

The following information will be published on the Courses page of the <a href="#">Summer Sessions Website</a> :			
<b>Course Title:</b>	Special Topics: Applied Generative AI with Global Perspectives		
<b>Course Number:</b>	DS 3891-01	<b>Credit Hours:</b>	3
<b>First Instructor:</b>	Peng Zhang	<b>First Instructor Email:</b>	Peng.zhang@vanderbilt.edu
<b>Second Instructor:</b>	Markus Eberl	<b>Second Instructor Email:</b>	markus.eberl@Vanderbilt.Edu
<b>Program start date:</b>	May 4, 2026	<b>Program end date:</b>	May 30, 2026
<b>Program destination(s):</b> (Each city, country - start/end date)	Shanghai, China May 4 – May 24, 2026 Guangzhou, China May 24 – May 27, 2026 Shenzhen, China May 27 – May 29, 2026 Guangzhou, China May 29 – May 30, 2026		
<b>Does this course fulfill any AXLE credit? If so, what?</b>	No		
<b>What are the academic pre-requisites (if any) for enrolling in this course?</b>	N/A		
<b>What are some are some conditions or challenges that students will face?</b> (Ex. Hiking long distances, extreme temperatures, rocky terrain, etc.)	Frequent travel & logistics: program includes domestic flights (Shanghai to Guangzhou) and multi-city overnights (Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Hong Kong); Urban walking: moderate walking in cities, at historical/cultural sites, factories; Adjusting to local customs: navigating language differences, public transport and local dining. (No extreme hiking, activities are mainly in urban or indoor settings.)		
<b>What is covered in the student budget:</b>	Detailed answers below.		
Lodging (Total nights + included amenities):	Student accommodations for 26 nights: Shanghai for 20 nights in double occupancy, dorm accommodations including breakfast. Guangzhou for 6 nights in double occupancy, hotel accommodations with breakfast included.		
Meals:	Total breakfasts: 27 Total lunches: 27 Total dinners: 27 Note: Meals are provided as group meals booked by CIEE or as meal stipends.		
Transportation (Airfare, public transit, etc.):	Airport transfers upon arrival and departure Public transportation pass for entire program duration One-way flight from Shanghai to Guangzhou One-way transportation from Guangzhou to Hong Kong		
Supplies (Textbooks, gear, etc.):	Click here to enter text.		

Excursions (Tour fees, admission fees, etc.):	<p><b>Shanghai:</b>  Historical walking tour of East Nanjing Road and the Bund  Huangpu River Tour  Old Shanghai Tour including Jade Buddha Temple  Volkswagen Factory Visit  Visits to 3 additional China-Based factories  Visits to 3 research labs</p> <p><b>Guangzhou/Shenzhen/Hong Kong:</b>  Visits to 2 China-based factories  Visit to 1 research lab  1 guided cultural activity in Hong Kong</p>
<b>What is <u>not</u> covered in the student budget:</b>	Detailed answers below.
Lodging (Total nights):	none
Meals:	Total breakfasts: 0 Total lunches:0 Total dinners: 0
Transportation (international airfare, public transit, etc.):	International airfare from US to China
Supplies (Textbooks, gear, personal items, etc.):	<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
Excursions (Optional activities, tour fees, admission fees, etc.):	<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>
<b>Visa needed for US passport holders?</b>	Yes. X2 VISA(short term student visa). ECNU will assist issuing the supporting documents; no separate visa is required for HongKong for U.S. passport holders.
<b>Is the cost of the visa included in the student fee?</b>	No
<b>Does the course have a service-learning component:</b>	No
<b>Please provide the course description below:</b>	
<p>Generative artificial intelligence (AI) models, including ChatGPT, GPT-4, and other transformer-based deep learning architectures, are at the forefront of technological innovation. This study abroad program will integrate our existing Generative AI course with hands-on exposure to AI development and adoption in China, a global leader in AI research, deployment, and commercialization. Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of generative AI models and their real-world applications through academic lectures, industry visits, and cultural immersion. By engaging with researchers, engineers, and business leaders, students will explore cutting-edge advancements in areas such as prompt engineering, AI-powered automation, and large-scale AI deployment across sectors like healthcare, finance, and smart cities.</p>	

This program will enhance classroom learning by allowing students to witness AI-driven innovations in action. Site visits to top universities and AI labs will deepen their technical understanding of transformer architectures and training methodologies, while company visits will provide insights into how businesses are integrating generative AI into their products and services. Students will also experience firsthand how AI technologies are shaping everyday life in China, from intelligent customer service chatbots to AI-driven recommendation systems and autonomous transportation solutions. By combining theoretical coursework with real-world exposure, this study abroad experience will prepare students for the rapidly evolving AI landscape, equipping them with the skills and global perspectives needed to navigate the future of AI-driven industries. (An alternative destination would be Japan, if logistics do not work out for China given the current security and safety regulations.)