

Cecilia Loughlin
Morning Tears China
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When I think of China I have blurry images from my childhood years living in Shanghai. I can remember nice western houses and other westerners that I went to school and church with, but I unfortunately have no recollection of experiencing the real China and all it has to offer. That is why I was so excited to receive a Kellogg Internship grant this summer to do an 8-week internship with the Hutong School in Beijing. I eagerly began emailing the Hutong School contact, setting up my summer plans, and coming up with plans of what my trip would be like in my head. At first Anne, whom I was talking to at the Hutong School, matched me with the Beijing Rotary Club as my internship for the duration of my stay, however, this changed upon my arrival. In addition, the Rotary Club notified me that they didn't want me to start until a week after they had originally asked me to arrive in Beijing, so even before I left things were starting to not line up correctly. Despite some bumps in the road, my summer was an overall success and I gained so much valuable life experience that will help me in future internships and academic areas.

I arrived into Beijing on a rainy Sunday afternoon and was warmly greeted at the airport by Evan, an eager, new employee of the Hutong School. He took me to my new home for two months and then promptly to the police station to register as a visitor—an interesting beginning to my trip. Unfortunately, the Hutong School was closed the day I arrived and would be closed for the next few days due to the Dragon Boat festival. I took advantage of my few days of freedom and explored the city, ate some *zong zi* (a Dragon Boat festival snack), and got to know some of my new fellow

Hutong School roommates. After the Dragon Boat festival wound down and people started to settle back into their normal workweek, I ventured over to the Hutong School, set up my Chinese classes and learned a little more about when I would be starting my internship. I wasn't scheduled to begin my internship until the following Tuesday, so I had a few more days to get my bearings straight before I started.

On the day I was scheduled to start my internship Anne, my site contact, took me to the Hutong School. It was in a very nice western hotel and I was quickly introduced to the head of the Rotary club who told me a little bit about the organization. Then I was brought to their weekly lunch meeting where I quickly realized that with Rotary I was only going to be working one day a week, for three hours in a fancy western hotel for a lunch meeting. This was not for me, so I asked Anne to help me find a new internship for my stay. I was informed that my new internship was at the NGO Morning Tears, an organization that helps the children of prisoners in various physical and emotional ways from many countries around the world. The majority of Morning Tears' work is focused in China. They have numerous houses throughout China where they house the children of convicts and provide them with a support system that they are deprived of (due to the lack of child protection services and the antiquated ideals and attitudes toward children of prisoners existing in China today).

In my internship at Morning Tears I was put in charge of fundraising, an integral part of the organization's operations. They had been unable to look into it thoroughly due to a lack of time and workforce. I was given a list of criteria about the organization's goals and I had to apply that criteria toward grants from various

foundations and companies that Morning Tears could qualified to apply for. After I located a grant to apply for, I entered that lead into the website “salesforce.com” and provided information pertaining to the grant, the grant source, and how to apply. My boss could then easily search through the many leads and chose which grants he wanted to pursue. In addition, I was asked to research and calculate various Morning Tears data such as the number of prisoner’s children in different countries around the world and the percentage of male and female prisoners that have children. Although this work was very monotonous and dull, I was able to learn how to effectively use Sales Force and Excel in a business setting.

I also spent a lot of time exploring Beijing and also took a trip to Shanghai to visit some of my friends from when I lived there before. Taking the high speed rail to get to Shanghai and back was the highlight of my trip—it was so fun to see how things have changed over the past few years and reminisce about the great years I had spent there.

Overall, my time in Beijing was very successful. However, it required a lot of stamina and the ability to become a self-starter by making my internship experience very educational and interesting.