

Dear Students,

Congratulations, and thank you for signing up for Rio Hondo College's **2026 Study Abroad: China Cultural Exchange Program!** We are excited to inform you that you have been selected to participate in this unique and enriching experience.

Below is important information to help you prepare for the program.

1. Travel Dates & Arrival Information

- **Arrival in Shanghai (PVG):** June 17, 2026
 - You will be picked up at Shanghai Pudong International Airport (PVG) by staff from Lishui Vocational College.
 - You will stay at a hotel near the airport, have dinner, and rest.
 - **Program Dates:** June 18 – June 27, 2026
 - The program officially begins on the morning of June 18.
 - **Departure from Shanghai:** June 28, 2026
 - After the program ends on June 27, you will stay overnight near the airport.
 - Shuttle service will be provided to PVG airport on June 28.
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2. Suggested Flight Schedule (LAX ⇄ PVG)

To help you plan, here is a recommended flight schedule:

- **Departure (LAX → PVG):**
June 16, 11:30 AM → June 17, 4:05 PM
- **Return (PVG → LAX):**
June 28, 12:00 PM → June 28, 9:00 AM
- **Airport Codes for Reference:**
PVG: Shanghai Pudong International Airport

Note: Due to time zone differences, you will arrive in Los Angeles on the same day you depart Shanghai.

3. Booking Your Flight

You may book your flight independently or work with a travel agent:

Travel Agents (Optional):

- **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 many students travel on the same flight, you may qualify for a **group rate**. Travel agents can help coordinate group bookings.

4. China Visa Application (Required Before Booking Flight)

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, allowing you to apply for a **5-year visa at no cost**.

Steps to Apply:

1. Complete the online visa application form.
2. Wait for approval and receive 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 in person.
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

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

- Hotel accommodations
 - Meals
 - Transportation (tour bus)
 - Cultural activities and excursions
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6. Gift Etiquette (Important Cultural Note)

In Chinese culture, it is customary to bring small gifts to thank your hosts.

Recommendations:

- Bring **5 small gifts** and **1 slightly nicer gift** for faculty
- Total budget: approximately **\$30–\$50**
- Gifts can represent:
 - Los Angeles / USA
 - Your hometown or culture

Examples: keychains, T-shirts, small souvenirs

You may also bring extra small items to share with new friends. Keep in mind—you will likely receive many gifts in return, so plan your luggage accordingly.

7. Final Reminder

We are excited to share this meaningful international experience with you. This program is a wonderful opportunity to explore Chinese culture, build friendships, and represent Rio Hondo College abroad.

Please review this information carefully and begin preparing your visa application as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out.

We look forward to traveling with you!

Warm regards,

Dr. Shin Liu

Study Abroad Coordinator

Rio Hondo College