: June 17, 4:05 PM (PVG)

Segment 2: Shanghai → Taipei (Taiwan)

- Departure: June 28, 12:15 PM (PVG)
- Arrival: June 28, 2:00 PM (TSA – Songshan Airport)
- *Note: Songshan Airport (TSA) is located in downtown Taipei and is more convenient than Taoyuan Airport.*

Segment 3: Taipei → Los Angeles

- Departure: July 18, 11:40 PM (TPE – Taoyuan Airport)

- Arrival: July 18, 8:30 PM (LAX)

Segment	Date	Route	Airline	Flight (Estimated)	Departure	Arrival
1. Transpacific	June 16	LAX -> PVG	China Eastern	MU 586	11:30 AM	4:05 PM (+1 day)
2. Regional	June 28	PVG -> TSA	EVA Air	BR 771	12:15 PM	2:00 PM
3. Return	July 18	TPE -> LAX	STARLUX	JX 002	11:40 PM	8:30 PM

Airport Codes for Reference:

- **PVG:** Shanghai Pudong International Airport
- **TSA:** Taipei Songshan Airport
- **TPE:** Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport

Important: Due to time zone differences, you will arrive in Los Angeles on the same day you depart from Taipei.

3. Booking Your Flight

You may book your ticket independently or work with a travel agent.

Optional Travel Agents:

- J & C Travel – Tracy Wang
 Email: Tracy999w@gmail.com
 Phone (text only): 626-226-7392
- Kirk Vacation – May Huang
 Email: May.huang@kirkvacation.net

Tip:

If multiple students book the same flight, you may qualify for a **group rate**. Travel agents can assist with coordinating group bookings.

4. China Visa Application (Required Before Booking Flights)

Before purchasing your ticket, you must apply for a **China visa**.

Thanks to our partner, **Lishui Vocational College**, you will receive an official invitation letter to apply for a **5-year visa at no cost**.

Application Steps:

1. Complete the online visa application form
2. Receive approval and a QR code
3. Visit the Chinese Consulate in Los Angeles:
500 Shatto Place, 3rd Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90020
4. Submit your passport and QR code
5. Receive a pick-up slip (keep it safe)
6. Return in about 5 days to pick up your passport with visa

Detailed Instructions:

<https://talk2nativespeakers.com/2026-china-trip-visa-application-information/>

Optional Visa Assistance (\$50 service fee):

Mr. Hank Lee

- Text: 626-777-8666
 - Email: Hanklee7@gmail.com
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5. Program Coverage

The China program is generously sponsored by **Lishui Vocational College**, which will cover:

- Hotel accommodations
- Meals
- Transportation (tour bus)

- Cultural activities and excursions

(Details for the Taiwan program will be shared separately, if applicable.)

6. Gift Etiquette (Important Cultural Note)

It is a meaningful tradition to bring small gifts to thank your hosts.

Recommendations:

- Bring **5 small gifts + 1 nicer gift for faculty (per program)**
- Since you are attending both programs, please prepare **two sets of gifts** (one for China and one for Taiwan)
- Suggested budget: **\$30–\$50 per set**

Gift Ideas:

- Items representing Los Angeles or the U.S.
- Souvenirs from your hometown or culture
- Examples: keychains, T-shirts, small keepsakes

You may also bring extra small items to share with new friends.

Tip: Bring enough luggage space—you will likely receive many gifts in return!

7. Final Reminder

We are excited to share this once-in-a-lifetime experience with you. This journey will allow you to explore new cultures, build friendships, and represent Rio Hondo College internationally.

Please begin your **visa application as soon as possible** and plan your travel accordingly.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

We look forward to traveling with you!

Warm regards,

Dr. Shin Liu

Study Abroad Coordinator

Rio Hondo College