

Chinese Overseas Flagship Center in Taipei
Capstone Year

Program Handbook



2019 - 2020 Academic Year
Hunter College



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Chapter 1: About the program

Chinese Overseas Flagship Center at National Taiwan University in Taipei, Taiwan

The Chinese Overseas Flagship Center in Taipei is an Overseas Flagship Capstone Program Center. The Language Flagship is a major initiative of the National Security Education Program (NSEP), which is part of the Defense Language and National Security Education Office (DLNSEO). The Language Flagship offers opportunities for students to immerse themselves in seven different languages around the world. The Flagship program is recognized as, and continues to be, a key initiative to help achieve NSEP's goals by increasing the ability of Americans to communicate fluently and professionally, and compete globally by understanding languages and cultures of other countries.

Overseas Flagship Capstone Programs are responsible for curriculum that successfully enables students to progress from an advanced proficiency level of proficiency/ ILR 2 to a superior level of proficiency/ ILR 3. Overseas Flagship Capstone Programs also provide students with:

- opportunities to enroll directly at an overseas university in courses related to their major
- rigorous professional internship opportunities
- living arrangements that deepen students' linguistic and cultural knowledge
- extracurricular activities that deepen students' knowledge of their host country

The Taipei Overseas Center is the newest established Flagship Program. The Center is located at National Taiwan University (NTU) in Taipei, Taiwan, which is ranked as the highest institute of higher education in Taiwan. The program provides seniors in Capstone Programs at twelve Domestic Flagship Undergraduate Chinese Programs the opportunity to immerse themselves in Chinese culture, language, academics, and an internship opportunity.

The Taipei Overseas Center will be supported by Hunter College Chinese Flagship Center. Hunter College, City University of New York will provide administrative support throughout the program.

Hunter College is part of the City University of New York (CUNY), which encompasses twenty-five campuses across New York City. As such, participants in the Hunter College Chinese Overseas Flagship Program in Taipei must abide by CUNY's rules and regulations, and agree to CUNY's terms and conditions.

To learn more about the Chinese Overseas Flagship Program in Taipei, please visit: chineseflagship.hunter.cuny.edu/taiwanoverseas

Contact Information

Chinese Overseas Flagship Center in Taipei

No. 1, Section 4, Roosevelt Rd
Da'an District, Taipei City, Taiwan 10617

Telephone: TO COME
General email for non-emergencies: TO COME
Emergency Telephone: TO COME

US Project Support Center

Hunter College Chinese Flagship Center, Taipei Program

Hunter College, CUNY, HW 1425
695 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10065

Program Staff

Professor Der-lin Chao dchao@hunter.cuny.edu (212) 772-4965
US Project Director

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US Project Coordinator

Bing Ying Hu bhu0002@hunter.cuny.edu (212) 396-6595
Academic Liaison

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Direct Enrollment and Internship Liaison

Bo Hao bhao@hunter.cuny.edu (212)-396-6724
Assessment Liaison

Taipei Overseas Center Staff

Li-yuan Chen liyuanchen@ntu.edu.tw TO COME
Site Director

Meei-yuan Fann fannmeeiyuan@ntu.edu.tw TO COME
Resident Director

Rita Chen ritachen510@gmail.com TO COME
Program Coordinator

In case of an emergency in Taiwan, students should contact the primary contact staff member Meei-yuan Fann, Resident Director and Rita Chen, Program Coordinator. If unable to reach them, please use the emergency number above.

Chapter 2: Administrative Procedures

FAFSA

FAFSA scholarships can be applied for the Capstone year. Students **must** fill out the FAFSA application by the deadline before going abroad. If failing to complete FAFSA beforehand, students may run into difficulties receiving scholarship money. For information regarding FAFSA, please go to the FAFSA website, [here](#).

Study Abroad Consortium Agreement

The Study Abroad Consortium Agreement is required of students receiving money awarded or directly processed by the Financial Aid office. This agreement will ensure the proper disbursement amount of financial aid. Please speak to the program coordinator at your domestic Flagship institution regarding the paperwork for this agreement.

Capstone Scholarship Funding Pledge

All students being awarded scholarships through the Flagship Program must sign a scholarship funding pledge. This pledge states that if a student later decides not to attend the program or cannot attend due to failure to complete the Flagship-required courses, they must return the entire funds received to their home institution Chinese Flagship Program grant administrator. Further, if a student leaves their Capstone year before completing the program, they must return the remaining scholarship funds to their home institution Chinese Flagship Program grant administrator.

Non-degree Program

Students may not receive a degree from National Taiwan University (NTU), and may not enroll in a degree program at NTU while participating in the Hunter College Chinese Overseas Flagship Program.

Credit Transfer and Transcripts

In order for students to receive study abroad credits during their time in the Capstone Program, they must fill out the necessary forms before going abroad with their home institutions. If a student would like to obtain any course equivalent credits, they must speak to the appropriate home institution academic advisor beforehand in order to see what actions need to be taken. If failing to get approval with their academic advisor beforehand, a student's graduation date may be affected.

The staff of the Taipei Center will assist you and provide you with information on how to best order transcripts from NTU-ICLP.

Orientation

All students must participate in all mandatory orientation events, including a Safety & Security briefing, a Pre-Trip Orientation webinar, and an In-Country Orientation when arriving in Taiwan.

The Safety & Security briefing will be a webinar hosted by American Councils and Language Flagship.

The Pre-Trip Orientation webinar will cover a wide variety of topics such as details of the program, behavioral and academic expectations, adapting to Chinese culture and culture shock, health and safety, and other related topics for the Capstone Program in Taipei.

The In-Country Orientation will help students familiarize themselves with the Taipei Center staff and National Taiwan University campus, review schedules and timelines for the semester, discuss site policies, review basic health and safety guidelines, and provide an overview of emergency contacts and protocols among other topics.

Policy on Spouses and/or Dependents

As per page 21 of the [CUNY International Travel Guidelines](#), family of students (spouses and/or dependents) are not eligible to participate in CUNY trips, except with the prior written permission of the Responsible Executive Officer (REO); in the case of the Hunter College Chinese Overseas Flagship Program in Taipei, this is the Hunter College Provost. Any family members granted permission to participate must be enrolled in the CISI travel insurance policy (please see below) and must comply with any other requirements, including, but not limited to, signing the appropriate international waiver form, and also agreeing to all rules, regulations, and policies set forth regarding the Taipei Program in this Program Handbook and other acceptance documents. Important: National Taiwan University (NTU) does not provide dormitory accommodation to married couples or families; students with spouses and/or dependents will be required to find off-campus housing.

Please note: Neither Hunter College Chinese Overseas Flagship program, nor Hunter College, CUNY will take any responsibility for Flagship students' spouses and/or children. Further, neither Hunter College Chinese Overseas Flagship Program, nor Hunter College, CUNY will assume any responsibility should a student's spouse become pregnant and decide to give birth in Taiwan.

CISI Travel Insurance

It is mandatory for all students to purchase Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI) international travel insurance for the entire duration of the Capstone Program, through Hunter College, CUNY. CISI will cover students in the case that any emergency arises, but please note that there are many exclusions, including pre-existing conditions, regular health check ups, eyeglass/contact lens prescriptions or

replacement; hearing aids; immunizations; diagnostic testing including x-rays; and many others. Please make sure to read the details of CUNY's CISI coverage [here](#). Students with any pre-existing conditions or who require prescription medication are advised to keep their regular health insurance along with purchasing CISI. **In order to be able to attend Capstone, students must show proof of purchase to the Taipei US office by Sunday, June 30, 2019 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time.**

Accessibility and Accommodations

In accordance with CUNY's [Reasonable Accommodations and Academic Adjustments Policy](#), the Chinese Overseas Flagship Center in Taipei wants to make sure that Students with Disabilities receive reasonable accommodations necessary to enhance their stay and experience while studying abroad. Therefore, to ensure accommodations, all students with disabilities/medical conditions are advised to meet with their home university's Disability Office to receive a letter of accommodation which will help us to verify their need and to plan accordingly. **Students with Disabilities must send the letter of accommodation to the Taipei US office by Thursday, August 1, 2019 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time.**

Applying for Graduation

If students are set to graduate by the time the Capstone Program is over, they must fill out the necessary forms with their home institution and ensure that all their credits are in order before going abroad. Students should speak with the program coordinators at their home institutions to see how receiving credit for the Spring semester may affect the date of their graduation.

Students must maintain undergraduate status during the entirety of their Capstone year. Students should inform their home institution advisors ahead of time to delay graduation until their return.

On Ground Staff

The Chinese Overseas Flagship Center in Taipei has dedicated staff on the ground to ensure students' success. On-site staff are available throughout the week to discuss any student concerns. Staff will play a vital role in ensuring that students are supported in all situations. The Resident Director is available to students 24/7 in case any emergencies arise. For most issues or concerns, the Resident Director will be the primary contact for students. The Resident Director, the Internship Coordinator, and the Academic Coordinator, will hold dedicated office hours during the week for students.

On-site staff will be the primary contact between students and staff in the U.S. The on-site staff will be responsible for communicating with the Program Coordinator and staff in the U.S. on a regular basis, as well as submitting weekly reports.

Chapter 3: Finances

Tuition and Program Fees

In advance of beginning the program, students will receive an invoice for Tuition and Program Fees, along with where and when to pay all associated fees.

Scholarships and Funding

Certain scholarships are applicable to the Capstone year. For more information on available scholarships, students will need discuss scholarship opportunities with their home institution.

Many Capstone students receive funding from their home Flagship programs to support study abroad. Please note that in many cases the student support money will not be allocated in one lump sum. For example, the funding may be sent to students in two installments: the first installment before the student leaves the U.S., and the second installment after successful completion of the first semester abroad. Students should talk to their home university Flagship adviser for their program's payment policies. If a program plans to send part of student support while the student is abroad, the student may want to make arrangements for direct deposit of their funding into a bank account that they will be able to access in Taiwan.

If receiving other scholarships beyond Flagship funding, students should discuss with their advisors when scholarships will be awarded, as well as making sure all forms and processes are completed according to policies. If any problems arise in regard to external scholarships, students need to make sure they have the appropriate contact information in order to communicate with the scholarship providers while abroad.

Non-Employment Policy

While in Taiwan on the Hunter College Chinese Overseas Flagship Program, students are not permitted to work in **any capacity**. There are two reasons for this:

- It is prohibited to work in a foreign country if one does not have a visa to do so; if one is working and it comes to the attention of Taiwanese authorities, one can be jailed, fined, and/or sent home.
- The Hunter College Chinese Overseas Flagship Program is a full-time program. Students are expected to be committing their time to the intensive study of Chinese language and culture, and as such, employment is prohibited.

If a student is solicited to work, they are required to report this to the Site Director. If a student violates the non-employment policy, they may be dismissed from the Program and sent home from Taiwan at their own expense.

Financial Tips Before Going Abroad

Cash

Unlike mainland China where many establishments accept digital currency like Alipay or Wechatpay for payment, or the U.S. which widely accepts credit cards, Taiwan is still a cash society, meaning many businesses and restaurants will only accept cash as payment. Students should make sure to have some cash on them at all times.

Credit/Debit Cards

Students must make sure to call their debit/credit card companies before going abroad to let them know when and where they will be. If a student fails to notify their debit/credit card company of their travel plans beforehand, it may lead to the card being suspected of fraudulent transactions and the student may run the risk of having their card cancelled. Some banks and credit cards can have travel notifications added through online apps, while others might require a phone call or even an in-person visit. It is also advised that students make copies of both the front and back of their debit/credit cards; one copy should come with the student to Taiwan, while the other should be left at home with the student's family or a trusted friend. If a student's debit/credit cards are stolen, the copies of the cards will be extremely helpful in reporting the loss and in obtaining replacement cards.

When withdrawing money from an ATM, make sure it is an official ATM. Avoid using stand-alone machines which are more open to scamming tactics. If an ATM card is confiscated by an ATM, please contact the bank; contact information will be listed on the ATM. In addition, students should contact their home bank.

Be aware that many banks charge a fee to withdraw money from an ATM as well as a transaction and/or currency conversion fee for using credit cards abroad.

Tip: Bank cards and credit cards that waive withdrawal fees and have no foreign transaction fees are recommended.

In order to reduce the chance of credit card fraud, students should be very mindful of where their card is at all times and should check their statements after making purchases. In the case that a student finds themselves a victim of credit card fraud, it is important for them to have their bank's fraud number on hand and to get in touch with them immediately.

Students should always exercise caution when taking out large sums of money from ATMs to avoid being targeted by pickpockets and other thieves.

Foreign Currency

Students can choose to either convert some currency before heading abroad or exchange some currency when arriving in Taiwan. Having foreign currency will be important when

first arriving as students may need this money to get from the airport to their accommodations. Please note that exchanging money at the airport is usually expensive.

Students should also be aware of counterfeit currency. Always look for a watermark to determine real currency, especially in taxi cabs.

Tip:

Students will have better exchange rates if they withdraw local NT\$ currency from an ATM when arriving, versus exchanging US dollars at the airport. However, it is advisable for students to carry some US dollars to exchange for NT\$ in case there are any issues with their ATM card.

If a student's bank has withdrawal fees, it might make more sense to withdraw large sums of cash with less frequency. If a student's bank has high withdrawal or transaction fees, it may be better to bring more cash to exchange. Students should research their bank's policies before going abroad.

Opening a Bank Account Abroad

As students will be abroad for a full academic year, some students may prefer to open up a local bank account in the host country. If needing assistance opening up a local bank account, the Taipei Center's on-site staff will advise students.

Extra Expenses

Aside from tuition, students that plan to travel during their time in the Capstone Program should plan their finances accordingly. It is wise to budget money to last the entire year.

Tip: After a few months of living in Taiwan, students should reassess their budget to make sure it is adequate for the remainder of their time in the Capstone Program.

Personal Bills

Students are solely responsible for paying all personal bills incurred during their participation in the Hunter College Chinese Overseas Flagship Program, including credit card bills, cellular and other phone bills, medical bills not covered by insurance, leisure travel costs, etc. Under no circumstances will Hunter College Chinese Flagship Center pay a student's outstanding bill. If a student needs help resolving a billing issue, they should speak with the Taipei Center Site Director prior to departure from Taiwan. Unpaid bills or other outstanding billing issues will result in a student being ineligible for future Language Flagship events and programs.

Chapter 4: Travel Documents and Information

Pre-departure Checklist

Before traveling abroad, it is **required** for students to register their trip with the U.S. Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). The Taipei Center's US office has set up a group registration, and will ask each student for the relevant information in order to enroll them. Students should also visit their healthcare provider at least 4-6 weeks before traveling in order to make sure that their vaccinations are all up to date, and that they are in general good health. A visit to the dentist is also a good idea.

Please read the following sections and make sure each item is fully taken care of before departing.

Fly America Policy

Students who use Flagship funding to purchase their ticket to Taiwan, the flight ticket must comply with the [Fly America Act](#). In short: Students must fly on an American carrier to the closest city to their destination. Students cannot fly to Canada and then book a less expensive flight to Taiwan. If a student is not using Flagship funding, they can fly on any carrier they wish, but please be aware that if the price of the ticket seems too good to be true, it probably is.

Passport

Passports are the most important document students will have while traveling abroad! Passports serve as proof of citizenship, and are necessary to enter the host country and return home. Students must check in advance to make sure their passport will not expire while they are abroad. If a student's passport is set to expire within a year, the student will either need to renew it by mail or apply to do so in person. The renewal process should be started early in case of any problems, especially since students will also need to apply for visas.

Visa Requirements for Taiwan

There are two groups of students participating in the Chinese Overseas Flagship Program in Taipei.

- Group 1 are students who are staying in the US over the summer and heading directly to Taiwan from America.
- Group 2 are students who will be studying in China over the summer.

Group 1 Students:

In late July or early August, depending on where you live, you will go to one of these Taipei Economic and Cultural Offices to obtain your visa:

Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta – [Consular District: Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina](#)

Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston – [Consular District: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Vermont, Rhode Island](#)

Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Chicago – [Consular District: Ohio, Michigan, Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota](#)

Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Honolulu – [Consular District: Hawaii, American Samoa, Palmyra Atoll](#)

Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston – [Consular District: Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi](#)

Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Los Angeles – [Consular District: Southern California, New Mexico, Arizona](#)

Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York – [Consular District: New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut](#)

Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in San Francisco – [Consular District: Northern California, Nevada, Utah](#)

Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Seattle – [Consular District: Washington, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Alaska, Oregon](#)

You will be seeking a “**Resident Visa for Foreign Students – Exchange Students.**”

The visa will be either for a duration of 60 days or 90 days, which is why we advise you to not get it until you are about a month away from your departure date. More on how you will extend the visa later in these instructions.

To obtain the visa, here is what’s required:

- 1). Application Form: Go to website: <https://visawebapp.boca.gov.tw> to locate the application. Click on the button at the top of the page that says, “General Visa Applications.” Fill out the application form online – TYPE IT IN ALL CAPS -- and print it out. Make sure the application form shows a bar code on it. Sign the application form. Bring it and one copy of it.

- 2). Photos: Two color passport sized photos, with a white background, taken within six months of your application. (See below – you should get at least three additional passport-sized photos at the same time, one for your health certificate and two for your ARC – more about that in a minute.)
- 3). Passport: The passport must be valid for at least 6 months (a year or more is better) and there must be blank pages left in it. Also, one photocopy of the passport's biographical page including the passport holder's picture is required.
- 4). Health Certificate: Original and one photocopy. PLEASE NOTE: There is an additional \$15 fee for the certification of the health certificate.

Here's how you find the Health Certificate: go to <https://www.cdc.gov.tw/En>. Once there go to "Diseases & Conditions" on navigation bar, scroll down and click on "Foreigners' Health." On the next page, go to 5. [Items Required for Health Certificate for Residence in Taiwan](#) and click on it. Scroll to bottom of the next page and download medicalform.docx

*PLEASE NOTE: You will need a passport-sized photo for your health certificate.
The doctor's "stamp" must cover a corner of the photo.*

About the Health Certificate: As an American citizen, you MUST have your doctor complete

- 1). Section A (Chest X-ray for Tuberculosis)
- 2). Section C (Serological Tests for Syphilis)
- 3). Section D (Proof of Positive Measles and Rubella Antibody or Measles and Rubella Vaccination Certificates)

You will NOT have to complete Section B (Stool Examination for Parasites) or Section E (Skin Examination).

THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE DOCUMENT IS THE VERY END – YOUR DOCTOR MUST CHECK THE "PASSED" BOX.

- 5). A letter of acceptance from NTU: This letter will acknowledge the relationship between NTU and Hunter College Chinese Flagship Capstone Overseas Program and state clearly that you will be studying at NTU; you should bring the original letter and a photocopy.
- 6). Proof of enrollment from your home institution: Please go to your home institution's bursar's office or office of admission, and ask them for a signed letter stating you are

enrolled as a full-time student at your home institution. You will need to bring the original and a photocopy; include a photocopy of your student ID.

- 7). A letter from your domestic institution showing financial support for the duration of the program: We have sent all Chinese Flagship program coordinators a template to help them draft this letter. Letter should be signed by your home institution's Flagship Director. You will need to bring the original and a photocopy.
- 8). A supporting document – Study Plan: The US office will send you a Study Plan template for you to fill out. Please do so according to the instructions accompanying it. You will need to bring your original and a photocopy.
- 9). Visa Fee: \$160 in cash or money order.

It may take up to five days for your local TECO office to issue your visa. Please plan accordingly. WHEN YOU HAVE YOUR TAIWAN VISA, PLEASE EMAIL A COPY OF IT TO taipeicapstone@hunter.cuny.edu. And please read further down the page to learn about the Alien Residence Card.

Group 2 Students:

Prior to traveling to your summer abroad program in China, go over the instructions above and obtain all of the required documents and paperwork. Take these documents with you to China and keep them safe. In August, after you complete your summer abroad program in China, you must travel to either Hong Kong or Macau to obtain your visa at one of these two TECO offices:

[Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Hong Kong](#)

[Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Macau](#)

Please note:

The Visa Fee in Hong Kong is \$1,280 Hong Kong dollars, which is also roughly \$160. Only cash is accepted, and they no longer accept HKD \$1,000 bills.

The Visa Fee in Macau is \$1,200 Macanese Pataca, which is roughly \$160. The TECO office there may accept Hong Kong dollars for this amount.

It may take up to five days for these TECO offices to issue your visa. Please plan accordingly. WHEN YOU HAVE YOUR TAIWAN VISA, PLEASE EMAIL A COPY OF IT TO taipeicapstone@hunter.cuny.edu. And please read further down the page to learn about the Alien Residence Card.

For both Groups 1 and 2:

The Alien Residence Card (ARC)

Within fifteen (15) days of arriving in Taiwan, the Taipei Center's Resident Director will assist you in getting an ARC. The ARC functions both as an ID, and as a sort of visa, in that it will be good for a year, and will allow you to travel out of Taiwan and back in again. The ARC essentially extends your "Resident Visa for Foreign Students – Exchange Students." To get your ARC, you will need:

- 1). An application form
- 2). Your passport (with at least six blank pages)
- 3). 2 passport-sized photos – color photos with a white background taken within the past six months
- 4). Certificate of enrollment from NTU/Hunter College Taipei Flagship Center – original and photocopy
- 5). Record of attendance – Taipei Center will provide
- 6). ARC Fee – NTD \$1,000, or approximately US \$35

Packing Tips and Suggestions

For easier travel, it is recommended that students bring luggage with wheels. In addition, students should not lock checked baggage as the U.S. TSA or Taiwan airport security may need to access suitcases.

Students should pack all valuables, money, medicine, all electronics (phone, laptop, tablet, including any batteries), and any other important items in their carry-on. It is also recommended that students pack a couple of changes of clothes in their carry-on in case checked luggage is delayed or lost.

When packing, students should keep in mind that they will be abroad for a full academic year. In terms of clothing, Taipei's temperature ranges from 70° to 90° F and generally does not go below 50° F. Therefore, only a few sets of warmer clothes are recommended. While the first semester will consist of classes, remember that the majority of the second semester will be an internship and professional attire will need to be worn. Students should try to bring most of what they think they will need with them, as clothing can be surprisingly expensive in Taiwan.

Please research all baggage allowance and baggage fees that may be imposed for overweight luggage before traveling. All extra fees and charges are the responsibility of the student.

Aside from bringing a complete supply of prescribed medications with a doctor's note in the original packaging explaining their use and necessity for customs (this is explained in more detail in Chapter 10), students should also pack over-the-counter medication for colds, allergies, headaches, diarrhea, etc. Over-the-counter medication is certainly available in Taiwan, but it is unlikely that students will be able to find the brands they are accustomed to, and thus should go well prepared. Women are advised to bring a supply of their usual feminine hygiene products.

Many toiletries are available in Taiwan including some common U.S. brand name items. However, not all brands are available and the price may be more expensive. If a student prefers a specific brand, it is recommended to bring the item from the U.S.

Independent Travel While Abroad

Students are allowed to travel during approved holidays and breaks as long as travel plans do not interfere with classes, arranged activities, internships, or cultural excursions. **Please note: Students in the Taiwan Capstone Program are not permitted to travel to mainland China.**

In order to travel outside of Taiwan during the program, two weeks in advance of their trip students must fill out an [independent travel form](#) and submit their request to the Taipei Center Site Director, the US office Program Director, and their home university Flagship Director, and receive travel permission from all three parties. Boren scholars must additionally get Boren approval, as well as the Institute of International Education's approval. Any unauthorized travel outside of the host city or to prohibited areas will adversely affect students' academic standing and could lead to dismissal from the program.

Students are allowed to travel within Taiwan during weekends and breaks. However, if a student's Taiwan travel requires an overnight stay, they must fill out an [independent travel form](#), and submit it to the Taipei Center Site Director for approval, three (3) days prior to traveling.

Please note that students are not allowed to travel to countries that have a U.S. State Department travel warning, and that students are responsible for all planning, logistics and expenses of independent travel.

Independent travel may also be cancelled without notice due to unforeseen events such as national emergencies, adverse weather, or other travel warnings.

Chapter 5: Housing

During the Capstone year in Taipei, there are two housing options. Students can either choose to stay in a dormitory provided by National Taiwan University or find a nearby apartment to rent.

Dormitory

The Shui Yuan dorm rooms are conveniently located on campus and provide quick accessibility to classes. Choosing to live in campus dormitories provides students the convenience and peace of mind of not having to search themselves for a place off campus to live.

Students that choose to live in a dormitory will have a private bedroom. The dorm arrangement is suite style, with five private rooms that share common space and a bathroom. Electricity, cable, and internet are not included in rent and must be paid separately. When arriving on campus, students must also buy their own mattress and sheets.

All students will be expected to abide by the dorm regulations, provide a clean and quiet living space, and, most importantly, respect other students and roommates.

For a helpful student's perspective on living in the Shui Yuan dorms, please visit this [website](#).

Apartment

Students may choose to live off campus in apartments in the surrounding area. Students that choose to rent an apartment can work together with local real estate agents to find an apartment suitable for them and near the school. Students seeking to live off campus must receive approval from Flagship Staff before signing any housing contracts.

All students living off campus are expected to respect apartment regulations, as well as abide by all national and local laws and regulations.

Students are strongly advised to sign and keep copies of housing contracts in a safe location to avoid miscommunication. Apartments are usually signed on one-year lease contracts. Month-to-month contracts are also available at times.

Students living off campus must inform local staff including the Resident Director of their address in case of emergencies.

If choosing to live off campus, students should keep in mind many of the same things that they would take into consideration if renting an apartment in the U.S. For instance: the amount needed for rent, if water and electricity are included, how much of a deposit is needed at signing, which days trash needs to be taken out, proximity to the campus, if any public transportation is available, safety of location, etc.

Chapter 6: Direct Enrollment

Direct Enrollment Classes

Direct enrollment classes are standard college classes offered by National Taiwan University (NTU) and must be taught in Chinese. Just as any other student enrolled in the class, Flagship students are expected to participate in all aspects of classes including completing homework and assignments, taking quizzes and exams, and punctual attendance. These classes will help increase students' knowledge in certain fields, increase fluency levels, and provide networking opportunities.

Just as class styles in the U.S. vary according to professor and subject, so will the direct enrollment courses offered at NTU. Some classes may require active participation by students, including presentations, debates, group work, etc. Other classes might be lecture style, where students are required to listen and take notes.

Picking classes

Before the semester begins, students will be provided with a list of NTU classes that they can choose from. Students may also view classes online through NTU's Course Information website. Students are required to register for a class that is worth a minimum of three (3) credits. Students are encouraged to choose a class that aligns with their second major and/or professional and academic interests.

Enrolling in a class

Students are responsible for directly enrolling into their classes themselves. However, the Taipei Center's staff will provide support in order for them to enroll in the class of their choice. The Academic Coordinator will also work with students in order to create a class schedule that works around their direct enrollment class time and interests. Students will be able to view and register for courses online through the NTU "[Online Course Information](#)" (课程网/課程網) portal with a provided student ID and password.

Class Etiquette

Before attending a direct enrollment class, students should be sure to familiarize themselves with the rules and etiquette of attending classes in Taiwan.

For example, some professors might have dress codes that includes no flip-flops or sandals to class. Other professors prohibit eating and/or drinking within their classrooms. Before class, make sure to either turn off or silence cell phones. During class, the teacher/student role may not be as interactive as in the U.S. Even if professors have a more interactive classroom setting, it is important not to directly challenge or question the professors authority. It is also important to arrive to class on time and only leave when class is dismissed.

On the first day of class, please pay particular attention to any classroom rules individual professors might have.

Success in the Classroom

Attending classes in a foreign country and language is likely to provide challenges for students. As professors' teaching styles and overall classroom management may be different than many classes in the U.S., students will likely have to adapt to different styles to be successful. Students should be proactive in taking advantage of the many different resources at their disposal. For example, students may want to reach out to their professors to ask for better understanding of the lectures. Students can also reach out to classmates if unclear about classwork. Further, as students will be taking a sister research class in which they will be paired with grad students, those grad students will be a helpful resource as well. Students can also ask for help from their language tutors, the Site Director, Resident Director, and faculty advisors, who will have weekly office hours. The direct enrollment class will improve students' academic knowledge while greatly increasing both their cultural and language fluency.

Chapter 7: Internships

The Capstone year in Taipei includes a full-time internship opportunity designed to deepen students' understanding of the local work culture and improve their professional Chinese language fluency. Internships also provide a rich experience to help students develop their careers and professional aspirations. The Taipei Center's staff will support and advise students during their internships, whether at an organization, institution, or company. Internships take place during the second semester and are to last at least four months. Internships must be conducted within a professional Mandarin-speaking environment to improve professional language skills.

Finding an Internship

Students are responsible for finding their own internships. However, under the supervision of the Site Director, the Taipei Center's Internship Coordinator will identify, evaluate, and compile a list of potential internship providers based on students' work interest. The Internship Coordinator will also provide support and guidance in revising resumes and interview preparation, will conduct mock-interviews, as well as internship preparation workshops. Once a student has found an internship opportunity, the internship must be approved by the program before the student can start.

When looking for an internship, it is recommended that students find opportunities that line up with their professional aspirations or interests. It is also recommended that internships be located at Taiwanese companies/organizations (rather than, for instance, U.S. companies, which may conduct business in English) to maximize learning goals and local cultural understanding.

Internship Requirements

- Students are required to work full time (40 hours a week, including the 2-hour weekly class time) for four months.
- In order to get the most out of the internship, Mandarin must be used a minimum of 85% of the time in the company.
- Internships must be unpaid.
- Internships must be located within a distance that allows students to attend the Friday weekly class meetings.

During the internship, students will be required to update Center staff regarding their internship process on a regular basis. Students will also be required to write and submit weekly reports to the Internship Coordinator and the Internship Course Instructor for review and comments as outlined in the Flagship Internship Manual.

Students must abide by all Government laws and regulations at all times during the internship period. Students must also abide by all Flagship program terms and conditions. Any violations of terms and policies will negatively affect students standing in the program.

For more information, please check the Flagship Internship Manual.

Internship Supervision and Reporting

During their internships, each Friday afternoon students will be required to return to the National Taiwan University campus to attend a mandatory two-hour weekly meeting to discuss their internship experience. Topics may include how to take notes at the workplace, how to use Chinese in a meeting, the social etiquette of the workplace, how to make requests to your boss, and other important aspects of professional interaction at a Chinese workplace.

Students will also be required to complete and hand in an internship report at the end of each week. More information will be provided before the internship begins. A weekly report template will be provided to students prior to the internship process.

Chapter 8: Academic Standards and Assessments

Students are expected to maintain a high-level of academic standards throughout the Capstone Program in courses, internships, and the superior language practicum. (Standards listed below are subject to change.)

First semester courses:

- Speak Chinese at all times to improve academic language usage.
- Complete the coursework on time with good quality and receive an overall grade of B or higher.
- Complete 15 Hours of Community Service designated by the Center.
- Complete all mid-term and final exams and submit all final papers and give formal academic quality presentations on domain research project.
- Fill out and submit course evaluation forms.

Internship:

- Speak Chinese at all times to improve professional language usage.
- Attend the Friday internship meetings at National Taiwan University in person.
- Give oral presentations on workplace experience and submit internship coursework on time.
- Fill out and submit internship experience evaluation forms.

Superior Language Practicum:

- Speak Chinese at all times to improve superior level language usage.
- Strive to perform high quality language practicum activities.
- Create a personal plan for maintaining language proficiency after Capstone.
- Fill out and submit Capstone Program evaluation forms.
- Complete exit program proficiency tests.

Proficiency Assessments

Students will have two sets of proficiency assessments.

The first will be held in the middle of a student's first semester. Students will take a computer-based STAMP test in speaking, listening, reading, and writing in Chinese, and results will be scored according to ACTFL's proficiency scale.

The second and final proficiency assessment will be held during the last week of the Capstone year. This exit assessment will be arranged by American Councils, and will be scored on the Interagency Roundtable Level (IRL) scale. Students will be certified by the Language Flagship. Two levels of certification are possible: Students who meet the minimum levels (speaking, IRL level 3; listening, IRL level 2+; reading, IRL level 2+) will receive Flagship Certification; students who have achieved IRL level 3 in speaking, listening, and reading will receive the Flagship Certification with Distinction.

Chapter 9: Culture Shock

Adjusting to a New Culture

Whether students have studied abroad or not, almost everyone will experience some form of culture shock. Culture shock affects everyone differently and with varying degrees of severity. Culture shock can be as simple as constantly comparing differences between someone's home culture and the culture of their new location, to difficulty in classes and in one's personal life due to having to understand new cultural differences. This may manifest itself in some of the following symptoms: homesickness, withdrawal, loneliness, irritability, and the inability to work effectively, among others.

Although Taiwanese culture is generally easy to adapt to, culture shock may still manifest itself, especially when spending an extended period of time abroad. Students may voice difficulties in listening to Chinese at all times of the day, differences in class styles, adjusting to different styles of bathrooms, or the use of air-conditioning, to name a few aspects. It may also be difficult for American students, who are used to handling situations by themselves, and knowing that if they politely refuse an offer it will be rescinded, to adjust to Taiwan's culture of being over hospitable. A Taiwanese person will always offer foreigners snacks, meals, take them to a bus stop, go with them to make sure they get to their destination, and so on. If an American tries to decline, the Taiwanese person will continue to offer, to the point that the American may feel guilty or unsure how to turn the person down. This cultural difference can take some getting used to.

It is important to understand that culture shock is very common and can manifest in many different ways and can be different for each person. If students feel overwhelmed by their new environment, they should seek out the Resident Director for advice, tips and adjustment techniques.

The Chinese Overseas Flagship Center in Taipei offers many different resources to assist students in adapting to life in a new culture. For example, Capstone students can take advantage of counseling services on the National Taiwan University (NTU) campus, which has English-speaking counselors available. It's also recommended that students discuss their challenges with other students who have previously had to adapt to a new culture.

Other strategies include finding ways to de-stress. Life abroad will be challenging and will be even more challenging considering students might not be able to articulate these concerns in the target language. To de-stress, students can reflect on ways they relax when back at home, and then take up the same activities in Taipei. Some examples may include: exercising; listening to music; finding a quiet place to meditate; getting plenty of rest and sleep; staying active with classmates and friends; enjoying the local food and cuisine, etc.

Jet Lag

When first arriving in Taiwan, students will be filled with a range of emotions and the stress of facing a new life abroad. To add to this, jet lag can also take a toll on students' physical and mental state for the first few weeks. In order to ease the transition, it is important to try and establish a routine as quickly as possible. Students should drink plenty of water and try to eat meals according to the appropriate local times. Students who are over the age of 21 should also avoid alcohol as alcohol only exacerbates jet lag.

While it is normal for jet lag to last a week or two, if students are still feeling mentally and physically exhausted, it might be a sign of culture shock or other mental or physical health issues. Students should seek the help and assistance of their Resident Director if still feeling exhausted after two weeks.

Chapter 10: Health & Safety

Medication

Any student who takes prescribed medication should ensure they have enough medicine for the entire duration of their Capstone year, as U.S. prescriptions cannot be filled overseas and it is prohibited for medications to be shipped internationally, even by express couriers.

Students are advised to speak with their prescribing physician about their plan to spend a year abroad, and discuss how they will obtain a full supply of medication before departing.

Students may need to work with their insurance companies to arrange for the purchase of a year's supply of medicine. If the doctor or insurance company is unable to provide the full quantity of medicine, students should research what equivalent medication is available in Taiwan.

Students are required to submit their prescription medication maintenance plan to the Hunter College Chinese Flagship Center by Thursday, August 1, 2019, 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time.

When traveling, students should pack all prescription medicines in their carry-on luggage, in case checked luggage is lost or delayed. In case a student is stopped at customs, all prescription medicines must be kept in the well-marked original packaging with a doctor's note explaining the student's condition and the necessity of the prescription. Your doctor should also include the generic name of the drug, as specific brand names may not be available elsewhere in the world.

Vaccinations

Before going abroad for the year, students should visit the Center of Disease Control (CDC) website at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/taiwan> and follow the CDC's advice for vaccinations. Vaccinations for Hepatitis A and B are strongly recommended.

Dental

A dental check-up is strongly recommended before going abroad. CISI insurance does not include dental coverage. If a student's personal insurance policy does not include a dental plan, the cost of any dental work performed abroad will be the student's responsibility.

Eyeglasses

Students who wear prescription eyeglasses should bring an extra pair. Students who wear prescription contact lens should bring enough lens to last the duration of the Capstone year. And students should bring a copy of their prescription as well.

Self Disclosure

Living overseas can be stressful and may exacerbate mental health conditions. If a student has any mental health conditions or concerns, they are required to inform the Hunter College Chinese Overseas Flagship Program so the Taipei Center can be prepared to best support students while overseas. All information will remain highly confidential.

Medical Withdrawal

Hunter College Overseas Flagship Program and CUNY recognize that the Capstone Year in Taipei is a demanding, immersive experience that requires each student to adjust to living in a foreign culture and to commit to speaking only Chinese for a ten-month duration. There are stressors associated with this type of intensive program that may aggravate existing medical conditions or cause new ones, and it is possible that a student may need to withdraw, or be removed, from the Taipei Program for medical reasons. In this case, it is required that the student consult with the Taipei Center Site Director and Resident Director, the US Program Director, and the Director of their home Flagship Program, and also consult with a CISI representative. Students who withdraw from the program without consultation with these parties may be financially liable for any expenses connected to withdrawal (cost of return flight, remaining tuition fees, remaining accommodation fees, etc.) and may be denied academic credit and not permitted to return to the program. For CUNY's specific Medical Withdrawal policy, please see [here](#).

Maintaining Health

As per CUNY policy, Capstone Program students are not permitted to engage in high-risk activities such as bungee-jumping, sky-diving, whitewater rafting, hang-gliding, parasailing, etc. Students are not permitted to operate any motor vehicle at any speed. This includes cars, motorcycles, motor scooters, electric scooters, electric bicycles, etc. If ever in doubt as to whether a specific activity qualifies as a prohibited "high-risk" activity, students should consult with their Resident Director. Adhering to this policy will certainly help maintain students' health!

When it comes to more typical daily activities, it is important to maintain a balanced and healthy lifestyle while overseas. Although it may be challenging when adjusting to a new environment, by establishing a routine that students would normally follow in their home country, they can help themselves to adjust more easily. It is important to allocate time for relaxing, leisure activities, and socializing with friends. Having adequate rest is also vital to staying healthy. Taiwan may be hotter and more humid than the conditions that some students are accustomed to, therefore, students should make sure they stay hydrated to avoid heat exhaustion, as well as liberally applying sunscreen if easily sunburned. Students should be wary of the food eaten in the host country. Directly drinking tap water is strongly discouraged as tap water is not filtered and can lead to serious sickness. Drinking bottled, boiled, or purified water is recommended, as is using bottled water when brushing teeth.

Injuries and Illness

As students will be overseas for an extended period of time, it is possible that they will become ill at some point. If a student falls ill or has a medical emergency while abroad, they should contact the Resident Director and seek medical attention. Unless permission is received to go alone, any student needing medical attention or going to a clinic or hospital is required to bring the Resident Director or another staff member with them in order to provide translation and support. Further, the Taipei Center's staff can provide suggestions as to which clinic or hospital is best to go to.

If students are unsure about what their travel insurance covers, they can visit the CISI website to find out more or contact an agent to find nearby hospitals that accept coverage. Students are also required to carry their insurance cards on them at all times in case of an emergency. Most hospitals and clinics will require students to pay upfront for services. Therefore, it is imperative to save all receipts in order to get reimbursed by the insurance provider later. Students should never visit hospitals or clinics without first consulting the Overseas Site Director or the Resident Director. Students should also note that they may visit the National Taiwan University (NTU) campus clinic if experiencing minor illnesses.

Note: In Taiwan, clinics are more prevalent than in the USA. Residents will often go to a local clinic for less serious health issues like colds, the flu, or non-serious injuries and conditions. When visiting a clinic, students will first “掛號/挂号”, taking a number and registering with identification.

Face Masks

It is common to see Taipei residents wearing face masks. Air pollution in Taiwan may be more prevalent than American students are accustomed to. If students are concerned about the air quality, in advance of traveling they should buy and pack face masks specially designed to filter out contaminants and make breathing easier.

Safety

While in a foreign country, students should always be aware of their surroundings and avoid areas that may be particularly unsafe. Being aware of their surroundings will require students to have an understanding of the different types of risks within the country. As a foreigner, keeping a low profile is important, this includes not speaking English in public, dressing appropriately, and completely avoiding demonstrations or protests. Participating in demonstrations or protests not only presents a safety risk, it can also diminish the intended purpose and cause of the demonstration. When exploring Taipei, establishing a buddy system or being with a local person students know and trust can also be helpful. In general, Taiwan is very safe. However, extra caution should be taken in areas with bars, clubs, or any other areas where alcohol is present.

Crime

While Taiwan is a very safe country overall, it is important for students to stay vigilant of their surroundings. If in a crowded area, be aware of pickpockets who may target cell phones, wallets, purses, or jewelry. When leaving an ATM, never flash your cash.

In addition, make sure to always have a copy of important documents like your passport, credit cards, bank cards, and other documents.

Earthquakes, Typhoons and Other Natural Disasters

Taiwan is very prone to earthquakes, typhoons, and other natural disasters. In case of any natural disasters, students should make sure they always have their cell phone charged and nearby. Students should pay attention to any warnings or messages from either the local government or Flagship staff and follow all emergency protocols as discussed in orientation.

Earthquakes

Earthquakes happen quite frequently and can range in severity. It is recommended that students keep valuables like their passport (or a copy of it) and some money and at least one set of clothes in a backpack that can be easily grabbed in case of a severe earthquake. If you feel the building or ground beginning to shake, students should immediately find cover under a desk, table, or in a bathtub as quickly as possible.

If safe to do so, students should try to prop a door open with a chair for easy evacuation, and immediately go back to cover. Students should hold on to the desk or table with one hand, and cover their head with something soft (like a backpack or pillow) with the other. After the earthquake ends, check surroundings and escape. Avoid elevators.

In the case of a serious earthquake, students need to be alert for any tsunami warnings and try to get to natural high ground.

Typhoons

Typhoons (more commonly called hurricanes in the United States) are common in the summer and early fall. Typhoons can range in severity but often include heavy rain and wind. Typhoons can be gauged ahead of time, but note that the predicted path may change at any moment.

If a typhoon is imminent, stay inside and away from windows. Be sure to not be outside or traveling, especially in mountainous areas where mud and rock slides are common.

Take heed of local government warnings. Warnings can include cancellation of classes and closure of public services like trains.

Other Natural Disasters

In case of any other natural disaster like fires, flooding, tsunamis, or other events, seek safety as quickly as possible and contact Taipei Center staff.

Sexual Harassment & Assault

Please see this document, [Understanding Title IX Guidelines When Abroad: A Student Guide](#), for a detailed outline of the Title IX policies CUNY affiliated students must adhere to when overseas. The complete CUNY “Policy on Sexual Misconduct” can be found [here](#).

If a student is a victim of sexual harassment or assault, they should **always and immediately** report the incident to the Overseas Center Site Director and US office staff.

As required by Title IX, the Taipei Chinese Overseas Flagship Program and Hunter College staff are required to report any sexual harassment or assault to the student’s home institution’s study abroad office. Each home institution may have a different policy on how they may respond, therefore students should directly contact their home institutions Title IX office to inquire.

It is strongly recommended that, when going out, students should go in groups and if possible invite local friends. If a student is in a crowded place, for example, riding a bus, and encounters inappropriate contact with someone else, the student should not be afraid to make a scene. If feeling unsafe at any time, it is best for students to remove themselves from the situation and contact local staff immediately. It is also strongly advised that students avoid being out alone at night or being alone with someone they do not know well.

Communication

Students should be mindful of the local culture when interacting with locals and making friends. Taipei residents are very friendly and might approach students to engage in conversations. Different verbal and nonverbal communications that are customary in the U.S. might have different connotations in the local culture. Whereas Americans smile to strangers as a sign of politeness, locals might take it as an invitation to come up and talk with them. At the same time, when talking with a local, students might be invited to hang out another time. Whereas it’s sometimes customary to politely accept without the intention to follow through, locals might take the answer as a sincere acceptance.

Students in Taiwan will quickly learn of the over-hospitality of the Taiwanese culture. Informing a friend that they liked a certain meal might result in the friend always inviting them to eat at the same location or constantly bringing them the same food. Local friends may also often send multiple Line-app messages to convey friendship, which at times may be interpreted as invading personal space in western culture.

It is important for students to be mindful of the differences between western and Taiwanese verbal and nonverbal communications. Part of being abroad is learning to adapt to the local culture and mastering local communication. Understanding communication differences will take some time to get accustomed to. If ever unsure, students can speak with the Resident Director or other Taipei Center staff.

It is common for Taiwanese to ask questions that might be viewed as too personal by an American. Questions may range from how old students are and if they are married, to more sensitive topics. If students are asked any questions that they are uncomfortable answering, they can either try to change the topic, politely refuse to answer, or even make a light comment to move the conversation along.

Locals or even other students might be interested and want to discuss politics. Students should feel free to avoid topics they are not comfortable with. While it is not forbidden to discuss politics while in Taiwan, students should note that they should be respectful, and that they are studying abroad to learn, not to teach.

Taiwan is seen as a very progressive country. Students within the LGBTQI community will most likely note that the country is relatively open and supportive. However, students should decide for themselves with how comfortable they feel in discussing their personal life with locals and others, and may want to err on the side of being cautious. If a student has any experience that makes them feel uncomfortable, they should know it is safe for them to discuss this with Taipei Center staff.

Cyber Security Tips

In Taiwan, as in most countries, there is no expectation of electronic privacy in any public spaces, including airports, hotels, offices, or internet cafes. All information that is sent electronically can be intercepted, especially wireless communications. Please think carefully before sending any information that a government, political group, or criminal element might find valuable. Although Taiwan is a more open society than mainland China, it is still important to minimize the risk of third party foreign intelligence collection.

- **Before the trip:** Students should download antivirus software onto all drives and clear any personal data or sensitive research off their laptop, telephone and other electronic devices. Backup files on a separate drive in case something happens to your laptop or phone, and leave that drive at home. Make sure to not post specific details of travel on social media. The goal is to ensure that no sensitive personal data is on your personal electronic devices and thus to minimize the chance that someone can hack and steal a student's information.
- **While abroad:** Change passwords frequently and keep Wi-Fi and bluetooth turned off. Clear your browser after each use, deleting cookies, caches, and browser history. If any devices are lost or stolen, please alert the Taipei Center's Resident Director.

- **Post-Trip:** Clear all browser history, cookies, and other temporary data. Make sure to run virus scans on all devices, and check for malware. Change all passwords.

Chapter 11: Code of Conduct

Personal and Academic Responsibility

While abroad, each student is considered an unofficial ambassador of Hunter College Chinese Flagship and the United States. Therefore students should conduct themselves in a manner befitting that position, which reflects well on the College, the country, and on themselves. Students are to follow Rules and Regulations according to Flagship, [CUNY](#), National Taiwan University (NTU), and their home institution policies.

Visiting students in a foreign country are subject to the laws of that country and the academic and disciplinary rules and regulations of that institution with which they are engaged. As a result, students should act in a manner that is respectful of the host country and its culture. Student actions and behavior will reflect the image of the Flagship Program and NTU as a whole.

At the same time, students are still subject to all laws within the U.S., which includes but is not limited to drinking and drug laws. In the U.S., drinking is illegal for those under the age of 21. At NTU, neither drinking nor smoking is permitted in the dormitories.

Academic integrity is also an integral part of student's studies abroad. Plagiarism or cheating of any kind will be dealt with in accordance to NTU academic integrity policies, which may result in expulsion. Students' home institutions, CUNY, and Hunter College academic integrity policies also apply and can result in consequences at the student's home institution.

Language Policy

Living in Taiwan, surrounded by Chinese language and culture, will provide the basic foundation necessary to reach a superior language fluency. The more frequently students use their Chinese on a daily basis in all aspects of life, the more quickly their language skills will improve. Speaking English inhibits learning outcomes and objectives. While it might be frustrating and difficult at times to stay committed to only speaking the Chinese, it is proven to be more successful than if reverting to English or even "Chinglish."

During the In-Country Orientation in Taipei, students will be required to sign and follow the Language Pledge. This means that to participate in the program, students are agreeing to exclusively use Chinese in the following situations:

- In University classes
- On University grounds
- When speaking to any staff or teachers on campus or associated with the program
- When speaking with fellow participants or classmates

- While on group excursions and trips
- When with tutors and language partners
- During internships

Using English during any of the above scenarios can be seen as disrespectful. If students are heard speaking English by any staff member or teacher, they will first be given a verbal warning. Any future occurrences will subsequently affect their grade. Repeated violations can result in termination from the program.

However, in the case of a serious personal issue or emergency, students are allowed to temporarily talk with a staff member (Resident Director or Program Coordinator) in English.

Program Attendance Policy

All class courses, weekly group meetings, and cultural excursions have mandatory attendance. Excused absences will only be recognized in the case of observance of religious holidays or illness. Unexcused absences and habitual tardiness will affect student's final semester overall grade.

Alcohol and Drugs

Please read CUNY's "Policy on Drugs and Alcohol" [here](#).

Before departing overseas, students need to familiarize themselves with the laws in the host country regarding alcohol and drug use, as well as the rules of CUNY. Although students may be of age under the laws of Taiwan, please be aware that any alcohol-related incident abroad will be treated the same as it would be on campus in the U.S.

Students are expressly forbidden from using drugs and illegal substances, regardless of whether those drugs or substances are legal in their host country. Many countries have more severe punishments regarding drugs than those in the U.S. Taiwan's penalties for drug use are heavy, including long jail sentences and even the death penalty for certain drug use.

Should students be arrested on drug charges, neither the U.S. government nor Hunter Chinese Flagship can assist or exempt them from the host country's legal process.