Notre Dame Law School- Peking and Tsinghua Universities, Beijing China

Annual Student Exchange
Basic Questions and Answers

1. How many students will be able to participate?
The Notre Dame Law School-Peking & Tsinghua Universities student exchange programs will allow up to four NDLS students to study at each school each academic year.

2. How will the students be selected?
Interested students should submit the following to the Law School Registrar, Anne Hamilton, by email at Hamilton.4@nd.edu, and no later than April 7: (a) a personal statement of no more than one page that explains why you are interested in going to China and how you anticipate it contributing to your academic and professional development; (b) a transcript of all your courses and grades at NDLS to date; and (c) the name of one NDLS faculty member who is willing to recommend your participation in the exchange program. A selection will be made from among the interested students based on an assessment of the suitability of the program to the student’s professional and educational goals and capacities.

3. Can 3Ls go too?
Both 2Ls and 3Ls can participate. Third-year students must be able to demonstrate that they have satisfied all of their graduation requirements (other than the total credits needed) before going, or that they will be able to satisfy their remaining requirements in the second semester of their 3L year if they seek to go in their last semester. 3L students who choose to go to China in their last semester should be aware that their courses and exams in China will not end in time for them to receive their degrees at the May Notre Dame commencement. They will not formally receive their degrees until the August degree date, which could prevent those students from sitting for bar exams in the summer.

4. Can I go for a whole year or only for a semester?
A single-semester exchange is preferred but in exceptional circumstances and for compelling reasons we can consider a student’s request to attend for an entire year.

5. What are the dates of the semesters in China?
The fall term typically begins in late August and runs to the late December, with exams prior to Christmas. The spring term typically begins in mid-February and runs until late May, with exams immediately thereafter.

6. Do I have to know Chinese?
No, but an intensive orientation on language and culture is available for Notre Dame students in China, prior to each term of study. These courses are optional for law students, but highly recommended.

7. What kinds of courses would I be able to take at Peking or Tsinghua?
Each ND student’s program of study will need to be approved in advance by the NDLS Associate Dean for International and Graduate Programs. The exchange program is intended to be of particular benefit to those students who have a strong interest in international, comparative, and foreign law studies.

8. Would my China grades count at Notre Dame?
Credits earned will transfer to Notre Dame and will count toward your degree requirements, but any grades earned these courses will not count in a student’s overall GPA calculation at Notre Dame.

9. How does tuition work?
Participating students will continue to pay their regular tuition to Notre Dame; no tuition will be due to exchange school.

10. What housing accommodations are available in China?
Students will stay in dorms or may choose to seek their own independent housing instead.

11. Is there financial aid available?
The financial aid that is available to you in South Bend will also be available to you while you are in China, but your available student loan amounts will be adjusted to account for travel expenses and cost of living differences.

12. Are there any scholarships associated with the program?
There is no scholarship funding available to support participation in the exchange program. For any further questions, please contact Anne Hamilton, Registrar, at Hamilton.4@nd.edu or Associate Dean Roger Alford at ralford@nd.edu.