

## **ACB Evaluation Executive Summary**

### **Intensive Chinese Language, CIEE Study Center at Peking University, Beijing, China**

#### **Summer 2011**

Founded in 1980, the CIEE Beijing Center is one of the first American study abroad programs in China (with two additional CIEE study centers in China being established shortly thereafter). In the three decades, the program has served over 2,700 students.

This is the first evaluation conducted by the ACB that focuses on the summer program. The enrollment in 2007 had a high spike of 61. Enrollments/ have fluctuated around the average of 44 each summer with the current summer 2011 enrollment being 57. Enrollments have a gender ratio which is typically 40% to 50% female.

The ICLP is housed in the building of Shao Yuan, next to the Peking University Office of International Relations. Peking University is arguably one of the highest-ranked universities in China and the program is fortunate to have a strong relationship with the university including the Office of International Relations and the School of Chinese as a Second Language.

The goal of the Intensive Chinese Language Program (ICLP) is to focus on students at the intermediate language level or above. Through breaking students into group levels (e.g. intermediate, high intermediate, advanced I, advanced II) a variety of students can be effectively served. The program is designed to give students the opportunity to make progress in language learning towards the equivalent of one year's training all within the two month period. This is through a combination of readings in Chinese (for reading and writing) and spoken Chinese (for listening and speaking). This is coupled with "one on two sessions" where two students are paired with a teacher for more intensive training. And further, students have individual tutors over the course of the experience. All of this is in the context of students pledging to speak in Chinese during the course of the entire program (except with permission or other times of urgent needs).

Additional immersion into the language and culture comes via extra-curricular activities and through living with a Chinese family (for those that choose).

The Resident Director, Dr. Yuan Tian, began in the summer of 2002 and has established herself with Peking University. An additional valued staff of three help to carry out the program (not counting the teachers and tutors which come through Peking University).

The CIEE program is well established as a mature study center. Meanwhile the international programming efforts of Peking University have been rapidly accelerating in recent years. As such, there are other opportunities to explore for deeper and wider integration.

With the long institutional history and mature dedicated staff, the CIEE program is poised for more differentiation and growth in the coming years.

## **CIEE Action Plan**

### **Intensive Chinese Language, CIEE Study Center at Peking University, Beijing, China**

**October 2011**

#### **Overview**

CIEE staff are pleased to provide this Action Plan in response to the Academic Consortium Board (ACB) report on the summer program of the CIEE Study Center at Peking University in Beijing. The report of the site visit was received by members of the ACB at the summer 2011 meeting. After review, the ACB accepted the report, and presented it to the Academic Consortium.

The Action Plan outlines the key recommendations from the Evaluation and the specific steps CIEE plans to follow to address the recommendation. While the Action Plan is authored by CIEE, staff solicited input from the ACB team leader from the evaluation Brian Harley, Associate Dean of International Programs and Director of Study Abroad, Purdue University and, where appropriate, from another member of the evaluation team, Chuanren Ke, Professor of Chinese / Professor of Second Language Acquisition, Department of Asian Languages and Literature Doctoral Program in Second Language Acquisition (FLARE) at University of Iowa; Director, Confucius Institute at University of Iowa. The Action Plan should be read in light of the ACB Evaluation and with reference to the detailed description of the program available from CIEE.

The “ACB Plan for Program Evaluation”, the Evaluation report, the Action Plan, and program details are available at [www.ciee.org](http://www.ciee.org).

#### **Actions**

- *ACB Recommendation* - Investigate the optimal way to nominate and select PKU Teachers for program courses.

The Resident Director (RD) has addressed this request to both the School of Chinese as a Second Language and the Office of International Relations at Peking University. Both of these administrative units have stated they would give serious consideration to CIEE request and would respond to our inquiry prior to February 2012.

- *ACB Recommendation* - Communicate with Peking University on program goals and curriculum objectives.

The RD will address both the program goals and curriculum objectives to the Peking University Summer Language Program Coordinator and develop ways for CIEE staff to enhance communication with the instructors prior to and during the summer program.

- *ACB Recommendation* - Integrate CIEE staff and tutorial work with the instructional program.

Staff have discussed ways to enhance the structure of the tutorial program by having tutors focus on more specific items when communicating/reporting back to CIEE staff. Additionally, CIEE staff will self-assign themselves specific groups of students to more closely monitor their

individual progress and support the language instructors during the two-on-one component of the program.

- *ACB Recommendation* - Provide a one- to two-hour session on Chinese pronunciation at the beginning of the summer program.

Beginning in summer 2012, pronunciation will be emphasized throughout the eight week summer program. During orientation the RD will talk about principles of Chinese pronunciation and difficulties that American students typically have pronouncing Chinese. Second, the RD and on-site staff will train tutors to correct student's pronunciation before summer program starts. Third, CIEE tutors will focus on correcting pronunciation in the first three weeks' individual tutorial sessions, and each individual student will be required to record their reading of a paragraph in Chinese and will be assessed by the RD and CIEE staff, who later will give feedback to both the student and his or her tutor on how much the student's pronunciation has improved and where the student should focus efforts to improve. By the end of the summer program, students will be asked to perform in a CIEE talent show that requires performance entirely in the Chinese language.

- *ACB Recommendation* - Manage field trip for maximal learning by linking first-hand observations with the background preparation to produce a more devoted learning experience.

In each field trip, CIEE staff and tutors will play an active role in developing goals and tasks in language and culture learning during predeparture for each experience. Based on the level of Chinese language proficiency, the contents of curriculum for the week, and the nature of the field trip, the CIEE on-site staff will set up specific objectives for each field trip and require the students to perform activities at their appropriate language proficiency level. CIEE Language Tutors will also be invited to give input on how to facilitate each individual student to learn in both language and culture. CIEE staff will also provide detailed vocabulary and grammar lists that the students would need to use in the trip and to complete the tasks during the cultural activity. Oral interviews and exploring the local environment will be critical requirements integrated into all activities moving forward.

- *ACB Recommendation* - Improve the accuracy of the English translation of vocabulary items if inaccurate.
- *ACB Recommendation* - Provide an English version for each lesson text, particularly those for lower proficiency levels.
- *ACB Recommendation* - Go through the translation of the vocabulary list and construct an English rendition of the lesson texts (through textbook compilers working with bilingual Chinese/English speakers).

The RD called a meeting with College of Chinese as a Second Language to address the issues outlined in recommendations #6, #7, #8. The College has expressed their strong intention to improve the accuracy of the English translation of the textbooks they are using and have stated that they would provide an English version for each lesson text for summer 2012. In the interim, The CIEE RD and staff will work with native speakers of English to improve translation of the vocabulary list and provide feedback to the College as possible to do so.

- *ACB Recommendation* - Differentiate staff roles which would benefit the staff themselves for professional reasons, the students themselves as recipients, and the Resident Director through such task delegation.

CIEE staff had plans to further differentiate staff roles and have executed this plans following the ACB evaluation. The staff's roles have been initially divided in the following manner:

Coordinator of Students Services (*new position as of fall 2011*)

Responsible for the design, implementation, and quality of student services for all semester and summer programs. Establish and maintain a healthy and supportive environment for living and learning. Assist the RD to serve as a resource and counsel for students' questions in daily life, including independent travel and program excursions. Assist the RD in orientation, homestay orientation, field trips and extracurricular activities. Take a lead role in developing new volunteer and community engagement Provide students with 24/7 support as necessary.

Academic Coordinator, Intensive Chinese Language Programs

Assist Resident Director in managing all academic aspects of ICL Program. Assist in designing and improving language curriculum including guideline for placement test, course registration, course selection, level switching, credit transferring, issuing transcripts and incorporating language learning into activities. Assist the RD in managing area studies courses during the semester program. Assist RD in recruiting, training tutors and managing tutorial sessions for all programs. Assist in designing and coordinating and facilitating the Language and Culture Practicum during the semester program. In charge of monitor students' class attendance, performance and adherence to the language commitment. Assist the RD in communicating with PKU language faculty regarding issues and observations related to individual student academic work. Assist the RD in designing academic elements into all aspects of the program. Assist the RD in supporting and communicating the linguistic and intercultural programs goals into all CIEE sponsored activities.

Program Assistant, Intensive Chinese Language Programs

Mainly responsible in assisting the RD and Coordinator of Student Services in designing and developing field trips, long weekend traveling, co-curricular activities, community engagement activities , Chinese Tables, etc. Manage on-site housing including making reservations in on-campus and off-campus housing, homestay family recruitment, and program orientation.

- *ACB Recommendation* - Explore how to optimize structured participation with organizations and ancillary events of Peking University towards enhancing integration with PKU students.

In order to help CIEE students build up more interactions with Peking University students, CIEE will investigate the number of student organizations and clubs that sponsor activities in the during the summer period. CIEE will make introductions to key contacts with these student organizations and clubs before the summer program starts and invite them to speak during the orientation period. CIEE will invite these key contacts to talk to CIEE summer students during their orientation. CIEE will provide support to students who are interested in joining local student organization and clubs should they need it.

- *ACB Recommendation* - Clarify whether or not renting space (in room #112-A) is needed.

The renting of Room #112 has been continued following discussions between various CIEE staff. This room will be used for individual tutorials and group meetings.