



OCDSB-China Cultural Exchange

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do I need to speak Chinese in order to participate?

- a. No. Students do not need to speak Chinese to participate. However, we will offer a few introductory lessons to students interested in learning in the month leading up to our departure.
- b. Students are also encouraged to consider taking Chinese on Saturday mornings through the [OCDSB's International and Indigenous Languages Program](#)

2. What is included in the cost of the exchange?

- a. The cost of the exchange includes the following:
 - i. Flights to and from China
 - ii. Mandatory insurance from our travel agent
 - iii. All Chengdu activities and transportation
 - iv. Exchange merch
 - v. All chaperone and administrative costs
- b. **Not included**
 - i. Shopping / snacks on travel days / souvenirs
- c. **Payments**
 - i. The payments will be divided into several installments between May and November with the biggest payment coming in May going directly to the travel agent.

3. Where will students stay?

- a. Students will be hosted by the families of students from one of our partner schools in Chengdu. They will stay in a hotel on their first and last night and spend the remaining 7 or 8 nights with their host partners and families.

4. What will students do while in Chengdu?

- a. Students will participate in various cultural activities in and around Chengdu ([Panda Bear Research Base](#), [Dujianyan](#), [People's Park](#)) as well as various activities at elementary, middle and high schools.

5. How often does the exchange run?

- a. The OCDSB-China exchange runs every year in the fall (mid -late November)
- b. There are other exchange opportunities highlighted [on our website](#).

6. What are the timelines of the exchange?

- a. April 1, 2025 - Application due
- b. Last week of April - students notified of results (accepted or wait list)
- c. May - 1st meeting with students
- d. October - Pre-departure meeting with parents and students
- e. November - Departure to Chengdu