Second Year of Flagship Program

Note about second year costs:
Graduation requires a minimum of 65 credit hours to be completed. The majority of these are taken during the first year of the program. For summer, fall and winter quarter of the second year (with the exception of NSEP fellows as fellowship stipulates continuous enrollment) students are not directly enrolled in the university and as such do not pay tuition. However, students register for classes spring quarter before their thesis defense as per graduation requirements by the university.

Students are still expected to pay fees relating to Qingdao center study and study with Nanjing University in addition to housing, insurance, transportation and other living expenses.

Summer (Qingdao Center) Level E

The summer is divided into two sections:

1) Specific area tutoring: We determine which areas still need improvement, ie. Speaking, writing, etc. The student is paired with a tutor and meets with this tutor every day for seven weeks to improve problem areas.

2) Community project: Students will be required to independently design, organize and implement a community project in the Qingdao area along with consistent development reports to the program. The community project is designed to give students a practical introduction to networking, organizing projects in China and learning to work through institutional and cultural issues or limitations that one may face when developing similar projects in China.

Internship (Fall)

The internship site is determined by the student’s domain and career interests. The student is placed in a Chinese company or other organization and is expected to begin contributing as soon as he arrives. In many situations, Chinese companies will offer a position to a foreign employee out of a show of good faith and do not expect the employee to be more than an English teacher or translator. However, Flagship students are expected to contribute beyond this and make the company recognize the student as a valuable resource to the company. Past students have done this by contributing experiential knowledge about management or taking the initiative to develop new promotional materials for the host site. The internship is aimed at making the student apply and refine his domain and situational knowledge to convince the internship site that he or she is a necessary part of the organization.

It is important for the student’s language and cultural development that he or she interacts with different types of people in different capacities in different situations; not just teachers and scholars in an academic setting. There is a vast difference in communication patterns with teachers, government officials, migrant workers, private company heads and it is necessary that the student learn how to interact effectively with varying groups.

Because the internship will be tied to the student’s domain study, in addition to his/her work responsibilities the student uses her time in the internship to conduct field research for his graduate thesis. This can take the
form of interviews, field observation or other forms of quantitative data collection. For a list of past internship sites, please visit the graduate section of chineseflagship.osu.edu.

**Nanjing University Study (Spring)**

For the latter part of the second year, students are enrolled directly in Nanjing university classes with Nanda graduate students. This is an opportunity to demonstrate their field knowledge in an academic environment. Students also take Flagship classes organized by the Nanjing Center, which is organized through the Brigham Young University Flagship. Classes include an advanced writing course and modern Chinese news and media course. The writing class involves regular writing assignments. The media class begins with the historical evolution of modern Chinese media and later follows into an analysis of different forms of media like newspapers, movies, popular television shows and news programming with written and oral reports by students at the end of the term.

Another component of the classes is cooperation with other professional organizations. Which activities there are depends on the plans of the Nanjing Center at the time. One past activity was a cooperative project with a Shanghai newspaper (申江服务导报) in which students worked with reporters, interviewed subjects and wrote articles that were subsequently published in a special edition of the newspaper.

The time in Nanjing is also intended as window to allow the students to prepare their final theses and go through graduation procedures. Students also have access to Nanjing university resources and other academic sources and can incorporate these into their thesis material.

**Graduate Thesis**

In spring quarter students are expected to schedule their thesis defense with the OSU grad school and the Flagship office. This is most likely done after the end of their internship and before the end of the quarter in June or in certain cases before the internship ends the student returns to the US from China to defend his thesis, and then return to his internship.

The paper is completed in Chinese and is defended in Chinese to a panel of professors including Flagship faculty and other Chinese experts on the student’s domain (often through international teleconference). Upon successful completion of the defense, the student is awarded a Masters of Arts in East Asian Languages and Literatures with a program in Advanced Chinese Language and Culture from the Ohio State University.

**Below is a list of past thesis topics of Flagship graduates:**

- Chinese real estate and foreign investment
- Microfinance in China
- Chinese media: Analysis of reporting of critical incidents; Analysis of changes in reporting structure
- China’s service industry as related to online role-playing games
- Daoism as it relates to modern marketing
- Popularization of Chinese language worldwide
- Multiculturalism in China
- Intellectual property protection and rural development
- Case Studies: Rural vocational education support programs, Translation services for 2008 Beijing Olympics, China’s labor contract law.