

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

For Projects Abroad China 



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EDITOR'S NOTE



Welcome to the November 2014 edition of the Projects Abroad China newsletter! The short Chinese winter is now upon us, but this has not dampened the hard work of our volunteers in both Shanghai and Chengdu! During the month of November we have welcomed volunteers from the UK, Japan, Netherlands, Sweden and Russia and they will be carrying out their internships within the journalism, business, care, law and language placements.

Experience a taste of what it is like to work in China by indulging yourself into this month's edition. The feature of this newsletter will tell you about the various business placements in China. But before we get to this we will start with an article by Anna Pisaneilo (written in Italian) about her experience in Shanghai. Followed by an interview with Zaineb Sidiqqi, our law volunteer working at Tuo Ying Law Offices in Shanghai. Then you can read about Alex Martin, our business volunteer from United Kingdom, and his experience working for a company in Shanghai. Last, but not least, we have Aleksandra Dzik's article (written in Polish) about her amazing two weeks visiting various law firms and businesses with the Projects Abroad Two Week Special Law and Business Programme. If this is not enough for you, you have no need to worry because we also have the winning photo from our latest China photo competition as well as December's social information. Enjoy!

Rich Egan
Communications Officer



PHOTO COMPETITION!

In China, and across the Projects Abroad global community, we have recently started a photo competition! All of our past and present volunteers have the opportunity to enter, and not only can achieving first place give them prestige and honour, they also have a chance to win a prize and, of course, it can even be something they can add on their resume! What we are looking for from these photos

is something that encapsulates everyday life in China, something that is unique to this somewhat unpredictable, vast land. Whether it is a picture of an uncanny event on the street, a photo of the various street stalls, China's beautiful nature, a photo at one of our many placements or even an adorable old Chinese person who looks 120 playing a strange instrument or holding a machete, all will be considered when the team chooses the winning picture!

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VOLUNTEER STORIES

Anna Pisaneilo- Journalism Volunteer- Shanghai (Italy)

Sono stata a Shanghai con Projects Abroad per un mese, ed ho frequentato uno stage presso un giornale locale.

Ambientarmi all'arrivo è stato molto facile: sono venuti a prendermi all'aeroporto e mi hanno accompagnato a casa in taxi. Poi una delle

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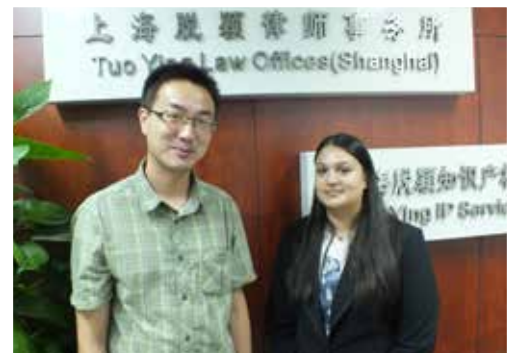


An interview with Zaineb Siddiqi

Zaineb recently graduated from The University of Law in Moorgate and next year is seeking to take her LPC at the University of Law in London, with the hopes of becoming a qualified solicitor by 2016.

I have done some previous volunteering at law firms in the UK, but I wanted some international legal experience. Most law firms in London are looking for people who have knowledge of law from different

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Aleksandra Dzik- 2 Week Special Law and Business Volunteer- Chengdu (Poland)

Nazywam się Ola i mam 18 lat. O Projects Abroad dowiedziałam się ziękiich stronie internetowej, naktórejszukałamwyjazdu do Afryki w celu wolontariatu. Niestety, moirodzeniezgodzilisięnapodróż, któraich zdaniembyłaniebezpieczna.

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“My time at my placement” – Alex Martin, Business volunteer- Shanghai (UK)

I arrived in Shanghai at the end of September and it has been a fun, varied, sociable and interesting experience so far – although my Mandarin remains basic to say the least!

Landing at dawn on a Sunday, I was initially unsure what to expect.

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FEATURE STORY:

Business volunteers

'Business in China is booming'. This is an all too familiar phrase, which has been echoed across the world since the collapse of communism, and it is increasingly being used by the global media. Many say that the 21st Century is the 'Asian Century' due to Asia's growth of financial capital and rapid industrialization, and it would be hard to deny that China is now one of the front-runners. In fact in 2008 China was recorded to have over 30 million private businesses and in 2013 the IMF stated that China has the second largest economy by nominal GDP, while also being the largest exporter in the world. In the same year a 'Report for Selected Countries and Subjects' stated that China has the world's fastest growing economy having seen a 10% increase over the past 25 years, not to mention the growing influence of mandarin in the international business market. With this in mind, it is not a surprise that one of the most popular Projects Abroad placements in China is the business placements.

Over the past 15 years Projects Abroad has sent volunteers to work at almost 50 different businesses in Shanghai and more recently (2010) in Chengdu. The areas of business include language translation, audit, marketing, brand development, consulting, investment and trade, organic food distribution, APP manufacturing, travel, design etc. During their internships the volunteers can obtain a real insight into business in China and be part of, what seems to be, an ever growing economy. Moreover one of the great things about a business internship in China is that the volunteers have the chance to obtain first-hand knowledge about how business here is different to the western world. Examples of these differences include 'guanxi', an



extremely important aspect of Chinese business culture which is connected through relationships, 'not what you know, but who you know', arguably the most important factor; Chinese face culture (dignity/prestige). An accidental mistake that offends a Chinese businessman's 'face' can break any business deal.

Now that that statistical jargon is out the way I will give you some information about a few of our recent business volunteers, and their placements, in both Shanghai and Chengdu. First of all we have Alex Martin from the UK who is currently working at Shanghai 24/7 in Shanghai, as the name suggests. This company is a premier online magazine for the underground art and music scene. They have features, interviews, podcasts and regularly advertise and sell tickets for events. The business is currently branching out and introducing advanced nasal filters for people to wear when there is a lot of pollution, as opposed to wearing a mask. Alex is heavily involved with marketing and selling this product while helping out with the Shanghai 24/7 promotions and ticket selling in Shanghai.

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PHOTO PAGE



SOCIAL CALENDAR

HELLO DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	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			

Boat Trip!

A trip to the Christmas market at Xizang Nan Lu

A trip to Hangzhou

Christmas dinner!

* Note that events and timings are subject to change. For up-to-date info contact Rich +86 (0)18221063387.

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