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**Study Abroad Program Information Package**  
**Fall 2009 Semester**

**Important Dates:**

- **February 13, 2009**  
BU Law application deadline
- **Mid-March, 2009**  
Selections made
- **March, 2009**  
Tsinghua application deadline for Fall 2009 semester (we will work with them for interested students because of the late nature of BU's internal deadlines)
- **June, 2009**  
Fall 2009 participants should secure their visa to study in China
- **September 2-December 20, 2009**  
Fall 2009 semester dates

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We are pleased you are interested in Boston University School of Law's overseas exchange program with Tsinghua University Faculty of Law in Beijing, China. This package gives a general description of the program as well as details about some of its more important aspects. Carefully review this information before deciding whether to apply.

## I. Some Preliminary – and Important – Points

At the outset, we would like to stress several aspects of the program which may be relevant to your decision to apply.

- A. **Timing:** This is a one-semester program that will be offered in fall 2009.
- B. **Credits:** The program is designed to grant participating students twelve semester credits toward their J.D. degree.
- C. **Academic Focus:** The program focuses on Chinese law. Students are enrolled in classes in Tsinghua's LL.M. in Chinese Law program.
- D. **Eligible Students:** The program is open to second- and third-year students who have spent at least one full-year at BU Law. First-year students cannot participate.
- E. **Language:** All courses in the LL.M. in Chinese Law program at Tsinghua are taught in English.
- F. **Number of Participants:** Four students at most can participate. We may select fewer than four, but under no circumstances can we select more.

## II. Why Study Law at Tsinghua?

### A. China, Tsinghua University and its Law School

China's extraordinary economic growth over the past two decades – and its emergence as a great power with the potential to challenge America's preeminence, economically and militarily, in Asia and elsewhere – is without question one of the principal trends in the new global order.<sup>1</sup> China is expected to be the world's second largest economy by 2020, boasting for the foreseeable future the most rapid growth rate in either the developed or developing world. The country's explosive growth "could be the dominant event of this century," says Stapleton Roy, former U.S. ambassador to China. "Never before has a country risen as fast as China is [now] doing."<sup>2</sup>

The implications of China's rise are profound. As Oded Shenkar states in *The Chinese Century*, "We are about to wake up to a new business environment, with new ground rules for business competition, fresh terms of employment, and novel consumption patterns – one that will redraw the battle lines on the political, economic, and social fronts, and one that will place new challenges at the doorstep of nations, firms, and individuals."<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See Oded Shenkar, *The Chinese Century* (Wharton School Publishing, 2005).

<sup>2</sup> "The Rise of a New Power: A Communist Juggernaut Emerges to Challenge the West" (*U.S. News and World Report*, June 20, 2005).

<sup>3</sup> *The Chinese Century*, p. 2.

Since entering the WTO in 2001, China has eased restrictions against foreign firms setting up multiple offices in China. Global as well as "local" U.S. firms are expanding their China presence to capitalize on China's loosening trade restrictions and protect their U.S. clients' intellectual property interests.<sup>4</sup> As Steven Davis, Chairman of LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene and MacRae, announced upon opening his firm's new Shanghai office, "If we continue to be a global law firm, we must have a very sizable practice in China. The future is here."<sup>5</sup> Firms will be increasingly looking for J.D. talent that can help them achieve their business goals on the mainland.<sup>6</sup>

Tsinghua University was founded in 1911. It first served as a preparatory school for students selected by China's government to study in the United States. After the founding of the PRC and the nationwide educational restructuring of 1952, Tsinghua became a multidisciplinary polytechnic institution focusing on engineering. To this day, the university is still mostly known for its preeminence in that field. Today, it comprises thirteen schools offering 37 bachelors degree programs, 107 masters degree programs and 64 Ph.D. programs in science, liberal arts, management and law. The university has over 7,100 faculty and staff, with over 900 full professors and 1,200 associate professors, including twenty-four members of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and twenty-four members of the Chinese Academy of Engineering. The student body includes approximately 12,000 undergraduates, 6,200 master's degree candidates and 2,800 doctoral candidates. The university's self-described educational philosophy is to "train students with integrity."

Tsinghua Law School was established in 1929 and has since undergone many transformations to mirror the political, social, and cultural changes that have occurred in China during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1995, the law school was reformed in response to the call to establish and enhance the rule of law in China. It currently enrolls more than 1,300 students in both its undergraduate (LL.B.) and graduate law programs (LL.M. and Professional Juris Master). It employs 49 full-time faculty members, many of whom have studied or taught abroad.

The Law School, including the law library, is housed in a single building (the Ming Li building). It has a moot court with state-of-the-art equipment. The Tsinghua University Law Library is part of the university library system. One of the first professional law libraries in China, it houses a collection of 40,000 Chinese law books and 20,000 foreign law books. The library is wired for computers and is apparently quite modern. There is seating available for 300 users and a dedicated computer lab to access electronic publications and on-line resources.

The University's main website (in English) is [http://www.tsinghua.edu.cn/docsn/fxy/english/index\\_en.htm](http://www.tsinghua.edu.cn/docsn/fxy/english/index_en.htm).

## **B. Tsinghua's LL.M. in Chinese Law Program**

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<sup>4</sup> See "Serving China, Serving Ourselves: Expertise is Becoming a Big U.S. Export," *JS Online, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, May 10, 2004 (noting that international firms, based in Wisconsin, "are rushing to the Chinese mainland to help safeguard trademarks, patents and technology."); see also "Local Law Firms Expand Presence to Serve Fast-Growing Mainland Market," *Puget Sound Business Journal*, August 27, 2004 (noting the expansion of Seattle and San Francisco law firms to Shanghai, Beijing and Hong Kong.)

<sup>5</sup> "U.S. Law Firm Expanding Presence in China," *China Daily*, January 15, 2006. See also "Wilmer Hale at Front of Local Law Presence in China," *Boston Business Journal*, December 10, 2004.

<sup>6</sup> A bit of background on legal practice in the PRC: foreign law firms doing business in China cannot employ Chinese lawyers to provide legal services, but must affiliate with local firms for counsel on Chinese law. Likewise, U.S. firms cannot represent clients in a Chinese courtroom; they act as liaisons between local Chinese firms and U.S. business clients; they track changes in Chinese law; they serve as business consultants and cultural ambassadors to US companies, helping facilitate relationships with local partners and government agencies. They also represent Chinese companies in U.S. business activities.

Tsinghua's LL.M. in Chinese Law Program – an English language program focusing exclusively on Chinese law and China's legal system – is the first of its kind in mainland China. BU Law students would participate in a single (fall) semester of this program. They would study Chinese law alongside visiting students from around the world. Please visit <http://www.tsinghua.edu.cn/docsn/fxy/english/llmPrgrm.htm> for a detailed overview of the program.

Teaching in the program is by members of Tsinghua's full-time faculty as well as by adjuncts and practitioners. (Please visit <http://www.tsinghua.edu.cn/docsn/fxy/english/llmFaculty.htm> for the backgrounds of the Tsinghua law faculty who teach in the LL.M. in Chinese Law Program.) Many of them have studied outside of China so have an international perspective. Because of the program's small size and the foreign experience of many of Tsinghua's faculty, BU Law students can expect a more interactive classroom dynamic than they might otherwise receive at a traditional Chinese law school. They should not, however, expect to receive a Socratic experience.

### **C. The City of Beijing**

China's capital city, Beijing serves as the political, economic, social and cultural center of the world's most populous country. As one study abroad provider describes, "Beijing, the monumental capital of modern China, is a magnet for international business and investment. While its new high-rises and financial institutions testify to its booming economy, remnants of Old Beijing remain. Streets lined with dumpling and noodle stands, beautiful parks bedecked with pagodas, and 19th century homes with graceful four-walled courtyards still charm visitors from around the world."<sup>7</sup>

While modernization is taking over with scores of new construction projects, government officials and city planners are attempting to strike a balance between preserving the old and bringing in the new. Relics of the past certainly remain, including Beijing's ancient center, the Forbidden City. In addition to the Forbidden City, Beijing is home to several other major tourist attractions in China, including Tiananmen Square, the Great Wall, the Lama Temple and the Summer Palace. The 2008 Summer Olympic catapulted Beijing to an even more prominent place on the world stage.

BU Law students won't be far from the action. Tsinghua University is located in the northwest section of Beijing, roughly twenty minutes from the downtown section of the city. One of its entrances is near the historic Old Summer Palace, and the University's location used to be home to several royal gardens of the Qing Dynasty. Tsinghua administrators will help ensure that BU Law students benefit from everything Beijing has to offer by thoroughly orienting them to the city. As part of the program, they will also arrange for outside lectures, moot court competitions, seminars and visits to legal institutions.

More information on Beijing can be found at:

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/worldguide/destinations/asia/china/beijing/>  
<http://www.ebeijing.gov.cn/>

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<sup>7</sup> From <http://www.iesabroad.org/beijing.do>.

### III. The Tsinghua Study Abroad Program

#### A. What the Program is – and isn't

The exchange program with Tsinghua is designed to offer a serious study of international and comparative law in an international setting. **This is definitely not the same thing as a college semester abroad.** If you are looking for a semester abroad with a light course load and plenty of time to sightsee and eat dim sum, this is not the program for you. This is not to say that you will have no time to sightsee and familiarize yourself with Chinese culture. You will. But we do want to emphasize that this program is much more academically rigorous than many overseas programs at the undergraduate level.

#### B. Number of Students

As noted above, we will be selecting up to four BU Law students to attend Tsinghua in the fall 2009 semester.

#### C. Program Dates

Tsinghua will confirm these dates once its final schedule is set.

**Fall Orientation:** Late August, 2009  
**Fall Semester Dates:** September 1 – December 19, 2009

You will be expected to arrive in Beijing no later than late August, 2009 for the fall semester. Tsinghua assures us that students will be able to take exams early to be back in the U.S. before the holidays and in time for BU Law's second semester.

#### D. Course Offerings and Selections

BU Law students will be integrated into Tsinghua's LL.M. in Chinese Law program – an English language program focusing exclusively on Chinese law and China's legal system – where they will study alongside visiting students from around the world. No prior exposure to Chinese law is required to commence studies in the program. Visiting students must attend the fall semester because that is when the compulsory, basic courses are offered. Therefore, the course offerings are limited to the following basic courses in Chinese law:

- Chinese Society and Chinese Law
- Chinese Constitutional and Administrative Law (each section is half-semester)
- Chinese Civil Law
- Chinese Foreign Trade and Investment Law (each section is half-semester)
- Chinese Intellectual Property Law

BU Law students are required to take seven classes (four of which are half-semester classes), the typical semester course load of a Tsinghua LL.M. student.

#### E. Seven Semester LL.M. Degree Option

<http://www.tsinghua.edu.cn/docsn/fxy/english/llm/llmCurclm.htm>

Tsinghua purposely designed its LL.M. in Chinese Law Program to accommodate second- or third-year J.D. students interested in spending a single (fall) semester at Tsinghua. Participating BU Law students will have the option to return to Tsinghua within two years to complete a second (spring) semester, at the end of which they would be awarded the LL.M. in Chinese Law degree

from Tsinghua. Thus, a BU Law student could obtain both a J.D. degree from BU Law and an LL.M. degree from Tsinghua in seven semesters. Should a student choose to pursue the LL.M. degree, an additional five courses plus a research paper as the degree thesis. Courses taught in the subsequent second semester include (these are the spring 2009 offerings; Tsinghua informs us that the offerings will most likely remain similar in coming years):

- Chinese Civil Procedure
- Chinese Civil Law
- Chinese Constitution and Administrative Law
- Chinese Practice of International Law
- Chinese Environmental Law
- Chinese Criminal and Criminal Procedural Law
- Chinese Contract Law
- Chinese Corporate and Bankruptcy Law
- Chinese Banking Law

#### **F. Exams**

Evaluation at Tsinghua is done through both written examination and papers. Written examinations are a combination of essay and multiple choice or short answer questions. Some are in-class examinations; others are take-home.

### **IV. How to Apply**

If you decide to apply, you must do two things:

1. Complete an application available at [www.bu.edu/jd/studyabroad](http://www.bu.edu/jd/studyabroad) and submit all additional materials.
2. Complete an interview with Associate Dean Marx and Assistant Dean John Riccardi, scheduled through the Office of Graduate and International Programs.

In screening applicants, we will look for such things as a strong academic record, a favorable faculty recommendation, serious interest in international and comparative law, and experience with different cultures and overseas travel.

The application deadline is February 13, 2009.

\* For first-year students applying to participate in their second year, we will be unable to make a final decision until after we have received your second semester grades in mid-summer.

### **V. Tsinghua Study Abroad Student Application**

Upon approval for the exchange program at BU Law, participating students will be complete Tsinghua's application form, available at <http://www.tsinghua.edu.cn/docsn/fxy/english/llm/llmLawschl.htm>.

### **VI. Student Evaluation and Grades**

Your exams will be graded in the first instance by Tsinghua faculty in accordance with the Tsinghua grading system. Because grading standards between BU Law and Tsinghua differ, a direct translation to

BU Law's letter grading system is extremely difficult. Therefore, participating BU Law students will, upon successfully completing a course, receive a designation of "credit" for the course on their transcripts. This designation will include an asterisk or footnote indicating that the actual grade is available upon request, and that it will be accompanied by an explanation of Tsinghua's different grading system.

**ACCEPTANCE OF ANY CREDIT OR GRADE FOR ANY COURSE TAKEN IN THE PROGRAM IS SUBJECT TO DETERMINATION BY BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW.** We expect, however, that all credits earned at Tsinghua will count towards Boston University School of Law credits.

**One final point about grading. None of the grades for the Tsinghua semester will count toward your BU Law GPA or towards School of Law honors and awards (such as the scholarly awards, graduation prizes or degree rankings, such as cum laude, magna cum laude and summa cum laude).**

## VII. Tsinghua's Program Director and Staff

The Program Director is WANG Chenguang, Professor of Law and Dean of Tsinghua University's School of Law. His CV is available online at [http://www.tsinghua.edu.cn/docsn/fxy/english/faculty/wcg\\_en2.htm](http://www.tsinghua.edu.cn/docsn/fxy/english/faculty/wcg_en2.htm). His contact information is:

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Updated program information is regularly posted on the LL.M. program's website at <http://www.tsinghua.edu.cn/docsn/fxy/english/llmPrgm.htm>.  
<http://intlstudent.cic.tsinghua.edu.cn/EN/index.html>

## VIII. Library Facilities

The Tsinghua University Law Library is part of the university library system, and is one of the first professional law libraries among existing law schools in China. At present, the Tsinghua Law Library has a collection of 40,000 Chinese law books and 20,000 foreign law books, as well as subscriptions to over 190 law journals. The Library is fully wired and computerized, with air-conditioning and other modern

facilities. There is ample study space for students, as well as an electronic reading room, where students can obtain updated legal information via electronic publications and on-line databases<sup>8</sup>.

## IX. Provisions for Students with Disabilities

The Tsinghua facilities are not necessarily all accessible to students with disabilities. If you are interested in the program and will need some special assistance due to a disability, please speak with Associate Dean Christine Marx or the Assistant Dean for Graduate and International Programs, John Riccardi. They will then contact Tsinghua to obtain information about the availability of needed services.

## X. Student Housing and Living Arrangements

Tsinghua will offer BU Law students housing in on-campus dormitories within easy access to classrooms, faculty offices, and other university facilities. The dorms are brand-new and quite nice; some offer private bathrooms and showers, and include maid service, a desk, bed, and a food preparation area. Laundry facilities are in the building. BU Law students will be living with Chinese students, thereby gaining the cultural advantages of such a living arrangement. The dormitory houses a cafeteria as well, where students can purchase inexpensive meals. The cost is inexpensive by Boston standards: students pay roughly \$400 a month to live on campus. While the rooms are nice, clean, and well-kept, the experience is much more similar to an undergraduate dormitory in the United States than apartments to which some BU Law students may be accustomed. Students who wish to seek other accommodation must do so on their own. More information is available at <http://www.tsinghua.edu.cn/docsn/fxy/english/llm/llmAccommodation.htm>.

## XI. Anticipated Tuition, Fees and Living Costs

BU Law students pay Tsinghua tuition, plus Boston University's *in absentia* fee (ten percent of the current semester's tuition at BU Law) and any transportation costs and living expenses. Fees for the fall 2009 semester are estimated at:

<b>Application Fee:</b>	\$75
<b>Tuition:</b>	\$10,679
<b>BU <i>in absentia</i> fee:</b>	\$1,875 (based on 2008-2009 tuition rates; this will increase slightly for fall 2009)
<b>Housing:</b>	\$1,600 (for four months of on-campus housing in a single room with private bath)
<b>Meals:</b>	\$1,600
<b>Books and Personal:</b>	\$2,000
<b>Medical Insurance:</b>	\$49
<b>Transportation:</b>	\$1,500

**Total estimated expense for a single semester at Tsinghua: \$19,500**

Because this includes housing and living expenses, the total cost is considerably less than a semester at BU Law.

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<sup>8</sup> Quoted directly from Tsinghua's website, <http://www.tsinghua.edu.cn/docsn/fxy/english/library2.htm>.

## XII. Program Cancellation Information

We expect the program to go forward as planned and anticipate no obstacles to implementation. However, the ABA requires that we inform you about our contemplated course of action in case of cancellation or change and in case a State Department Advisory is issued for the program area.

### A. General Policy

In the highly unlikely event that the entire program has to be canceled, students selected for the program will be informed immediately by telephone and by mail, email, or in person, and notices of cancellation will be posted on the BU Law website. In addition, individual meetings will be arranged with any student who wishes one. If in the even more unlikely event that the Program is canceled after students have arrived in Beijing, Associate Dean Christine Marx and/or Assistant Dean John Riccardi will contact all participating students by telephone, if possible, or by email.

Should particular courses be canceled or rescheduled, students selected for the program will be informed by email, telephone, or in person, and notices will be placed on the BU Law website.

### B. State Department Advisories

BU Law will supply participating students with State Department Consular Information Sheets for China, which will include any information on "Areas of Instability." We do not anticipate that any State Department Advisory will issue for the Beijing area; nor is there any particular reason to believe that such an eventuality will materialize. However, in case an Advisory does issue, we will take the following steps:

**In General** – If an Advisory is issued before students are selected for the program, notice will be posted on the BU Law website and all applicants interviewed for the program will be personally informed. If such an advisory is issued after students are selected or during the program term, all participating students will be notified immediately.

**Area of Instability** – If the State Department declares the site to be an Area of Instability, students will be allowed to withdraw from the program. If such an event takes place while the program term is underway, the student will be permitted to choose either a refund of fees billed by Boston University, in accordance with the University's refund schedule (this would exclude room, board, and any travel costs associated with getting to the host country prior to the date the site was declared an "Area of Instability"), or completion of the semester's study at Boston University School of Law if such is feasible. **WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THE OPTION OF COMPLETING THE SEMESTER AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW (AND THUS NOT LOSING A SEMESTER'S PROGRESS TOWARD THE J.D. DEGREE)**. This option is dependent on resources and the availability of course and independent study opportunities at BU Law. In the event that arrangements at the School of Law are not feasible, or the student elects a refund, the student will be refunded fees as above, in accordance with the University's refund schedule.

**Travel Warning** – If the State Department issues a Travel Warning for China, the program will be canceled if the term has not yet begun, or terminated immediately if the term is already underway. If the program is canceled prior to commencement of the term, all students will be refunded in full all fees paid to Boston University (excluding any advance room, board, and travel costs associated with getting to the host country that have been paid). In addition, all students will be integrated into the regular semester at Boston University School of Law. If the program is terminated while underway, a participating student may choose either a refund of fees (except for room, board, and any travel costs associated with getting to the host country prior to the date

the Travel Warning was issued), or completion of the semester's study at BU Law if such is feasible. See discussion of declaration of Area of Instability, above.

### **XIII. Visa Information**

International students studying in China must possess ordinary passports with either study visa (Category X) or visiting visa (Category F). International students entering China with other types of visas must promptly transfer into study visas.

Students holding F visa do not need to apply for the Residence Permit, but should apply for extension of visa before the expiration of visa validity.

Full instructions on visa procedures are available at:

<http://www.china-embassy.org/eng/hzqz/zgqz/t84243.htm>

Students should make all efforts to secure their visas as early as possible, in case of any delays. They must visit in person the visa office of the Embassy or Consulate General of China in the jurisdiction where they live, or send a designate to submit the visa paperwork in person. The Chinese Embassy is Located in Washington, D.C. Chinese Consulate Generals are located in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Houston.

**It is the student's responsibility to secure his or her visa. Visa applications are accepted no sooner than 90 days prior to the program's start date and no later than 4 weeks prior.** Be sure to read the consulate's website carefully, as regulations and requirements can change.

### **XIV. Program Reports**

Please note that all BU Law students selected to participate in a study abroad program will be required to submit to the Office of Graduate and International Programs:

1. A one-page mid-semester written report, assessing their experiences in light of their academic goals
2. A two-page report at the end of their program, evaluating their experiences

Students will not receive academic credit until they submit these reports.