Application

Eligibility. All Princeton University undergraduates and graduate students in good standing from any major or department are eligible to apply. Applicants must be highly motivated to study traditional Chinese opera and culture. Intermediate-level ability in modern Chinese language (Mandarin) is required. Normally, the minimum requirement for admission is two years of college-level instruction in Chinese before the start of the program; students with equivalent abilities are also eligible.

Application. Applications should be submitted through the GPS (Global Programs System) portal—http://gps.princeton.edu/?go=ShanghaiPekingProgram. Final deadline for submission is February 15, 2020. Applications require submission of three parts:
1) a paragraph explaining why you wish to attend and how the Opera Program fits into your educational goals;
2) a short budget detailing your request for transportation and meals in Shanghai;
3) a short statement about your Chinese language abilities: if you’re enrolled in Chinese language study, list your courses at Princeton or Princeton-in-Beijing or elsewhere; if, instead, you have language experience outside of Princeton courses, describe your abilities in speaking and understanding Mandarin.

Recommendation. A letter of recommendation from a current Princeton faculty member is also required. Recommenders will be prompted by GPS to submit letters.

Deadlines. Applications and all supporting materials must be submitted by February 15, 2020; earlier applications are welcome. We are admitting on a rolling basis, two weeks after completed application, until 20 spaces are filled. Those with language expertise gained outside of Princeton courses who are accepted into the program will be asked to schedule a 10-minute Mandarin language discussion/test.

Notifications of acceptance will be given to applicants by end of February 2020. Students are expected to arrive in Shanghai June 5, 2020.

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Shanghai Peking Opera Company (SPOC) at 1198 Tianyaoqiao Rd., Shanghai, China.

Sophie Wheeler ’19 and SPOC Instructor Fang Murong

East Asian Studies and Musical Performance at Princeton University

Peking Opera Shanghai Immersion Program
June 8-June 26, 2020
Overview

The Princeton University Shanghai Peking Opera Immersion Program is a 3 week immersion program of intensive study and training in the Northern style of Chinese drama (called “Peking Opera”) at the Shanghai Peking Opera Company (SPOC), based in Shanghai. Instruction will be in the medium of Chinese (Mandarin).

Normally, the minimum requirement for admission is two years of college-level instruction in Chinese; other students with equivalent abilities are also eligible. The program will award certificates, but no Princeton credit will be given.

Fellowships

SPOC is providing fellowship support for tuition, fees, lodging, and breakfast. To cover the additional expenses for transportation to and from Shanghai and most lunches and dinners (totaling up to $2,000), funding will be provided by Princeton University to students accepted into the program. Awards will be administered through the Student Activities Funding Engine (SAFE).

Up to twenty fellowships will be awarded.

Instructors

Teachers are nationally-certified Peking Opera performers. Normally, instruction and discussion will take place in Mandarin.

Board and Lodging

Students will be housed double-occupancy at Ji Hotel (1881 Tianyaoqiao Road, Shanghai), a three-star business hotel located across the street from the teaching space of the Shanghai Peking Opera Company. Numerous restaurants and cafes are within walking distance for meals.

Curriculum

Classes run for three weeks, from June 8-June 26, 2020. Classes usually meet for 6 hours per day, 5 days per week with some additional time on weekends and evenings for observing performances. The curriculum is divided into three sections.

Section 1: Introduction to Peking Opera, 15 hours. Senior scholars use text and images to introduce the history, basic features, and aesthetics of Peking Opera.

Section 2: Taste of Peking Opera, 65 hours. Following their interests, students are divided into small groups pursuing specialized study of excerpts of specific operas, like Farewell My Concubine. These segments will have particular emphasis on Song, Speech, Dance, and Combat/Acrobatics. At the end, each group presents a 10-minute final performance.

Section 3: Live Observation, 10 hours. During the weekends, students will attend special performances of the Shanghai Peking Opera Theater, including behind-the-scenes and post-performance meetings with performers.

At Princeton, half-day forum. Following the program upon return to Princeton in the fall, students will participate in a forum on Chinese Opera presented by the Music Department in which they will have an opportunity to share the results of their study.

“This truly did feel like a once in a lifetime opportunity... Really grateful I got to participate.”