



CHINA: TEACHING VISUALLY IMPAIRED CHILDREN

Teach visually impaired children in a special needs comprehensive school that is located in Beijing, near a beautiful river. Your role will be to improve the students' oral English and pronunciation. China is a real delight... work with children who really *want* to learn and perhaps you'll learn something from them in return. Living and working as part of a school means you will really become a part of the local community.

China: Shrouded in mystery and revered for centuries, China is a treasure trove of diverse cultures, absolutely *brehtaking* scenery and historical & cultural wonders! Sip green tea in ancient pagodas, press your way through hectic crowds under the neon lights of the big cities or calm your soul atop the snow capped mountains of the Tibetan Plateau...



WHAT DO YOU GET?

- An exciting, never-to-be-forgotten adventure into Chinese life and culture.
- New skills, more confidence, a greater understanding of a different culture, invaluable personal and professional development.
- An entry on your CV or résumé that will put you head and shoulders above most others in the job market.
- Experienced local staff with 24/7 back-up and support who'll meet you at the airport on your arrival - helps you **feel safe and never alone!**
- An in-depth Induction makes you **feel local straight away!**
- And best of all ... **an unforgettable experience!**



SUMMARY FACTFILE

Start Dates	All year round - You choose your start and finish dates!
Duration	Form 4 weeks up to 12 weeks, subject to visa requirements
Requirements	You should have a TEFL qualification** or an education related qualification. No knowledge of Mandarin is necessary, but a little basic Mandarin will make your placement much more enjoyable. You should have a lot of patience and empathy. ** We can help you get the necessary TEFL qualification on our Weekend or Distance Learning Courses. To find out more, click here .
Price	For up-to-date prices, please check our website www.travellersworldwide.com
What's included	► Accommodation ► Meeting you at Beijing Airport ► Transfer to your accommodation ► Full pre-departure support ► Local in-country support and backup ► 24-hr emergency support ► Free T-Shirt.
What's not included	Flights, Insurance, Cost of Visas (a visa is required, but we'll provide necessary documents and assistance), Transfer to and from work, Return trip to the airport.
Who can do this Project?	All projects are open to all nationalities. You need to be aged between 17 and 70+

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW:

Teach visually impaired children in a special needs comprehensive school that is located in Beijing, near a beautiful river.

The Teaching Programme

The Beijing school for the Blind was founded in 1874 and is located near a beautiful river called the Kunyu River. It covers an area of 4 hectares and the building area is 31,000 square meters. It is not only the earliest special educational school in China but also the only special educational school for the visually impaired in Beijing. It has now developed into a comprehensive school for visually impaired students, which includes kindergarten, special-needs classes, primary and secondary schools. It also has a high school section (including senior high, intermediate vocational school for acupuncture and massage and piano tuning vocational high school), as well as a teachers' training programme.



The school also undertakes the responsibility of guiding those visually impaired children in normal schools, information counselling and early intervention for visually impaired children aged 1 to 3. The school campus is and beautiful and is equipped with modern facilities that meet the needs of visually impaired students. As the school says, it is a paradise both in living and studying for the visually impaired students.



Over the years, the school has highlighted the idea of "scientific development" "people-oriented" and "multiple intelligences". The school art troupe and sports teams have won many awards in international and domestic competitions .It was one of the earliest schools to carry out research on of computer-aided teaching, thus building a bridge for visually impaired students to step into the information society by using modern technology. The school vigorously strengthens ideological and political education and encourages the students to study hard and use their knowledge to improve their future. The students are trained to be eager for knowledge, sensible, caring and strong, aiming to become optimistic and independent.

Work Content

Your role will be to improve the students' oral English and pronunciation. China is a real delight and you will work with children who really want to learn and perhaps you'll learn something from them in return. Living and working as part of a school means you will really become a part of the local community.



In working with Chinese blind children the challenge is not just to help them improve their oral English, but also to do so without them feeling as though they are incapable of doing things for themselves. In addition, you should treat them in exactly the same manner as you would a Chinese child whose vision is not impaired. Your assistance as a native English speaker is invaluable to the students as they get very little exposure to proper English pronunciation. The improvements they make under your tutelage will give them lots of confidence, which is so important to them.

There are currently 247 children in the school, most of whom come from families and about 20 who come from orphanages. Your classes will usually have about 8 to 12 children. You may also be asked to help with adults who are visually impaired and who come to the school for career training. The school has lots of advanced equipment and facilities needed for teaching visually impaired students.

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Teaching will all be oral and you'll be given text books to guide your lesson plans which you'll prepare for each class. You'll usually be supervised by a local English language teacher. We provide you with a Teaching Suggestions Booklet which has ideas for teaching English and will help you in how to put together your lesson plans.

Weekends are free and you'll also have spare time during the evenings to experience the many festivals, holidays, cultural events, and not forgetting the unique Chinese cuisine!

General Information About The Chinese Education System

The Chinese education system has been described by the Chinese themselves as a 'rat race'. Students take frequent exams, competing for limited places, and those who don't measure up are not able to continue their education. This difficult and competitive system results in the students working extremely long hours (often from 5am to 9pm Monday to Saturday! - don't worry, you don't to work all these hours too...) and the students place great importance upon success in all areas. In fact, they will frequently ask you for extra lessons ... and more extra lessons ... and more extra lessons! It's also very likely that you'll walk into a class to a round of applause and a big grin all round, which is extremely welcome when you're a little nervous on your first day!

A great deal of the students' time is spent in very formal class situations, and so your classes, which focus on Spoken English and can include games etc, will be a really welcome break. There is a huge sense of fascination with Western culture.

There has been a major drive by the government in recent years to improve the standard of English around the country, as it is of absolutely immense importance for anyone who wants to build a successful career for themselves. Because of this, your presence will really be appreciated and you will most likely be thoroughly spoilt by your school during your placement!

LOCATION:

Beijing is absolutely crammed full of things to see – a trip to China wouldn't be complete without a visit to this stunning and extraordinarily Chinese capital. The city seems to embody China in every way: chaotic hustle and bustle, skyscrapers crammed next to temples and plenty of monuments to China's long and complex past. It's also a great place to catch up on some youth culture by hanging out with the Beijing Punks, or some ancient culture at the Peking Opera or Acrobatics shows.

During the summer, people come out to fly kites in **Tiannamen Square**, right next to Chairman Mao's Mausoleum which sits in the centre of the Square. It's worth reading up on the history of Tiannamen Square, for some interesting insight into China's past. You can even join the lines of Chinese people who queue to lay plastic flowers next to the preserved Chairman's body.

The Forbidden City, so called because it was off limits for 500 years, is a breathtaking example of ancient Chinese architecture. Designed for the Emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties, and with the principles of balance and yin and yang in mind, it served as a self contained world for the Emperors of the time. You can spend the whole day wondering around the city, and the balance and exquisite architecture is really quite mind blowing. You can even have an audio tour commentated by Roger Moore!

There's also the **Summer Palace**, the Emperors' Summer Residence, nestled in the mouth of Kunming Lake and surrounded by lush parkland (which is particularly gorgeous on a sunny day). You can take a trip around the city's old Hutongs (alleyways) on a rickshaw or visit one of the cities many Buddhist and Taoist temples.

ACCOMMODATION & FOOD:

You'll stay in a modern and friendly, central hostel along with the other volunteers. The hostel is located in a lively area, where you will have the chance to meet other backpackers and travellers. There are many shops in the surrounding area if you need to stock up on anything, and the hostel is extremely close to Beijing's famous Sanlitun Lu - or 'Bar Street', where everyone hangs out in the evening for drinks and fun! The Lufthansa Shopping Centre and other tourist hot-spots are within easy walking distance of the hostel

There are 35 rooms in the hostel and you'll share with 3 others of the same sex (you can upgrade to a single room if you prefer, just let us know at time of booking (there will be a supplemental charge for this).



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If you're looking for that complete Chinese experience we can also arrange for you to stay with a host family in Beijing.

Food: Past volunteers have regarded eating out as one of the highlights of living in Beijing, and an essential part of Chinese culture! Because of this, we've priced the placement to exclude food, thus enabling you to explore and sample some of the fabulous food which China is famous for. There are many cafes, restaurants and food stalls close to your accommodation, and hundreds, if not thousands, around Beijing in general.

The cost of eating out in Beijing can vary from a just a couple of pounds up to a couple of hundred pounds! This is one city where you certainly won't have any trouble eating well on a tight budget - there are some very inexpensive options available and you'll dine out handsomely on about £4 (\$6); although you could get away with spending even less and still be eating well



VISAS:

For most nationalities visas are required, but don't worry we will liaise with you about your visa requirements, and make the visa process very easy.

FLIGHTS:

You have the option to arrange your own flights or we can assist you with your flight arrangements. If you would like us to do this for you, we will liaise with you regarding available flights and dates to suit you. All arrangements for your flight bookings/payments will be fulfilled by [Murray Rogers Travel Limited](#), ATOL No. 6856.

INDUCTION ON ARRIVAL:

When you arrive, you will be welcomed at the airport by our China Organiser, who will take you to your accommodation. During your first few days you will be given an induction so that you can learn about China and its culture, as well as useful information like how to use the transport system etc.

COSTS:

Please see the prices pages of our website [Full Price List](#). The price of this project is a reflection of the following costs:

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|--|---|
| ✓ Accommodation | ✓ UK administration |
| ✓ Food | ✓ Marketing (brochures, website design and maintenance, attending careers fairs, advertising, website listings and presentations) |
| ✓ Meeting you at Beijing airport | ✓ Project Research/Site Inspection |
| ✓ Local in-country team support and backup | ✓ Staff Training/Equipment |
| ✓ 24hr emergency helpline | ✓ Donations to worthwhile projects |
| ✓ Full pre-departure support | |

HOW YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

By joining a Travellers Program you enable us to keep donating money to worthwhile projects around the world; from clothing and feeding school children, building playgrounds or funding vital conservation research - your participation makes these donations possible.

For every volunteer, a donation is made by Travellers on your behalf into the [Bridge The Gap Foundation](#). This Foundation was set up by us to donate directly to particularly worthwhile and necessary projects for children and animals around the world, and partners with other NGO's to raise match-funding for worthy projects.

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COUNTRY PROFILE:

China is one of the most ancient civilisations on earth. Shrouded in mystery and revered for centuries, China is a treasure trove of diverse cultures, *brehtaking* scenery and historical & cultural wonders! It's also heading towards a glittering future as one of the world's major powers, and so there's no better time to experience this tantalisingly different land...

BEIJING is the Capital of China and also its cultural heart. You'll find everything here that you imagine when you think of China... chaotic hustle and bustle, skyscrapers crammed next to temples and plenty of monuments to China's long and complex past. On your project here you'll be among **Famous Temples**, ancient **Hutongs** (alleyway communities) the magnificent **Forbidden City & Tiananmen Square** and the immense **Great Wall of China!**

YA'AN is located in Sichuan province, and is known as the gateway from Sichuan and Yunnan to Tibet. Here you can spend time exploring the Chinese and Tibetan villages nearby to the project (that's if you ever get bored of cuddling up to your new Giant Panda friends!) And with Chengdu, the lively capital of Sichuan province only 1 hour away, you'll have access to the best of both worlds.

YANTAI is a busy fishing port which sits on the Shandong Peninsula, North-East China. Its 'out of the way' feel makes it the perfect place to experience a slice of provincial Chinese life. Here you will REALLY feel like one of the locals. Its close proximity to Korea and Japan also make it a great place to experience a more multicultural environment. We run a University Mandarin Course here in association with Yantai University.

YANGZHOU is known as China's 'city of gardens and alleys', Yangzhou is enough 'out of the way' for you to feel as though you're living in real China, and has a fascinating 'Old Town' where you can explore alleys and noodle shops that still run as they did a century ago. However, the City's location in Jiangsu Province, only a stone's throw from Shanghai, means that you're never away from the glamour of one of the worlds' most modern urban centres.



THINGS TO DO IN: CHINA

- **China's natural beauty!** The tranquillity and heartbreaking beauty of sunrise from the top of one of China's sacred mountains is an absolutely unforgettable experience. There are many mountains dotted around the country on which the local people practice pilgrimage routes. Tai Shan, in Shandong Province is particularly stunning. Nature reserves and national parks can also be found all over the country. Worth particular mention is Hansi Hu - Xinjiang Province's edge-of-the-universe park which boasts amazing treks and is home to all kinds of nomadic people from Kazaks to Xinjiang's native Muslim Uyghurs.
- **Northern China**, along the path of the ruins of the Great wall, also has many sights, and a slightly rough-around-the-edges charm. Here, you can visit the Gobi desert & climb enormous sand dunes in Gansu Province or explore ancient grottoes and caverns full of religious art & Buddha statues at Dunhuang or Datong. You can even spend a night camping out under the stars in a yurt on the epic grasslands of Inner Mongolia. Here you might find yourself taking part in traditional Mongolian wrestling or drinking the local spirit (hopefully not at the same time!)
- **China's big cities** - The economic and cultural and centres of this blossoming nation can be found in its 3 big cities - **Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong**. These cities are practically alive with energy and each deserve a visit during your time in China. They represent the glitz and glamour of China's future and everything that's hip in China's new youth, with the rich history of Chinese culture running strongly through them.
- **The far North-West** - Xinjiang Province in the far North-West of China next to the borders with Mongolia & Kazakhstan is a multicultural melting pot of Han Chinese, Uyghurs (the local Muslim people) and Kazakhs. Here you can visit Tian Chi, a lake halfway up a mountain inhabited by nomadic



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Kazakh people or take part in local grape making in the desert around Turpan.

- **The Army of Terracotta Warriors outside Xi'an** - 6000 soldiers and horses that were originally designed to guard the tomb of an ancient Emperor. 2000 years old, these warriors were discovered by accident in the 1970s by peasants digging a well! Every figure differs in facial features and expression, and they make for an amazing sight!

OPTIONAL COURSE: INTENSIVE MANDARIN

Before your project begins, you can also take part in an optional one week intensive Mandarin Course. You will be taught by a qualified Chinese Teacher of Mandarin and the lessons cover all the basic things you'll need to get around and make the most of your project, including greetings, shopping, transport, food and drink, and vocabulary specific to your placement. The picture on the left shows volunteers proudly displaying their completion certificate!



Learning Mandarin will be of huge benefit to you both during your life in China and afterwards. Within the country, relatively few people speak English, and while travelling around China there are frequent opportunities to strike up conversations with people who are as curious about you as you are about them! Learning Mandarin will enable you to speak with these people, thus enriching your time here immeasurably, as you find out things about the culture and the way of life that someone without language skills simply would not have access to.

WHY GO WITH TRAVELLERS WORLDWIDE?

- Professional work experience placements
- 15 years' experience sending thousands of participants overseas, plus the largest variety of **flexible projects** that are **value for money!**
- Excellent support - second to none in the industry
- Accredited projects helps **appeal to future employers**
- Your own dedicated Project Co-ordinator to answer all questions prior to, during and after your **trip of a lifetime!**
- Detailed information on your project and country and suggestions, safety guide, tips and checklists, via our **EXTRANET, available from anywhere, 24/7.**
- 24/7 emergency helpline for you and your family
- Free pick up from the nearest airport.

VOLUNTEER FEEDBACK:

After such a mind-blowing experience - China really is so enormous - it took me some time to digest! It was a brilliant (and totally unique) way to begin to understand such a different culture. Tim was fantastic - nothing was too much trouble - and a mine of information. Accommodation was excellent (everybody very friendly to the oldest ever resident!) and the breakfast pancake (courtesy of the lady on the street corner- unless it rained!) unforgettable!

Judy Machin

I feel I have gained a great life experience while I have been here. Experiencing a new culture has taught me a lot about China, Britain and myself. The experience will change my life for the better.

Lee Hammond

Thank you unreservedly for my time in China...I had an amazing time, and had to be dragged away by the end of it. What really made it for me was the contact with the people, whether in class or

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around the town...everyone there would go completely out of their way to help me or just talk to me. What's more, I gained a great knowledge of life in modern China, which is just what I wanted and needed for my Uni course!

Charles Corn

I had a lot of fun teaching and found it really rewarding: one of the best things that I have ever decided to do.

Lina Joshi

HOW TO BOOK:

Please complete a [booking form](#) online or you can send a postal booking from our free brochure. When we receive this, we'll telephone you to discuss the details and then start the exciting process of planning your trip!

We do hope you'll join us and are confident that you'll find this an incredible experience. Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions - we'll be happy to help you plan your exciting adventure!

You may also be interested in other courses with Travellers, or do other projects in China – please visit our [website](#) for details of all our projects. In fact you can choose from over 300 projects in 19 countries!

Make a Difference – Get Involved!

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