

Georgia Law creates study abroad opportunity in the Far East

Georgia Law will be expanding its foreign study abroad opportunities with the addition of a three-week program in China.

Partnering with two of the country's top institutions of higher education, Tsinghua University in Beijing and Fudan University in Shanghai, the Georgia Law Summer Program in China will be unique as it offers the opportunity for study in two locations.

The program will offer an introduction to Chinese law, with an emphasis on commercial law, for up to 30 rising second- and third-year law students from ABA-approved law schools.

C. Donald Johnson (J.D.'73), chief architect of the educational program and director of the Dean Rusk Center, said the initiative will address a major need among attorneys in the United States – the lack of knowledge of the Chinese legal system.

As part of the program, Johnson will teach a one-hour course on U.S.-China trade issues under the World Trade Organization. He is uniquely qualified to teach this class, as he was the chief textile negotiator, with the rank of ambassador, when he assisted in negotiating China's accession to the WTO in 1999 and has remained involved with other Chinese trade issues over the past several years.

Other courses will be taught in English by Chinese law professors.

Additionally, students from the University of Georgia will be offered the opportunity for an externship with a law firm in China at the end of the program and will be based in Shanghai, Beijing or Hong Kong.

Pending ABA approval, the Georgia Law Summer Program in China will start this summer, while the law school's semester study abroad program at Oxford will debut this spring.