

JOINT INSTITUTE



JOINT INSTITUTE
交大密西根学院

WINTER UM-SJTU JOINT INSTITUTE

 <https://www.ji.sjtu.edu.cn/academics/ipo/study-at-ji-winter-programs/>

CONTACT US

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International Programs Office
UM-SJTU Joint Institute, of Shanghai Jiao Tong University

2025 WINTER PROGRAM

2025 UM-SJTU JI
International
Winter Program
Winter

2025

Welcome to the UM-SJTU JI Winter Program

Join us for an immersive learning experience
with local students to explore China in
various ways!

The 2025 international winter program offers you high-quality academic courses, as well as a unique opportunity to explore Chinese culture and customs, make new friends, and enjoy interesting excursions. The program combines courses in engineering, arts, humanities or professional development, with researches, field trips and practices in real world settings, providing a comprehensive and enriching educational experience.



Course Information

01

Design for Sustainable Development: Local Ecosystems in Dali

Background:

This action-based learning course engages students in teams to apply design skills to address the sustainable development needs of entrepreneurial and community partner organizations. Throughout the course, students will use human-centered design tools such as interviewing, immersion, and prototyping during field trips and visits. They will conduct research in locations including Erhai Lake, the Ancient Town of Xizhou, Zhoucheng Village, and Eryuan County in Dali. Their findings will be integrated with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to produce reflections and reports. This experience deepens students' understanding of maintaining the balance of nature through technology. Topics covered range from the promotion of intangible cultural heritage and the preservation of ancient towns to the operation of guesthouses and the governance of local ecology.



Testimonials:



This winter program allowed me to deeply appreciate the beauty of nature, providing a break from the hustle of the city. Our visit to the Bufang Apple Farm showcased a sustainable business model that not only protects the environment but also generates economic benefits. From this, I realized that economic development and environmental protection are not contradictory; through excellent business models, achieving a "win-win" outcome is entirely feasible.



Shaotian Sun
Sophomore at JI

Through this course, we have gained a deep understanding that environmental conversation necessitates an integration of technology and ecology. By innovating our approaches, we can introduce advanced technologies into ecosystems, harnessing their power to address environmental challenges while preserving the natural ecological balance to the greatest extent possible. Such strategies will serve as sustainable models for future environmental efforts, ensuring the long-term well-being of our shared planet.

Yifan Chen
Sophomore at JI



Program locations

Dali and Eryuan in
Yunnan Province



Duration

28 December, 2024 –
8 January, 2025



Study Language

English



Accreditation

2 credits



Eligibility

Full-time undergraduate
students from all disciplines
are welcome. Students
must have a good
command of English.



Slot

10



02 Field Study in Chinese History: Along the Silk Road

Background:

This course takes students to some of the most significant cities along the Silk Road: Xi'an, Zhangye, and Dunhuang. Starting in Xi'an, the ancient capital of 13 dynasties, students gain a deep understanding of the historical and cultural legacy of northwest China. The journey continues through the vast Gobi Desert, from Zhangye to Dunhuang, tracing ancient communication routes between China and Eurasia. Students learn about the historical significance of Jiayuguan, marvel at the vibrant culture depicted in the Dunhuang murals, and engage in discussions about the dissemination of Chinese culture across the vast Gobi Desert. This comprehensive journey offers a profound educational experience, blending lectures with field trips, allowing students to understand the expansive cultural heritage of the Silk Road.

Testimonials:

I really admire Prof. Xu's statement on Chinese cultural boundaries: "We often have heavy stereotypes about Chinese culture, especially from the Ming and Qing dynasties. However, when discussing the broader context of Chinese culture, we need to be particularly cautious." Through engaging with relics spanning thousands of years, the weight of history and the complexity of culture become clear. Simplistic notions like "the Silk Road is just silk and just a road" are corrected, allowing us to gain a deeper understanding of the richness of Chinese civilization.

Zixuan Yang
Freshman at JI

We explore ancient sites with youthful enthusiasm. Whether riding bikes on Xi'an's ancient walls, waving from the colorful cliffs of Danxia, or feeling the thrill of fast downhill slopes, these experiences are memorable. On the last day of 2023, we stopped at Xiaofangpan City. The sunset at Yumen Pass was late, but no one felt cold. As the last rays of sunlight in 2023 faded, Prof. Xu asked us, "How do you feel? Quite sentimental, right?" All I could think was, "Time flies, mountains and rivers are vast."

Hongfei Zhu
Freshman at JI



Program locations

Xi'an in Shaanxi Province,
Zhangye and Dunhuang in
Gansu Province



Duration

28 December, 2024 –
8 January, 2025



Study Language

English



Accreditation

2 credits



Eligibility

Full-time undergraduate students from all disciplines are welcome. Students must have a good command of English.



Slot

10

03

Computational Thinking with Data: Data Mining and Pattern Recognition with Wildlife Data



Program locations

Kunming in Yunnan
Province



Duration

5 January, 2025 –
16 January, 2025



Study Language

English



Accreditation

2 credits

Background:

This course emphasizes the use of computation to gain insight into behaviors and ecological patterns of green peafowl with real data collected from the infrared camera. The course will cover computational thinking and quantitative reasoning, to better prepare the students for further coursework in data science, computer science, and statistics. Technically speaking, students will be able to dive deeper into Python and its applications in building object detection and clustering models. At the same time, they need to identify and organize the project on their own through interactions with customers and domain experts. They will explore how to process the data, implement, and fine-tune a model, and evaluate the performance of your model. In the end, students will leave the course being able to independently apply the skills they have learned to datasets of their own choosing.



Eligibility

Basic experience python (numpy, scikit-learn, pandas, etc..) is required. Interests in object detection algorithms will be preferred. Students must have a good command of English and a basic command of Chinese.



Slot

10

Testimonials:



Though two weeks of study may seem brief, our journey from the basics of image annotation to model training has offered a profound glimpse into the research process of data science. It has provided me with an opportunity to actively pursue knowledge and exploration. The experiential learning gained from this immersion is invaluable for shaping my future career path. I eagerly anticipate engaging in further practical learning experiences across various domains.

Yerui Huang
Sophomore at JI

The two-day trip to Xishuangbanna was brief yet unforgettable. Upon returning to Kunming, we resumed our studies related to data. We further explored methods of detecting various animals and visualizing the data. Throughout this learning experience, we gained a wealth of knowledge on how to formulate questions, design models, solve problems, and present findings. In the future, we aim to apply the skills learned during the winter program to more projects.

Jiachen Lyu
Junior at JI





04

Digital Photography

Background:

During this course, students will venture through the cities and wilderness of China. With their cameras, they will explore the beauty of nature and the grandeur of cultural landscapes, learning how to best capture and portray these sceneries using photographic techniques. Whether you are studying engineering, business, laws, a touch of humanistic sentiments will be fully developed with the completion of the program.

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This experience is a blend of excitement and enrichment. We're explored scheduled forest waterfalls, wandered through local markets at dawn, and embarked on lengthy bus rides to visit coffee plantations and remote tea-growing villages. Armed with our cameras, we capture the essence of unforgettable people and events, as well as the rich tapestry of local customs. Though photography, we gain a fresh perspective on the world around us.

Jinhao Yu
Freshman at JI

Testimonials:

Instead of visiting the popular tourist spots, we aimed to explore the most authentic aspects of Yunnan. With our cameras in hand, we began to notice the interplay of light and shadow, experiencing the aesthetic impact of seemingly insignificant details. We sought out the most primitive landscapes and the most genuine local life. Looking back at each photo and recalling the stories behind them, we finally understood the true essence of 'Exploring the World'.

Haoyang
Freshman at JI

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Program locations
Guizhou Province



Duration
28 December, 2024 –
8 January, 2025



Study Language
English



Accreditation
2 credits



Eligibility
Full-time undergraduate students from all disciplines are welcome. Students must have a good command of English and need to bring their own digital cameras.



Slot
10



Program Features

Program Highlights:

 Collaborative Learning — Emphasis on teamwork and cross-cultural communication	 Hands-on Experience — Real-world case studies and field trips	 Cultural Exchange — Opportunities for students to share insights from their own cultures
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Scholarship Opportunities:

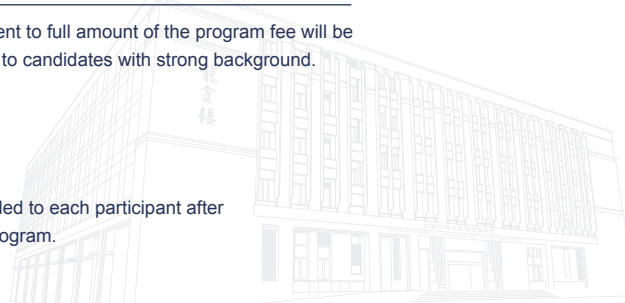
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SCHOLARSHIPS 

Each equivalent to full amount of the program fee will be awarded to candidates with strong background.

Transcript:

A digital transcript will be provided to each participant after successful completion of the program.



Registration Deadline 
10 AM, 7 October, 2024

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Preliminary Itinerary

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
Time ——— 9:00-12:00 14:00-17:00	Arrival Day	Lecture	Lecture
		Field Trip	Field Trip
	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
	Lecture	Lecture	Lecture
	Field Trip	Field Trip	Field Trip
	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9
	Field Trip	Self-study	Lecture
			Field Trip
	Day 10	Day 11	Day 12
	Lecture	Lecture	Review/ Final Presentation
	Field Trip	Field Trip	

Program Fee

Cost for each course:

USD 1560.00 

Program fee includes:

- Tuition
- Accommodation
- Shuttle bus service during the program
- Field trips and cultural events
- Insurance throughout program
- Administrative fees

Expenses covered by participants:

- International travels and domestic connecting flight/train to the program destination
- Visa application fees
- Meals
- Other personal expenses during the program

