

Yanbian University

Korean Language Program for Foreigners

For the first time Yanbian University (YBU) will be offering Korean language classes for foreigners. This September YBU will be offering these classes for beginners, with the plan to offer subsequent levels as the program increases in size. For years the university, located in Yanji, China (Jilin Province) has offered China's top Korean language program to national Chinese students. Now YBU will add this program designed especially for western learners.

Below are some answers to several important questions regarding this program:

Q. "Why study Korean in Yanji, China?"

A. There are a couple good answers to this question

1. Yanji provides exposure to all of the current varieties of Korean in the world. Yanbian University Korean Language students will have the opportunity to engage in conversation with native Korean speakers from North Korea, Yanbian, and South Korea."Also Yanji is less than one hour from the North Korean border allowing students an opportunity to see North Korea and even possibly visit North Korea. Also it is very easy to travel from Yanji to other destinations in China where Korean speakers live (Beijing, Tianjin, Shenyang, Mudanjiang, etc).

2. The program provides a much more affordable option for learning Korean. Students will be able to save hundreds if not thousands of dollars by studying in China rather than other countries where university-level Korean language programs are offered. Not only is the tuition cheaper, but housing and monthly expenses are much cheaper.

Q. "Do I need a visa to live in China?"

A. Yes, and this program includes a visa. You will need to obtain a tourist visa in your home country first. Then upon arrival in Yanji the University will change your visa status from tourist to student.

Q. "Where is Yanji, China?"

A. Yanji is located in *Northeast China*, in Jilin Province. Yanji is the capital of the Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture of China. The city has an *international airport* with daily direct flights to Incheon, South Korea. The city also has a train station and soon will have a *high-speed train* connecting to all the major cities of Northeast China as well as Beijing.

Q. "Does Yanbian University have experience teaching Korean?"

A. Yanbian University has the top Korean language program in all of China. It is the premier university for teaching Korean to Chinese nationals. While this is a pilot program for teaching foreigners Korean, the teachers are professionally trained

teachers of Korean. Also many students who attend Yanbian University are native Korean speakers. So opportunities to do language exchange with locals are abundant.

Q. "What are the descriptions of the course?"

A. The class will be 20 hours per week, 4 hours per day. The instruction will be divided up into 4 basic sections: Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing. The semester usually runs for approximately 15 to 16 weeks.

Q. "What will the program cost?"

A. One year's (two 16-week semesters) tuition will be 13,000 rmb (roughly \$2000 USD). The registration fee will be 800 rmb. A tourist visa (L) is currently \$130 USD for a US citizen. (please check the internet - type "Chinese tourist visa fee" into google to find your respective country's fee)

Q. "What about room and board?"

A. Room at YBU is 4,400 rmb per semester. This does not include board. If one chooses to live off-campus, which many do, one can expect to pay around 300-500 rmb per month for a room. To get more details on cost of living please contact Alan.

Q. "Is there an application deadline for this year?"

A. Yes, the deadline is August 15, 2010. Please email Alan or Simon to receive an application form. When completed, please email it back to Alan or Simon.

If you desire to obtain more information regarding Yanbian University Korean Language Program please contact:

Alan Stirling (US citizen living in Yanji; former student and teacher at YBU)

email- alpine@swissmail.org

phone- 86-433-272-7027

In the occasion that you cannot reach Alan, please contact:

Simon Jung (between 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Beijing Time.)

email- xrzheng@ybu.edu.cn

phone- 86-433-272-2278

or Paula Choi

email- xuebocui@gmail.com

phone- 86-433-273-2421

To be able to run this program successfully there will need to be at least 7 students. Our target is 10-15 for the beginners class. If there are fewer than 7 students accepted by August 31 we will have to postpone the start of the program to the following September of 2012.