

Verena Kaufmann



Diploma Program East Asian Studies

“My name is Verena Kaufmann and I was accepted as an exchange-student of “The Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window – Lot.14” – scholarship-program. This spring-semester I decided to study at Sichuan University in Chengdu, where I am participating in their intensive Chinese program to improve my language skills. Although the local dialect (四川话- Sichuan Dialect) is difficult to understand, I am beginning to feel more at ease with it, and more integrated and accepted by the local inhabitants.

I have been in Chengdu for two months. No city of over 10 million is easy to describe, but due to its range of different and interesting sides, I find Chengdu especially difficult to explain.

Chengdu is the multi-faceted, ambitious capital of Sichuan province located in the south-west of mainland China. Although its population of about 10,5 Mio. people is quite large, Chengdu is very spacious. The disastrous earth-quake in 2008 gave the major push needed for redevelopment-projects all over the city. One doesn't have to walk far to discover banners printed on public busses, saying “Our (Chengdu's) new beginning!” (“我们心开始!”)

As well as living, studying is also very convenient in Chengdu. My teachers are highly competent and interested in showing us the beautiful and appealing sides of learning Chinese. I discovered that Student/teacher relationships in China are tending to be really caring by having more personal connections.

World famous for its food and being the hometown of China's panda population, Sichuan is a city unlike any other in China. Sichuan University, with its well-known reputation, attracts a plethora of interesting people with different cultural backgrounds. This mix of life styles is very eye opening. It is impossible to spend time in Chengdu and not see the world in a different light.

Living and studying in Chengdu allows one to discover its fascinating and unique flair. In just the few months I have been here I have fallen in love with this city and its people.”