

China:

The Chinese Cosmopolitan City

Instructors

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Research Methods (1 credit)
ARH 5606 Chinese Architecture and Culture (3 credits)
ARCH 5608 Urban Research Workshop (3 credits)

Time:

May 30 to June 29, 2019

Itinerary:

Shanghai, Suzhou, Hangzhou, Yiwu, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Hong Kong

Program Summary

After three decades of rapid development, the Chinese urbanization seems to have entered into a new phase, which is characterized by cosmopolitanism. While earlier examples of world cities in Asia such as Hong Kong and Singapore are illuminating, Chinese cities engage with this profound transformation from social and cultural conditions not formulated by colonialism. The 2019 China Program investigates this new stage of Chinese urbanization, particularly in the context of increasing infrastructural integration of the world ambitiously planned by China's Belt and Road Initiative. The UVA Architecture's China Program will focus on influential factors of urban change: the flows of labor, goods, and innovation which resulted Chinese cities adapting its spaces for new realities. We will examine the instruments and institutions of the world system, and study the spatial modifications in the Chinese city that anticipate a new era of urbanization not marked by quantitative increase but by cultural change. These goals will be accomplished by documentation of urban change, analyses of architectural developments, and understanding of cultural encounters in the context of global economic change.

Participating students will have opportunities to work with students and professors in China, visit established design firms and smaller innovative practices as well as their building sites.

Classes

All participating students are enrolled in the following courses:

1. A Research Methods Module before departure (1 credit):
 - Readings of selected literature on Chinese urbanization (pre-departure)
 - Training in documentation techniques (pre-departure)
 - Discussions of research directions before departure (pre-departure)
 - Preliminary research and visualization (pre-departure)
 - Planning and installation of an exhibition at the UVA School of Architecture (post return)
2. Research on migration and cultural change for ARH 5606 Chinese Architecture and Culture (3 credits)
3. Urban research and analyses for ARCH 5608 Urban Research Workshop (3 credits)

Outcome

Research conducted in UVA, Yiwu and Guangzhou will be presented and reviewed at South China University in Guangzhou. All these research outcomes will be brought to UVA through an exhibition at the Elmaleh Gallery.

Apply at UVA ISO: <http://educationabroad.virginia.edu/>

Required Books

Li Shiqiao, *Understanding the Chinese City* (Sage, 2014)

Esther Lorenz and Li Shiqiao, eds., *Kowloon Cultural District, An Investigation into Spatial Capabilities in Hong Kong* (MCCM, 2014)

(Full bibliography and readings will be handed out at the Research Methods Module)