The Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership (CWIL) advances Saint Mary's College's mission of “preparing students to make a difference in the world” by empowering women to realize their call to leadership and to develop the intercultural knowledge and competence critical in today’s increasingly interdependent world.

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This program is a 2-3 week faculty-led summer program and is collaboration with China Women’s University and Soong Ching Ling Foundation. It offers students an opportunity to take part in an immersive academic and cultural trip across China. Students will travel to some cities and rural areas and learn Chinese history, culture, and women’s issues via face-to-face interaction with Chinese college students and virtual classroom. They will interview each other and share three generations of women’s life stories. The program includes a service-learning project related to girls’ education and women’s empowerment.

Course: Chinese Women and Society

Credit: 3 Summer Credits
China Summer Program – Chinese Women & Society

Through this program and course, students will be able to gain knowledge about Chinese women’s history and gender issues, learn Chinese culture in depth from comparative perspectives, develop critical thinking and qualitative interview skills, and improve intercultural sensitivity.

Locations
The cities and historical sites we will visit include:

- **Beijing** – Capital of China
  Lectures and exchange activities at China Women's University, National Museum of China, Chinese Museum of Women and Children, Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, Great Wall, Summer Palace, Bird Nest - National Stadium, All-China Women's Federation, Soong Ching Ling Former Residence, UNESCO Beijing Office, US Embassy American Center, Acrobatic Show

- **Chifeng** – Inner Mongolia – Ethnic Minority Area
  Local Women’s Federation, Mongolian cultural activities, Service-Learning Project: Minority Women’s Career Development and Girls’ Education

- **Shanghai** – Economic Center of China
  Shanghai Bund, Shanghai Tower, Yu Garden, Chinese Arts Museum, People’s Park, Urban Planning Exhibition Center, Pudong Economic Development Zone, women-owned business, Shanghai Women’s Federation, urban women’s development project, High-Speed Train

- **Wuzhen** – Water Town – Venice of China
  Foot-binding Museum, Ancient Bed Museum, Folk Customs Museum, Fabric Workshop, Shadow Play

Facilities
Three-star hotels accommodations are prearranged for each city. Students typically share a hotel room with one other student.

Scholarships
Saint Mary’s students can apply for the CWIL Student Summer Travel Grant. The grant is based on financial need and can help cover a portion of the costs. Students who have financial need may apply. Additional funding will be offered to underrepresented students in study abroad.

Insurance
Saint Mary’s College provides the GeoBlue international health insurance to all participants. The cost of this insurance is included in the program fee.

Eligibility
The China Summer Program is open to students of all majors. Non-SMC students can also apply. This is an English program and there is no Chinese language or GPA requirement. One faculty recommendation is required.

Contact Information

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