

FAQ for the Ross Mathematics Program / Asia

PROGRAM FEES

1. What the costs to participate in this Program?

The Program Fee is \$4,000. This amount covers lodging, food, local transportation, basic insurance, and classes. Chinese students pay an equivalent amount in RMB 25,000.

Other costs for non-Chinese students include:

Visa to China	\$230
Flight to Nanjing from the USA	~ \$1,500

Students are responsible for their personal spending.

The home-stay program is provided at no addition cost.

For students whose families have need:

Some financial assistance is available to help cover costs of flights and visas.

2. How do students pay the fee to attend the Ross Program?

Chinese students will make payments to the Nanjing office using RMB (Chinese currency) and students from the USA and other countries will pay in US dollars to the office in Delaware, following the payment procedures described in the document “Payment Policy 2016.”

LOCATION

1. Where will the Ross Program / Asia be located?

The Ross/Asia 2016 will be hosted in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province; a beautiful historic city. Since the Ross Program requires a quiet location, we chose Happy Villa, a hotel that belongs to the Jiangsu Broadcasting Corporation. This hotel can be found in Google Maps by entering “Jiangsu Future Movie and TV Serial Cultural Originality Industry Zone.” It is about nine kilometers from Nanjing Lukou International Airport, and about 40 kilometers from Nanjing South Railway Station.

2. How are the rooms equipped?

All rooms are air-conditioned. All Ross participants will stay in double or triple rooms. Each room has two or three beds, along with chairs, desks, closets, and a full bathroom. Sheets, pillows, pillowcases, blankets, and clothes-hangers are provided. Some refrigerators and microwave ovens are also available at the hotel.



3. How will the cafeteria work?

The hotel’s cafeteria serves three meals a day, offering a variety of foods in a standard buffet style. Vegetables, tofu, and other vegan foods are also available at every meal.

Students who miss a meal can purchase snacks in the hotel lobby.

4. Is smoking allowed in the hotel?

Smoking is NOT allowed in the rooms, hallways, and conference rooms.

5. Where can I shop for food and other items?

There are several supermarkets (Suguo Supermarket, Shiji Hualian Supermarket, etc.) at Shiqiuzhen about 2.5 kilometers away, and a shopping mall (Kangli Commercial Plaza) in downtown Lishui. Car rides will be provided each weekend for shopping.

6. Are ATMs or banks located near the hotel?

There are two banks (Agricultural Bank of China and Postal Savings Bank of China) in Shiqiuzhen, about 2.5 kilometers away.

7. Are doctors' offices, hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies located nearby?

Emergency treatment and a small, convenient pharmacy are available at the hotel reception desk. Nanjing General Hospital is 30-minutes away by car.

TRAVEL TIPS

1. What should students do on arrival in Nanjing?

Students and counselors living in China should take trains to Nanjing South Railway Station, or fly to Nanjing Lukou International Airport. If our staff members know your arrival information, we will meet you at the railway station or airport on Sunday July 10 by 4 pm. We will then transport the assembled students to the Happy Villa.

2. In addition to having a valid passport, do non-Chinese participants need to obtain a visa in order to visit China? How should that be done? What are the deadlines?

YES, visas are necessary for participants who are not Chinese citizens. For participants living in the USA, our partner company, *Renascencia Hall International* in Newark, Delaware, will be able to assist with visa applications.

Further information is provided in the document "Visa Process."

3. How should arrangements be made for airline tickets from my home city?

When should plane reservations be made?

We will assist Ross participants with their plane reservations once we confirm their travel dates.

This process should be started as early as possible.

Most flights from North America to Nanjing involve a first stop at another Chinese city, requiring you to go through customs there, and then re-book your bags to Nanjing. To avoid that complication, we recommend flying directly to the Shanghai Pudong International Airport. A Ross staff member will meet you there, and help get you and your luggage on a train to Nanjing.

If you are traveling through Los Angeles, you might be able to get a flight directly to Nanjing.

Further details are provided in the document "Travel Instructions."

4. What is the best date to travel to Nanjing?

To be ready to begin the Program on Sunday evening, most participants will arrive on Sunday afternoon, July 10. Please arrive at Happy Villa before 5 pm.

We recommend that participants from overseas who are not participating in the home-stay program, arrive at either the

Nanjing Lukou International Airport (NKG) or

Shanghai Pudong International Airport (PVG)

on Friday afternoon, July 8, 2016. This will allow time for you to recover from the trip.

Participants in our home-stay cultural exchange program (see below) should plan to arrive in Shanghai or Nanjing on Saturday afternoon, July 2, 2016 or (if necessary) on Sunday July 3. Further flexibility in arrival times is possible, but exceptions require separate negotiations.

Details about flights and arrival times are discussed in the document "Travel Instructions."

5. What are the flight arrangements when I leave the Ross Program site?

On Friday, August 12, we will transport Ross participants from the Happy Villa hotel to either Nanjing Lukou International Airport, or the railway station to get a train to the Shanghai airport. Staff members will accompany Ross participants until they have a boarding pass, their baggage is checked, and they are ready to go through security.

There is a direct flight from Nanjing to Los Angeles leaving at 2 PM on Saturday (arriving at 11 AM on Saturday). Participants who are on that flight may stay an extra night at the Happy Villa at no additional cost. A staff member will accompany them to the Nanjing Lukou International Airport on that Saturday morning.

6. Are some excursions planned on the weekends?

We are planning excursions on two weekends. Details are not yet available.

HOME-STAY OPPORTUNITY

Ross participants who are not Chinese are welcome to participate in a cultural exchange program during the week prior to the start of the Ross Program. They will live with a host family in Nanjing, learning more directly what life in China is like. In exchange, the parents and teenage children of the host family will interact with a foreign student and learn a few things about life outside China.

NOTE. This home-stay cultural exchange is offered as an independent activity, not directly associated with the Ross Mathematics Program as a unit within the Ohio State University.

1. Is the home-stay program optional?

Yes, it is optional. If you are a Ross participant (student, junior counselor, or counselor) with interests in Chinese people, foods, and culture, then we encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity. This extra week in China is offered at no additional cost.

Note: Ethnic Chinese students are also welcome to join this cultural exchange program if they have little knowledge of China and want to gain a few days of experience with Chinese culture.

2. How will host families and non-Chinese participants be matched?

Potential home-stay families usually have a teenager interested in meeting a foreign student. They submit an application requesting that a Ross participant be assigned to them for that week. Our staff members try to match each foreign student's background, interests, hobbies, and requirements, with those of the host family. Once that tentative assignment is made, host family members and the foreign student chat together using Skype to verify the arrangements.

3. Will students join their host families immediately after arriving in Nanjing?

Yes. Participants will meet their host families and join them soon after arriving in Nanjing.

4. What will the home-stay families provide?

They will provide food, housing, transportation, and conversation. During that one-week stay, you will taste Chinese food, perhaps learn a few words of Mandarin, visit some places of interest in Nanjing, and experience a bit of Chinese culture. On Sunday, July 10, the host family members will drive you directly to the Happy Villa, or one of our staff members will arrange for the transportation.

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

1. What do students need to bring?

The hotel will provide sheets, pillows, pillowcases, blankets, clothes hangers, towels, washcloths, soap, shampoo, etc. (Of course, you may bring your own items if you want.) Sheets, pillowcases, towels, and washcloths will be exchanged for clean ones every few days.

Bring your own toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, perfume, lotion, etc.

Weather will be hot and muggy, so you should bring several changes of summer clothes: T-shirts, light shirts or blouses, shorts, skirts, sandals, etc. Slightly warmer clothing might be needed in the air-conditioned rooms. Some rain gear, sunscreen and insect repellent are good to have, but they can be purchased locally. We do not expect to have access to any swimming pools, so bathing suits are not needed.

You should bring some cash, but no more than 1,000-2,000 RMB (200-300 USD) in order to buy snacks, books, and souvenirs. Credit cards will work as well.

2. Will American electric items work there?

The Chinese electrical system uses 220 V - 50 Hz, while the American standard is 110 V - 60 Hz. Electrical outlets in rooms at Happy Villa require an adapter (that we can provide) to accept American-style plugs. Be sure to check that any appliance you bring (electric toothbrush, hair-dryer, etc.) will work with 220 volts. Cell phone chargers are OK with just a plug adapter. For counselors and instructors: Chargers for most computers and tablets will accept 110 or 220 volts, so they need only the plug adapter.

3. What about bringing laptops, tablets, and other electronics?

In order to limit any distractions, we ask everyone to minimize their use of smart phones, and to avoid bringing electronic items like computers, tablets (like iPads), TVs, video game systems, DVD players, etc. Such devices brought by students will be collected and stored in the hotel for the duration of the program.

4. Are activities arranged for nights and weekends? Will there be many social interactions during the five-weeks?

Yes, there will be non-mathematical activities on some evenings and weekends, including a seminar on culture differences.

OTHER DETAILS

1. Do you recommend that American students bring U.S. dollars in cash, then exchange them for yuan (RMB) at a nearby bank? Or is it better to use American credit cards (like Visa, MasterCard, or Discover)?

Students are welcome to bring a small amount of cash (200-300 USD). Our staff members can help you exchange U.S. dollars for Chinese currency. However, it seems advisable to bring an American credit card to use when you purchase items at a supermarket or shopping mall. Exchange rates for a credit cards are usually about the same as the rates offered at a bank.

2. How hard is it to convert an American telephone to one that is usable in China?

Many American or European smart phones can be converted for use in China by contacting the telephone company and making the request. Other phones can be converted by replacing the SIM card. Please contact the mobile phone company you work with **before** you leave for China, and ask them for details.

Students will not bring computers, but your counselor will allow you to have occasional access to his/her laptop so that you can make a Skype call home.

3. Will washing machines and dryers be available?

Are there places to hang clothes inside the building on rainy days?

We will have access to five washing machines and a dryer. Before you leave home, please review the washing instructions for your clothes.

Most Chinese families let their damp laundry air-dry on racks. Each room has a drying rack placed near a window. Drops of water will not damage the tile floors.