American Bar Association Disclosures

The American Bar Association requires all law school study abroad programs to make certain disclosures to students relating to facilities, housing, curriculum, and other important matters. The information contained in this document supplements information contained in the official program brochure for the Institute on Chinese Law and Business.

Relationship with Beihang University

Q: The nature of the relationship with the foreign institution other than the provision of facilities and minimal services?

A: St. Mary’s University and Beihang University signed a cooperation agreement in November 2009 and have subsequently renewed that agreement. In addition to the annual operation of the St. Mary’s University Institute on Chinese Law and Business at the Beihang University campus each summer, the agreement envisions the possible exchange of faculty scholars, students, and library materials. Beihang professors and Beihang Ph.D. students have conducted research at St. Mary’s University in recent years. St. Mary’s University professors have guest lectured at Beihang University.

Number of Students

Q: The number of students who participated in the program the previous year from the sponsoring institution and the number from other schools (if the program is open to other students)?

A: Twelve students from the St. Mary’s home campus, participated in the 2017 China program, in addition to five Chinese students from Beihang University. A total of 140 non-Chinese students (mostly American) participated in the first eight years of the program (2000 to 2017), along with 45 Chinese law students. During the first eight years, the average annual enrollment was 17.50 American and other foreign students, plus 5.62 Chinese students each year from Beihang University.
Students Not from U.S. Law Schools

Q: Where the program is not limited to students from U.S. law schools, the countries likely to be represented and the number of those students?

A: A small number of students from Beihang University (probably not more than six) will participate in the program. In the past, there was one student from Belgium and another from Mexico.

Academic Standards

Q: Requirements for student performance and grading method?

A: In Introduction to Chinese Law, students are graded based on short papers assigned throughout the course. In International Business Transactions and International Intellectual Property there are final exams. The evaluation method for International Human rights has yet to be determined.

Students are graded anonymously. Grades cannot be raised or lowered based on class participation more than one level on the ten-level grading scale: A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D, F. The Law Student Handbook for St. Mary’s University School of Law is available on the law school website (law.stmarytx.edu, click Academics, then For Current Students). With respect to class attendance, the Handbook provides that:

1. Grade Reduction for Excessive Absences (The Three/Five Rule). On the ten-level grading scale (see Section IV, B), a professor may deduct no more than one grade level from a student’s final grade for three absences, and may deduct another grade level if the total reaches five absences, irrespective of the reason for such absences. (For example, if a student has three absences, a final grade of C+ may be reduced to C; if a student has five absences, a grade of C+ may be reduced to C-.) A professor who intends to apply this rule must notify students of this intention sufficiently in advance of the imposition of the sanction to permit the student to avoid the grade reduction.

2. Penalties for Being Tardy. A faculty member may treat a tardy as equivalent to an absence or a fractional part thereof, provided that notice of the practice is provided to students during the first week of class. A student who leaves before the conclusion of class may, at the professor’s discretion, with notice, be treated as tardy. (This includes students who leave class and return.)

3. Withdrawal for Excessive Absences. A student will be administratively excluded if he or she misses one-third or more of the scheduled classes.
**Enrollment Limitations**

Q: Enrollment limitations on any courses offered and criteria for enrollment?

A: All students are required to enroll in six credits of study: International Business Transactions (two credits); International Intellectual Property (two credits); International Human Rights: Business-related Issues (one credit), and Introduction to Chinese Law (one credit). There are no pre-requisites, other than the completion of the first year of law school.

**Academic Credit at Home Law School**

Q: Academic credit by home law school?

A: The ABA requires all study abroad programs to state: “Acceptance of any credit or grade for any course taken in the program, including externships and other clinical offerings, is subject to determination by the student’s home school.”

**Contact Information**

Q: Name, address, telephone and fax number, if available, of an informed contact person at the sponsoring institution?

A: Prior to the commencement of the program, contact:

Professor Robert H. Hu, Director  
St. Mary’s University School of Law  
One Camino Santa Maria  
San Antonio, Texas 78228-8605  
Phone: 210-431-2056  
Fax: 210-436-3240  
E-mail: rhu@stmarytx.edu or bobhhu@yahoo.com

or

Professor Vincent R. Johnson, Director  
St. Mary’s University School of Law  
One Camino Santa Maria  
San Antonio, Texas 78228-8603  
Phone: 210-431-2131  
U.S. Cell phone: 210-410-3562  
Fax: 210-436-3717  
E-mail: vjohnson@stmarytx.edu or johnsonv98@yahoo.com
While the summer program in China is in session, Professors Hu and Johnson can be contacted by e-mail, or through personnel at the home campus in San Antonio (Ms. Elizabeth Cadena, 210-431-4351, ecadena@stmarytx.edu, or Ms. Becky Adams, 210-431-5017, badams@stmarytx.edu), or through Beihang University Professor Xinqiang Sun (office: 001-86-10-82339571; cell: 011-86-13811095298; xqsun04@126.com). Regarding the phone numbers for Professor Sun: 011 is the international code when dialing another country from the U.S.; 86 is the country code for China; and 10 is the city code for Beijing. When calling a Beijing land line from within China, omit the international and country codes, and dial 010, rather than 10 for the city code. It is not necessary to dial a city code when calling a Chinese cell phone.

The address of the summer program in Beijing is:

Beihang University
Law School
37 Xueyuan Road, Haidian District
Beijing, China 100191

Costs and Expenses

Q: Complete statement of all tuition, fees, anticipated living costs, and other expected expenses?

A: Tuition: approximately $7410 (six credit hours)
Airfare purchased by student: $1800 estimate. (Probable range, $1500 - $2000.)
Housing: Accommodations are available at the Training Center of Beihang University for prices beginning at approximately $937 per person in a shared room (36 nights)). Alternatively, a room for two persons is available for about $95 per room per night at Vision Hotel, a five-star hotel located at the edge of the Beihang campus, not far from the law school.
Passport: Fees are listed on the State Department website (http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/fees/fees_837.html)
Visa: $190
Meals and Transportation: Approximately $720 ($20 per day for 36 days). Breakfast is included in the cost of housing at the Training Center. Meals and transportation generally cost less in China than in the U.S.
Miscellaneous Expenses: Approximately $720 (this is an estimate of $20 per day for 36 days).
Weekend Travel: Amounts will vary widely. Some students will travel during every break and spend more than $1000. Students who stay in the Beijing area will spend very little.
Books: $250 (estimate).
**Classrooms and Offices**

**Q:** Description and location of classrooms and administrative offices?

**A:** Classrooms and administrative offices are housed in the Beihang University Law School Building, a short walk from the East Gate of the university. The Law School is immediately adjacent to the Beihang University Training Center, which is the hotel where most participants in the program stay. In comparison to American law schools, the facilities of the Beihang University Law School are modest, but fully adequate to support the educational program of the Institute. PowerPoint and chalk boards are available in the classrooms.

**Accommodation of Disabilities**

**Q:** Extent to which the country, city, and facilities are accessible to individuals with disabilities?

**A:** Persons with mobility disabilities are likely to encounter numerous obstacles in the country of China and the city of Beijing, as well as on the Beihang University campus. It is often necessary to climb steps. Curb cuts are normally absent. Elevators and escalators may not be in working condition. Ramp grades are sometimes steep. Restrooms often lack adequate space.

**Cancellation, Travel Warnings, and Alerts**

**Q:** Circumstances under which the program is subject to cancellation, what arrangements will be made in the event of cancellation, and prior cancellation, if any?

**A:** The program may be cancelled due to conditions threatening the safety of Americans in China as determined by the U.S. State Department or insufficient enrollment. Students who have paid a deposit or registered for the program would be notified by e-mail. During the more than thirty years that St. Mary’s has operated summer programs in Austria and/or China, no program has ever been cancelled.

If changes in the course offerings or other significant aspects of the program occur, students who have paid a deposit or registered for the program will be notified by e-mail and given an opportunity to withdraw and to obtain a full refund of all money paid, except for room and board used by the student prior to that date.

*Students are urged to read the latest Country-Specific Information for China, which is available on the State Department website* (http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country/china.html).
If the State Department announces a Travel Warning or Alert for China covering the program dates and location, students will be promptly notified and given the opportunity to withdraw.

In the event of program cancellation, or a U.S. State Department Travel Warning or Alert covering the dates and location of the China program, students will receive a refund of all money previously paid, except for room and board used by the student prior to the date of an applicable Travel Warning or Alert. The refund will be issued within twenty days of the program cancellation or the student's notice to the law school of intent to withdraw for reasons related to the Travel Warning or Alert.

In the event of cancellation or withdrawal, efforts will be made to assist students who wish to enroll in the St. Mary's summer program in Innsbruck, Austria, or any other ABA program.

**Other Important Information**

**Choice of Law**

By enrolling in the St. Mary’s China program, each student agrees that any dispute relating to the program shall be governed by the law of Texas.

**Waiver of Liability**

In accordance with St. Mary’s University policy, each student who participates in the China program must sign a form waving liability claims against the university or its agents based on negligence.

**Safety, Security, and Health**

Information about risks in China related to crime and other risks in China can be found in the country-specific information for China listed on the State Department website (travel.state.gov) under the tabs dealing with “Safety and Security” and “Health.” *It is essential for students to review this information before traveling to China.*

**Immunizations**

Information about “Vaccines and Immunizations” and “Travelers’ Health” can be found on the website for the Centers for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov). *Students are responsible for deciding what precautions they should take to protect their health.*