

Newsletter

Dear all MiM Students,

Paris has four different seasons and I do not know which season is the most impressive. However, when the lights of the sun go through the grey clouds and stay with us longer, we, like the buds and shoots, feel as if our energy is full and we are ready to conquer any challenges.

I still remember in the professors' meeting, one professor told us that it was really a pity if students, after one or two years in Paris, return to their home countries without any knowledge about the city in which they once lived and studied. I got a lot of comments from former students, most of them, I must say the Chinese students, asked for extra-curricular activities. All of these made us think of the newsletter. Happily, we are reading the 3rd edition.

To my surprise, I received more articles than I expected. Thank you so much for those who have supported and encouraged the newsletters; for those, who love them but hesitate to write an article; for those, who like to read them but think their studies are much more important.

It is true; your studies should be placed as your first priority.

Many students told us that things have been very busy recently since professors have been giving a lot of assignments, exercises, presentations, and readings. They have had no time to smell the scents of spring flowers, to lay down on the grass and enjoy the sunshine or to just relax a little bit. Some even asked us to change the schedule so that their studying plan would make it, "easier to breathe."

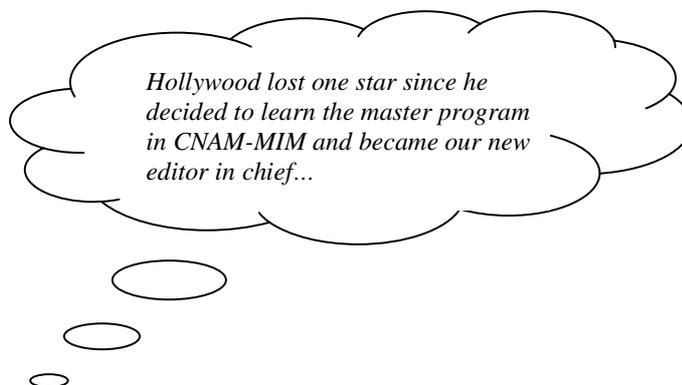
It is true, the master program requires you to work hard, to meet the deadline and to put yourselves under extremely high pressure. You are being trained to be managers of the future, so take this time as a "probationary period." When you become a real manager, you will have many more obstacles and pressures than you do during the time you are in school.

Life, however, does not equal "study + work hard + deadline + pressure," life is much larger than that. I know for sure all of you understand that because I saw your photos through...Facebook: you had lunch or dinner together, you went out and enjoyed a wonderful time together, you had fun together... This all made me very happy. When you finish your studies here, those moments will never be forgotten, believe me!!!

As promised, "voyage, travel" is the topic of this issue. "Les voyages forment la jeunesse," "Travel broadens the mind," "Đi một ngày đàng, học một sàng khôn" (Vietnamese), "Jing yi shi zhang yi zhi" (Chinese), four languages deliver the same idea.

Let's see how Nadya Roman (M21), Niamh O' Connor (M21), Le Thanh Phuc (M1) and Mélanie Gracia (M21) opened up their minds to the world around them by going to the sea, to Vendee, to the Fontainebleau castle and La Loire castles with their friends. Xu Sijie Veronica and Xu Zhaohua Vincent (M1) will be our guides to China. You do not need to buy the "Lonely Planet" or any guide books, just follow their instructions. The Paris photos of Xu Zhaohua Vincent are maybe a good start for our photo club. I hope you can find one or more destinations for your next trip through their advice.

I also want to take this opportunity to introduce to you our new editor in chief, James Brown, representative of M1 to replace Kristia since she is going to finish her internship here.



James, born in the U.K., is a representative of M1. Each time I see him, in class, he often sits alone. That maybe helps him to focus on his courses or maybe he just wants to be alone, I thought. However, last time, when I had the chance to supervise one exam with his group, I knew I was wrong on both of the "maybes." After finishing the exams, all of his classmates surrounded him and discussed the results with him. Apparently he is friendly, believable, intelligent, and more importantly, he will be our editor in chief for the next issue. I am imagining right now how impressive the next edition could be!

I am going to stop soon but remember the theme of our 4th edition will be ART. Show your friends, your classmates and us, what you think about art. Will ART be just a simple formula?

ART = Aesthetics + Romantics + ...Travel

Define "ART" and send your definition to me before June 08. And now enjoy your reading!



Vacations at the sea

Nadzeda ROMAN (M21)

When I was a schoolgirl I heard a lot about Paris, Nice, the film festivals in Cannes, and the beautiful coast known as Cote d'Azur. But during that time I could not understand why this coast was so special and why it attracted so many people around the world.

Approaching the sea on the train that carried us from far away Paris, I sensed something quite strange, but it was also an extremely familiar feeling.

Not everyone can understand it... During Perestroika time, a very difficult time for all of us, my mother tried to take me to the sea every summer. I still remember the train that departed at 16.00 from Kursk train station and it took nearly one day to reach the Crimea. After the night on the train I always woke up very early because I knew that the sea was going to appear! I spent the rest of the trip looking out of the window, my mother as well as other passengers was happy to see me staying silent. Time changes but my feeling still remains. When I saw the sea my soul trembled. Maybe in my previous life I was a sailor?!



We went through such beautiful places in Nice. They took my breath away. There was however, a very important trip waiting for me ahead...

Walking around Nice was magnificent: the lapping sea, the warm sun... Certain daredevils have already swum, but I just dared to slightly moisten my feet, the water was still very cold. However, I understood that the summer was here! How beautiful it could be! Quay, old town....

One small remark: southern people are really very open, compared to Parisians. They are ready to speak about everything even with strangers, taxi drivers, servers, and people on the street... I have already forgotten that this exists. A taxi driver, who evidently cheated with the price for taxi, told me about him, the Russians in Nice, the education of his children... and you know what?! He told me all these things within 10 minutes!!!

As it was a long awaited vacation we did not plan a lot of activities. However, as I already said, there was still one trip which I waited for like a small child dreaming about Christmas presents: a voyage in Italy by car! I went to Italy for the first time four years ago and I could not stop thinking of it from then on.

I saw such amazing places that I could not even describe through words. Mountains that looked like downy balls, because of the trees growing on them, the amazing sea, and the small valleys with small sunny cities and harbors. Just imagine: you are driving on the road and around you there are downy balls, under you 100 meters of cliffs and the sea on the horizon. Isn't it beautiful?

Frankly speaking I was always fond of Italy, my favorite country. That is why I do not want to describe all its merits, because it is just unique, the best and that is it. The trip there was inimitable in its beauty (as always of course). In addition, the best coffee is made in Italy regardless of the place you buy it.



By the way, about food... As Cote d'Azur is a resort, you should be ready to be fed with tasteless food for a huge amount of money. The only think that could help, the red, small book, "Guide Michelin", which I took with me during each trip, had a place of honor in my bag.

I consider it is necessary to point out that the cities along the coast differ from one to another (please do not judge me, it is just my own subjective opinion).

Family Nice, in which the quantity of baby carriages exceeds the quantity of decent restaurants in the city.

Glamorous Monaco, which now is breathing with the upcoming Formula 1 and thus the centre of the city is already closed for tourists. Here on Place du Casino the air is saturated with pathos and excitement, here men are in white suits, here women with handbags from which you can see the newest collections of Louis Vuitton, Bottega Veneta, Gucci etc. And of course inimitable Cannes where on Boulevard Croisette you can eat the ice cream of any kind, of any color, of any taste you can imagine. Isn't it great just within 10-20 kilometers from each other to find exactly what suits you?! Go and see.

My friends ask me all the time: "How do you find France?" Now I can say France-it is not Paris, I can even say more- it is everything outside Paris.

P.S. special thanks to my companion who makes me happy from day to day.



Nadya is a repretative of M21. She is very responsible, trustful and nice. I bet all of you will be, like me, so curious about her companion. How lucky that guy is!!!

VENDEE

Niamh O' Connor (M21)

Since arriving in Paris I have fallen in love with the city. The architecture, the markets, the various districts each with its own personality. We are now in my favorite season in Paris, spring. After a long cold winter the leaves are appearing on the trees, the birds are singing and we can leave our gloves at home. Paris is perfect in the spring!

However soon the temperatures will soar, the breeze will disappear and Paris will become very, very hot. In summer the heat and humidity can be very difficult to manage. That is why I like to escape to the countryside during the summer weekends. I am very lucky to have relatives who live in Vendee on the west coast of France. On a Friday evening after a 2 hour TGV trip from Gare Montparnasse, you will arrive in Nantes, just on the verge of Vendee.



**Château des ducs de Bretagne
Housed the Dukes of Brittany
between 13th and 16th centuries.
Recently restored and well
worth a visit**

Nantes is situated on the Loire River and is about 50 km from the sea. Nantes is a very historic city originating in Roman and Gallic times. The beautiful castle overlooking the city is a reminder of these times. Nantes is a beautiful city and today famous for the LU biscuit factory. The old factory which was situated in the heart of the city is now a very impressive exhibition centre and nightlife area.

Leaving Nantes and venturing south you will enter the true Vendee famous for numerous sloping beaches which are perfect for windsurfing or just relaxing! Inland from the Vendee countryside is dominated by vineyards and sunflower plants with small villages spotted every few kilometres. Of course there are also many windmills scattered throughout the countryside. They were used as communication systems during the War in the Vendee (1793-96) where only the people of Vendee were in favor of the monarchy and fought against the French Revolution.

Moving towards the coast are some of the most spectacular beaches you will ever see. St John se Monts has one of the longest beaches in Western France, a full 8 kilometres. The seaside town of Les Sables-d'Olonne, the smartest resort on the coast and a gastronomic delight, or the picturesque fishing ports of Saint-Hilaire and Saint Gilles Croix-de-Vie are all worth visiting to see what is a traditional Vendee seaside town.

However the pearl in the crown of Vendee is the island of Noirmoutier. Perhaps you recognize the name from the small potatoes! There are two ways to arrive at the island. First by bridge, or for the more adventurous, the 5 km journey across the sea bed while the tide is out! Noirmoutier is a fisherman's paradise with bass, bream and sardines, just several examples of what can be caught.

Noirmoutier is a remote 'off the beaten track' island which really helps you to unwind after the pressures of Paris.

Overall, Vendee is the perfect escape from the city during the summer months. It offers peace, tranquility, fresh air and of course the beach. A great trip away with friends, as there is a huge choice of places to stay suiting all budgets.

Seeing Niamh O' Connor excited to eat the "bún thang" with her Vietnamese, French and Chinese friends, I knew that she loves discovering new things. I am still wondering whether Niamh had been offered the real "bún thang". If yes, I must say she is going to apply for the new nationality: Vietnamese!!! (just for fun though).



Château de Fontainebleau

Le Thanh Phuc (M1)

On a beautiful Sunday, we, students of M1 & M2, had a great trip to "Château de Fontainebleau". Fontainebleau castle is located in the south-east of Paris. Testimony of the French History since the Middle Ages, Fontainebleau castle was one of the favorite French kings' residences (from François Ier to Napoléon III).



At 9am, we gathered in front of "Gare de Lyon." There were 11 members in our group, 9 of us under 26 years old and 2 over 26. I mention this because for the people who are under 26 years old using card Imaginé, they do not need to buy any train or bus ticket to go the castle. If not, you have to pay around 8 euros for each train ticket and 1.6 euros for the bus. The castle is located 60 km from the

centre of Paris or 40 minutes by train. When we arrived at the station, we took the bus A to go the castle.



For people under 26, the entrance ticket is free and 10 euros if you are over 26 years old. During our excursion, we were charmed and impressed by the Fontainebleau Castle, the favorite residence of many French Kings, by its history, and by the peaceful village of Barbizon, an artistic spot since the middle of the 19th century. We discovered the architecture of the monument, a mixture of Italian and French arts, its wonderful decor and the ancient furniture. Since 1981, the castle has become the UNESCO world heritage site. The Fontainebleau castle was just renowned to reflect the beauty of Napoleon III apartment. Of course, we had time to stroll through the wonderful gardens.



We finished our trip and went home at about 4pm. So tired after the long day we just fell right to sleep on the train. We knew that we had a great time that day. We only have one or two years to study in Paris together then each of us will have different lives in different countries, but when we look at pictures, we will miss each other, miss our great moments at Cnam with nice classmates and the good life experiences in Paris, and in France. Let's picnic more, picture more!!!

Phuc is one of the representatives of M1. A little bit timid but reliable and responsible, that's what I thought of him.



Châteaux de la Loire

Mélanie Gracia (M21)

Let's continue our discovery trip around France and let me present to you a very nice region which I visited during the Easter break, the Châteaux of the Loire.

As you all know, we had a few days for break and I decided to go somewhere I've never been before, not too far from Paris to visit the French patrimony. The choice was quite obvious, I went to Amboise city in order to tour the Châteaux of the Loire and visit some very famous vine yards like Vouvray or Montlouis. Amboise is located in the Indre-et-Loire département of the Loire Valley, it's approximately 200km away from Paris, which is 2 hours by car. It's more convenient to visit this region by car as it's in the countryside but you can also manage it by regional trains.



I visited four Châteaux, "The Royal Château of Amboise" where the gardens and castle are registered as a World Heritage site by UNESCO ,

"Le clos lucé" place where Leonardo Da Vinci lived for his last 3 years. You can discover what a genius he was,



"Chenonceau" recorded as "Château des Dames" in the French history books (it was built in 1513 by Katherine Briçonnet, then owned by Diane de Poitiers and then Catherine de Médicis, and saved from the French Revolution by Mrs Dupin),

and finally "Chaumont sur Loire", a wonderful castle and landscape where you can also find very interesting art and natural art exhibitions.



I visited only four Châteaux and there are more than a hundred of them in that Region. I might need to go there several times again! And if you are tempted to go there, think to bring your student cards, there are discounts for students in all these Châteaux.

And what is also remarkable in this Touraine region is the number of the "Troglydites" caves that were dwelled thousands of years ago for the building and renovations of all these castles. Indeed, they had to take the freestones (in French called Tuffeau) from



somewhere and they took it from the mountains, by dwelling caves. A lot of these caves have been transformed into wine caves or restaurants. And it's amazing how cool it is inside while it's 27° outside!

If you're a wine drinker and like sugary and mild wines, you should definitely visit this region and taste its wine as it is very famous for its white wines "demi-sec" and "moelleux". There are hundreds of small local vineyards that you can visit and the wine-grower will take delight in making you taste their best wines. Here are the English websites of the two vineyards I visited, just in case! It's Vouvray and Montlouis, the most famous ones.

http://www.cp-vouvray.com/index_en.php

http://www.cave-montlouis.com/index_en.html

In a nutshell, this region is really worth to visit!



When I saw Mélanie's papers with highlighted words in different colors, I thought she was born to study. Of course, with the internship at the Thalès, her efforts really paid off. Congratulations!!!

Veronica is a student from M1. I guess she will become a manager in the Chinese tourism industry. Read these offers below from her "company" and you will understand why.



Vincent is also from M1. Why could he take such beautiful photos with his two hands in "V" like that? Just look at his photos and find the answer yourselves!

Dump Marco Polo, Go to China! Top 10 attractions in China

Veronica Hsu and Vincent Hsu (M1)

Sources of photos in this article are from the Internet and used for non commercial purposes

My Dear Friends,

I know that you are reading “Confucius,” you are eating dumplings, you are digging yourself in “ZEN,” or you are learning how to say “Wo Ai Ni” (means “I love you” in Chinese) to your lovely girlfriend or boyfriend. Isn’t it a good time to start your journey to China?! Come on, don’t tell me that you can do that by reading the ashing “Livres des merveilles du monde” by Marco Polo. Let me show you how to discover the real, energetic and fascinating China, by visiting the following top 10 attractions. On y va~~~

Top 1. Beijing



As an internationally well-known ancient and young metropolis, Beijing, the great capital city of China, is well-known for its long-time history and traditional Chinese culture, with more than 200 scenic spots open to visitors throughout the world. It is a combination of tradition and modern prosperity.

MUST VISIT: 1. Forbidden City

It was the Chinese imperial palace for 500 years, located in the middle of Beijing; now it often serves as the ceremonial and political center of the Chinese government.





MUST VISIT 2. Great Wall

The Great Wall of China is a series of stone and earthen fortifications in northern China, built originally to protect the northern borders of the Chinese Empire against intrusions by various nomadic groups.

Top 2. Shanghai



I can never find a perfect word for this perfect city. As its name means “city above the sea”, due to its location on the east coast of China, it has the shadows of other cultures. People always say that Shanghai is like a traditional Chinese lady wearing Chanel No.5, chic and exotic.

MUST VISIT: The Bund & Huangpu river
Huangpu River divides the city into east and west parts, but also assembles the splendid tourist attractions of the city. The Bund, Symbol of Shanghai, is full of grand buildings built in the 1930s in the European architectural styles.



Top 3. Hong Kong



Hong Kong, located in the south of China, is the most developed and international city in China. In Hong Kong, you can buy or eat everything, and you don't need to speak Chinese. Most of the people in Hong Kong can speak English. Tell me you love Disneyland, or seafood, or a Kongfu Movie; Well, you can just stay in Hong Kong to have them all!

MUST VISIT: Victoria Harbor

It has the magnificent “A Symphony of Lights,” featuring more than 40 of Hong Kong's skyscrapers in a stunning multimedia extravaganza.



Top 4. Lhasa



Guess what is the only out-breathing city in world? The answer is Lhasa in Tibet. At an altitude of 3,490 metres (11,450 ft), Lhasa is one of the highest cities in the world. It contains many culturally significant Tibetan Buddhist sites such as the Potala Palace, Jokhang and Norbulingka palaces. If you are not confident enough, please take the Oxygen Cylinder with you when you are in Lhasa, anyhow, it is very easy to buy it in Lhasa.

MUST VISIT: Potala Palace

Firstly built in 637 by the Tibetan king, Songtsen Gampo, as a gift for his bride Princess Wen Cheng of the Tang Dynasty of China. The site was previously used by the king as a meditation retreat. Today, the Potala Palace is a museum.



Top 5. Hangzhou



With enchanting natural beauty and abundant cultural heritages, Hangzhou is known as 'Heaven on Earth' and one of China's most important tourist venues. Every famous poet in China definitely has one poem especially for this lovely city with rivers, lakes, mountains, and ancient wood buildings. Hangzhou is also the best place to taste the green tea, because it has a largest tea plantation in the world. It is said that the girls in Hangzhou don't need to wear perfume, but have already with the fleshing smell of tea.

MUST VISIT: West lake

West Lake is not only famous for its picturesque landscape, it is also associated with many scholars, national heroes and revolutionary martyrs, thus embracing many aspects of Chinese culture. In addition, many ancient buildings, stone caves and engraved tablets in surrounding areas are among the most cherished national treasures of China, with significant artistic value.



Top 6. Nanjing



Nanking, the city's name means "Southern Capital," and impresses as a beautiful lady in Chinese people's mind. It, located in the east economic zone, served as the capital of China during several

historical periods and is recognized as one of the Four Great Ancient Capitals of China. Nanjing was the capital of the Republic of China before the Chinese Civil War in 1949.

MUST VISIT: Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall

In 1937, Japan started the Second Sino-Japanese War. Their troops occupied Nanjing in December, and carried out the systematic and brutal Nanking massacre (the Rape of Nanking), the number of dead between 300,000 and 350,000. The Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall was built in 1985 to commemorate this event.



Top 7 Xi'an



If you want to know how Chinese lived in the old time, then Xi'an is your choice. Xi'an, located in the middle of China, is one of the Four Great Ancient Capitals of China, having held that position under several of the most important dynasties in Chinese history, including Zhou, Qin, Han, Sui, and Tang. She is one of the oldest cities in China, with more than 3,100 years of history; and is the eastern terminus of the Silk Road and home to the Terracotta Army.



MUST VISIT: Terracotta Army

If you want to see the real soldiers' model from 3,000 years ago, you should go visit the Terracotta Army or the "Terra Cotta Warriors and Horses" which is a collection of terracotta sculptures depicting the armies of Qin Shi Huang, the first Emperor of China.

Top 8. Silk Road



Ok, first, it is not a road made of silk, second, definitely, it is a road.

The Silk Road gets its name from the lucrative Chinese silk trade, which began during the Han Dynasty (206 BC – 220 CE)., a major reason for the connection of trade routes into an extensive trans-continental network, connected East, South, and Western Asia with the Mediterranean world, as well as North, East and Northeast Africa and Europe. Marco Polo did also get to China through the Silk Road.

Top 9. Harbin



Harbin, in Northeast China, is often regarded as “Moscow” in China. It is originally a Manchu word meaning "a place for drying fishing nets". Harbin is well-known for its beautiful ice sculptures in winter, known as “ice city”, and plays an important part in Sino-Russian trade. In the 1920s, the city was considered China's fashion capital as new designs from Paris and Moscow reached them first before arriving in Shanghai.

MUST VISIT: ice sculptures

If you want go into an ice world which only is heard in the fairy tale, you really cannot miss the ice sculptures in Harbin. You will be dazzled by this. Some ice sculptures made in previous years include: buildings and monuments of different architectural types and styles, figures including animals, people and mythical creatures, slippery dips or ice slides and lanterns.



Top 10. Taipei



Taipei is located in Taiwan Island (south-east of China, in the Pacific Ocean), famous for its sightseeing, restaurant, and nightlife. It has the main power for Chinese pop music, Taipei has often been skipped by tourists in favor of its East Asian rivals such as Hong Kong, Shanghai and Tokyo, but those who take the time to visit Taipei and look around will soon find that Taipei is just as vibrant as any other major city, and is full of a certain charm which makes it unique in its own right. Just spend a day wandering around Taipei's streets and you will start finding many surprises.

MUST VISIT: Shilin Night Market

The Shilin Night Market is a night market in the Shilin District of Taipei, Taiwan, often considered to be the largest and most famous night market in the Asia. Watch your stomach~~~

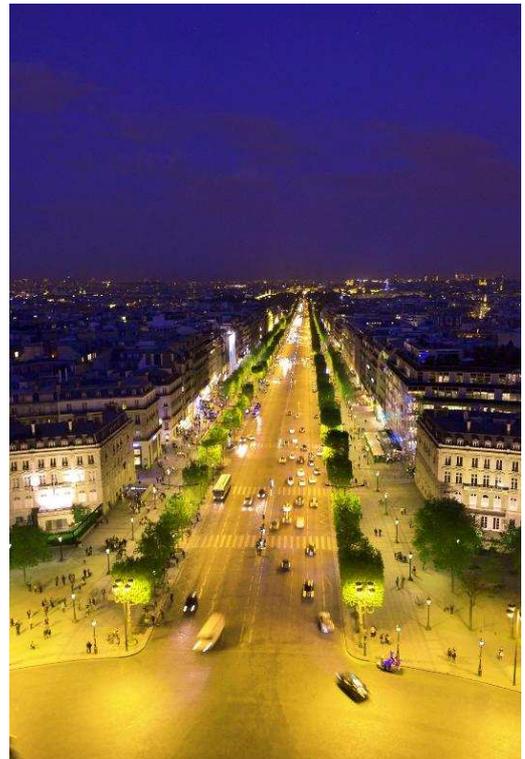


Ok, so you are ready? Fly to China Now~~

Welcome to China! Huan Ying Lai Zhong Guo

PARIS THROUGH MY CAMERA

Vincent Hsu (M1)



Except the Eiffel Tower, can you name the places where Vincent took his pictures? Due to the limit of the newsletter, I chose only 3 photos among several photos he sent me. Isn't Paris beautiful?