



- ☺ Experience on Teaching German in Tong Ji Secondary School
- ☺ First Dairy from former volunteer

Shanghai Xu Bo Art and Culture Exchange



Cong Ming Farm Stay
in Oct. 2009

October, 2009

Volunteer Time

Experience on Teaching German in Tongji Secondary School



I'm a student from Germany and my Chinese Name is May and that is just the beginning of the step into another part of the world. I stayed in Shanghai for five weeks and was working at the Tongji Secondary School. I was teaching German to the 4 Pre-junior classes and European Table manners to 1 High school class. I had a very good time and can just commend to choose the very modern Tongji Secondary School.

My First week in Shanghai started with an Introduction of the City, Mandarin Lessons and the first own organized Sightseeing tours. After you have learned how to use your metro transport card nothing can stop you in Shanghai. Because of the Expo everything is signed and written in letters and even the Taxis have a translation service hotline. You will learn easily how to communicate with Taxi drivers, order your food by pointing on Pictures and haggle on the fake market. Shanghai is great for shopping and you should have enough space in your luggage when you arrive. During my time in China I traveled by Train to Suzhou, Hangzhou and Beijing and always had good experiences with the transport and the trips in general. I meet a lot of nice volunteers from all around the world and spend my

journeys at the weekends and dinners with them. It is highly recommended to do some travels which are very easy to organize, save and cheap as well.

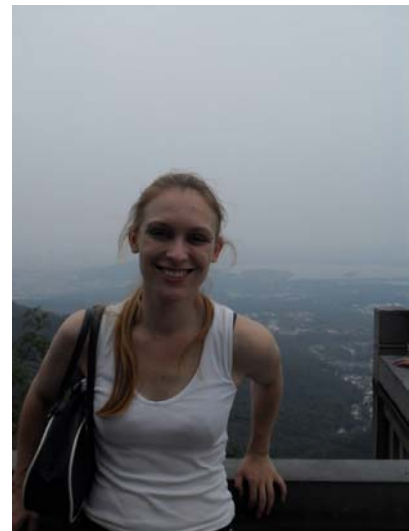
My working time was between 8.00 and 16.00 o'clock.

During the week I had 9 lessons per 40 minutes. My Timetable was Mo-1 lesson, Tu- 2 We-3 , Th- 2, Fr-1.

Between 11.30 and 12.30 was time for lunch. The meals were always good and (I am always picky with the food) I found every time something to eat. The teachers and especially the Exchange Coordinator Mrs. D. were very communicative and caring. They jointed me at the lunch and were very interested in the European culture and ways of teaching. By the way they taught me Chinese food vocabulary.

A normal day started depending on the lessons between 8.00 and 12.30 o'clock. My first lesson began suddenly. I got my translated timetable and knew the classroom I had to go to. As I stepped in front of the Class a spontaneous hurricane of applause started. Obviously they seem to like their new German teacher with the long blond ("yellow") hair ("like a Vampire"). After everybody got a sign we could start to work. I was teaching German by using a mix of Chinese Vocabulary and easy English. I prepared my own working papers with German and Pinyin and PPPs for the lessons. While my free periods I was sitting in my office and using the W-Lan to prepare my lessons or checking e-mails. Although the Secondary school is more demanding then the kindergarten the contact with the pupils is amusing and instructive. They were very interested in me and my lessons. Sometimes they gave me small presents like pencils, exercise books and so on. I don't want to miss that experience which ended with a

The time in Shanghai
Tongji Secondary
impressive and I
Chinese culture,
conditions. I will
time in school.
food and the
Shanghai. Thanks



sad goodbye.
and especially at the
School was very
learned a lot about the
lifestyle and livings
miss my pupils and the
Moreover I will miss the
gorgeous skyline of
May

Marietta Menne, from Travel Works, September 2009

Since this month, we will publish our former volunteer, Caterina Fugazzola's dairy which you will explore in deep volunteers' daily life in the placement in China. She worked in Shanghai at disable children center from 3 Aug to 7 Sep, 2009. Let me take opportunity to say thanks to Caterina, thanks to her kindness to translate all her Italian dairy to English so that more volunteer will read her experience.

Wednesday, August 5th 2009

Luxury Drinks

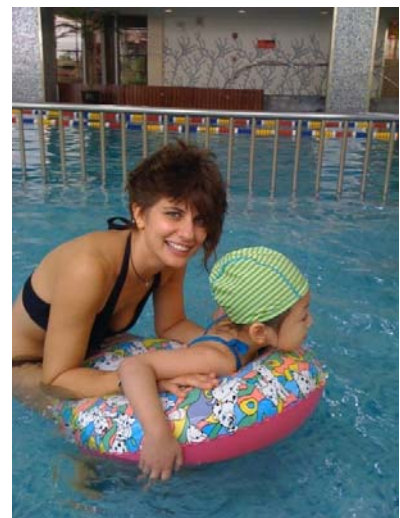


Here we go! As I promised, here's the first entry from China! The trip to Shanghai was good, I'm already settled into the apartment I'm sharing with other volunteers and I've already started exploring the city, which is absolutely awesome.

Yesterday night I went out with the others, we had a special rich-western-people-on-the-loose after-dinner on the top of a skyscraper close to the Huangpu River, with a great view of the Pearl Tower. It was basically just like being a bunch of extra-spoiled millionaires, the place was awesome and it even had a spa pool in the middle of the

terrace! Too bad we didn't have our swimming suits with us!

And if that's not enough to make anyone who's reading this envious, I must add that in this super cool place is caipirinha night on Tuesday, and drinks are only 40 yuan (approximately 4 euro)!!! If you've been in China already you'll know that this is crazy cheap, since you'll know how expensive drinks usually are here... As a matter of fact, cities like Beijing and Shanghai present what could appear like a huge contradiction at first sight: you can go to the nearest city with a train, have dinner in the best restaurant there choosing the most expensive dishes and come back, and you'll end up paying pretty much what you pay for 3-4



drinks in a club. There's a huge gap in prices for first-necessity goods (food, clothes, etc.) and all those extras that western people like so much, you can eat with 2 euro but drink with 10. This contradiction becomes extremely logical when you think that the ones interested in all those extras are most of the times tourists.

From my Venetian point of view, it looks like they're basically using our gondola-tour technique against us ;)

Caterina Fugazzola, from WEP, Aug, 2009