

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

OF PROJECTS ABROAD CHINA

JULY ISSUE, 2014



ProjectsAbroad

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Welcome to the July edition of the Projects Abroad China Newsletter! It has become “el scorchio!” across most of China, but this has not stopped the hard work from all of our volunteers in the cities of Shanghai and Chengdu. In fact, this month we have welcomed over 60 volunteers who are carrying out placements in law firms, different businesses, travel agencies, architectural design companies, medical placements at hospitals, sports placements (huuuuh deep breath!), schools and kindergartens. These volunteers come from all over the world and they are exchanging their life experiences in our shared apartments. As I have always said, this experience for many can be positively life changing and not only do the volunteers learn about Chinese culture they additionally learn about the cultures of the other volunteers by living together and meeting up during our weekly social outreaches and dinners. This is something that every member of the Projects Abroad team is extremely proud of and we thrive on witnessing these experiences in the making!

The feature of this newsletter is the opening of our brand new placement, Haibei Kindergarten in Chengdu. We currently have Steven from the USA teaching and caring for the children, so have a read about our views on the opening of this kindergarten followed by Steven’s inspirational words on what it is like to work in the kindergarten while being immersed in the Chengdu culture. Also included in this month’s edition of the Projects Abroad China newsletter is a volunteer interview with Ipek from the UK who is carrying out her placement in a law firm in Shanghai. In addition to this, learn about Ann’s (USA) experience working in a business placement named British Education, Frazer (UK) who is currently working for a gaming software company in Chengdu, and last but not least we have an introduction from the lovely Susan, our new operations manager for China. If all of this isn’t enough for you then don’t worry; we have also provided information about our proposed social outreaches for August!

What a pleasure it has been to be a part of the Projects Abroad China team. I sometimes find it hard to believe that the amazing work that we are doing in China is just a fraction of what our global community is doing in our 30 different destinations. Big it up to our amazing staff and volunteers on every corner of the globe! Right now we have over 1000 of us! I can’t wait for all of the memories that will be made in August. Find out about some of these in next month’s edition, but for now enjoy this edition.

If you need any more information about our projects in China feel free to contact me on richardegan@projects-abroad.org.

Xie Xie,

RICHARD EGAN
INFORMATION MANAGER



Susan Chen (New Operations Manager for Shanghai)

Hi everyone, I’m Susan, Operations Manager with Projects Abroad Shanghai.

Arriving to a new country, stepping out of comfort zone into a different environment, surrounded by people speaking a foreign language can be frustrating. I myself have experienced big changes of living environment three times in my life. First from Shanghai to Buenos Aires, second from Buenos Aires to Toronto, and third from Toronto back to Shanghai. I truly embrace these experiences because I got the opportunity to learn about different cultures, meet people from different backgrounds and adapt to different societies. Nevertheless, these experiences also made me understand the need and importance of support from local people in order to make a smooth transition.

I’m very excited to be part of team that helps volunteers and interns coming to China from around the world to blend into the local society, have pleasant experiences and create beautiful memories. Looking forward to meeting all of you in Shanghai~!

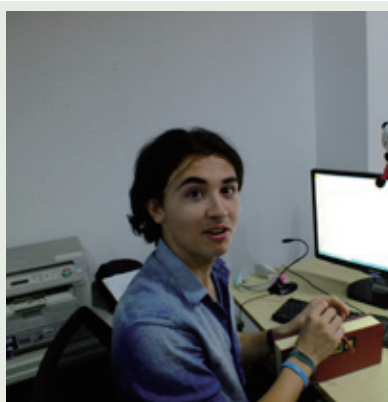
VOLUNTEER ARTICLE



Experience in Chengdu by Ann Cope (USA, British Education)

It's my first week in Chengdu and almost everything is going as planned. The Projects Abroad team made us feel welcome with being at the airport gate upon our early morning arrival, showing us our accommodations,

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Frazer Worboys Office life in China (UK Yoyou Software)

You probably already think you have a rough idea of what the office is going to be like. You're most likely wrong. It is nothing like you expect. I arrived on a Wednesday and was into work on the Thursday. I was told casual,

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Steven Summit Haibei Kindergarten (USA)

I've been working for the Haibei Kindergarten now for about six weeks and my experience here has been incredible to say the least. I teach the children English a couple times a week and spend the rest of my time taking care of them.

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VOLUNTEER STORY



Ipek Karatepe

Ipek Karatepe (22), from the UK, is currently undergoing a two month law internship at Everbright Law Firm in Shanghai, China. In October she will start her final year studying for a LLB law degree at Middlesex University and she is hoping to be accepted on to an LPC course at a law school in London after finishing her undergraduate course.

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FEATURE



It is with great pleasure to announce that the Projects Abroad China team has started a brand new care placement in Chengdu. This is a kindergarten, in the southern part of the city, named Haibei. It would be difficult for this placement to be more perfect because it is in the same area as our four apartments where the volunteers live, meaning that it is a short walk away from home rather than a daily battle with the hectic, but at the same time fun, Chengdu public transport.

It would be a great task for even the most articulate of poets to accurately explain the abundance of joy that seems to beam out of this kindergarten. First of all, the bright colors and decorations are everywhere and there are designs that were made by the children, teachers, and now the volunteers, hanging from the ceiling and stuck to the walls. The whole place just screams out positivity and this is definitely noticed by the children. Secondly the children;

these children are adorable. Actually adorable is not a strong enough word for how cute they are, maybe charming is a better word; no, I am pretty sure there is no word in the English language that will explain about how cute these toddlers are and I've even checked the thesaurus. Anyway I'm sure you get the picture from looking at these photos. Also, despite the fact that they can't speak English the staff are amazingly friendly and we seem to communicate through smiles and laughter. It is funny because although it wouldn't surprise me if some of them didn't understand the meaning of 'how are you?', they can sing the nursery rhyme 'a ring, a ring of roses' and 'London Bridge is falling down' pronouncing every word perfectly... well almost perfectly! Everyone welcomes the volunteers with open arms and we have had nothing but positive feedback from the two volunteers who have carried out their internships at the kindergarten.

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PHOTO PAGE



SOCIAL CALENDAR

HELLO AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Tianzifang tour plus spicy dinner (2pm) Meet at Dapugiao station (Line 9, Exit 1)
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Trip to the Shanghai fake beach (12pm) TBD	Mahjiang at Accent Mandarin (7pm) Meet at Changshu Rd station (Line 1/7, Exit 6)		Bus tour of Shanghai (630pm) TBD			

* Times to be confirmed. Contact Rich, on +86 (0)18221063387, for more info.

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