

CHINA PROVINCE OVERSEAS TRAINING PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

The Overseas Training Program in China, equivalent to a regency overseas, introduces young SVD's to our missionary efforts in Hong Kong and Taiwan. It is a two and a half to three year program.

The time of entry into OTP is the same time as for Regency. The usual time is after the first year of theology for clerics and after the second year of temporary vows for Brothers.

Students applying must have completed all required academic assignments before arriving for OTP, as failure to do so may cause disturbance to their OTP experience and do injustice to their assignment. The applicant should be firm in his religious and SVD commitment. The OTP should not be used as a test for a doubtful vocation.

Since language studies are conducted through the medium of English, a working knowledge of this language is required.

The OTP begins with an orientation program. Candidates undergo two years of full-time language study. This is followed by six months to a year of full-time pastoral exposure, the duration of which depends on when the school year begins in their own countries.

It is expected that students who take part in the China Province OTP will be open to working with Chinese in the future. This could be within the China province itself or with Chinese communities overseas. For those who do not work in any of these areas in the future, the program is still of great value as an initial experience in missionary inculturation. While a strong focus is naturally laid upon the language and cultural studies necessary to meet the local situation, the program challenges its members with a more holistic understanding of formation. Thus, it is of benefit to the life of the future missionary wherever he may be missioned.

The implications of this program for inter-Asian dialogue should not be overlooked. The OTP offers, in an informal way, an opportunity of gaining first-hand awareness of a major non-Christian Asian culture and society. In the OTP, the students have an opportunity to live out this challenge, living together in an international community, in another part of Asia.

Towards the end of their full-time exposure, candidates may apply for permission to complete their theology studies in the China Province; otherwise they are automatically transferred back to their home province.

GENERAL GOAL

The general goal of the OTP is to provide language and communication skills, and cross-cultural experiences leading to a realistic appreciation of what it means to be a missionary to the Chinese people.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES	MEANS	EVALUATION
To acquire the language skills necessary for effective communication.	Two years of full-time language study followed by a period of full time pastoral exposure.	A diligence in study and willingness and ability to communicate in Chinese.
To acquire an initial understanding of Chinese ethos and culture.	Culture Studies: seminars and workshops, dialogue, reading	Active interest and an open attitude.
To situate oneself with the people through interaction with individuals and groups, and through our life-style.	Encounters, apostolic involvement, and full-time pastoral exposure.	Initiative in reaching out to and involvement with people.
To pass over from ones culture) and say "yes" to this new culture.	Reflection, direction and sharing.	Level of acceptance and integration into Chinese life.
To adjust to life in a small international religious community.	Living, working, sharing and praying together.	Sensitivity and respect: for confreres from different cultures and for community life.
To deal with responsibility and freedom in a mature way.	Participation in communal planning and providing space for personal decisions and individual initiatives.	Consistency in fulfilling commitments and obligations taken on.
To develop a deeper motivation for one's religious missionary life.	The process of integrating the missionary life through daily Eucharist, prayer and meditation; spiritual direction and other spiritual exercises.	Fidelity to the religious missionary life.

TAIWAN

“An extended period of supervised apostolic ministry is highly encouraged for seminarians. Where it is feasible and seems suitable, this period can be spent profitably in another country or culture”. (Con. 516.4)

1.1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 The Overseas Training Program in Taiwan introduces young SVDs to our missionary efforts.

1.1.2 It is expected that students who take part in the Taiwan OTP will be open to work with the Chinese in the future. This could be within the China Province itself or with Chinese communities overseas.

1.1.3 The usual time is after one or two years in temporary vows. Students applying must have completed all required academic assignments before arriving for OTP.

1.1.4 The applicant should be firm in his religious and SVD commitment. The OTP should not be used as a test for a doubtful vocation.

1.1.5 Since language studies are conducted through the medium of English, a sufficient knowledge of this language is required.

1.1.6 The OTP consists of two years of language studies and an optional third year of regency.

1.1.7 Towards the end of their OTP or regency, candidates may apply for permission to complete their theology studies in Taiwan; otherwise they are automatically transferred back to their home province.

1.1.8 The normal expectation is that those who want to study theology in Taiwan should complete the regency program.

1.1.9 Candidates who want to study theology in Taiwan should take a formal Chinese Proficiency Test (CPT).

1.2 OTP DIRECTOR

1.2.1 The person responsible for the OTP is the OTP director. The OTP director preferably is a former OTP student. He is responsible to organize, plan, and implement the guidelines, expectations for community members and community life.

1.2.2 The director will see his priority to animate the program by maintaining openness in communication within the OTP community, and with other SVD communities as well as the superiors. It is hoped that compassion be shown in this process of formation/on-going formation both for students and director, mutual respect and understanding.

1.2.3 The OTP director is accountable to the provincial and his council, and he cooperates with the Formation Committee.

1.3 GENERAL GOAL

1.3.1 The general goal of the OTP in Taiwan is to provide language and communication skills.

1.3.2 It should also provide cross-cultural and pastoral experiences leading to a realistic appreciation of what it means to be a missionary to the Chinese people.

1.4 DOCUMENTATION

To renew the temporary vows:

1.4.1 An Application Letter for Renewal of Vows, addressed to the Provincial.

1.4.2 A Copy of Self-evaluation

1.4.3 Summary of the Community and Peer evaluations compiled by the OTP director.

1.4.4 Prescribed Relatio Form completed by the OTP director (Ref. Handbook for Superiors, Form C7d, P. 255).

1.4.5 A secret collegial vote by local and provincial councils.

1.5 SUMMARY TABLE

Specific Objectives	Means	Indicators for Evaluation
To acquire the language skills necessary for effective communication.	Two years of full-time language study.	Diligence in study, willingness and ability to communicate in Chinese and submit periodical reports from the language school to the OTP director.
To acquire an initial understanding of Chinese ethos and culture.	Cultural / historical studies: reading of prescribed books, videos, seminars and workshops; inter-religious live-in experiences.	Active interest, participation, and an open attitude.
To situate oneself with the people through interaction with individuals and groups, and through our life-style.	Encounters, apostolic involvements and live-in exposures.	Initiative in reaching out to and involvement with the people.
To pass over from one's own culture to this new culture.	Reflection, direction and open sharing.	Level of acceptance and integration into Chinese culture.
To adjust to life in a small international religious community.	Living, working, recreating and praying together.	Sensitivity and respect for confreres from different cultures and for community life.
To deal with responsibility and freedom in a mature way.	Participation in communal planning and providing space for personal decisions and individual initiatives.	Consistency in fulfilling commitments and obligations.
To develop a deeper motivation	The process of integrating the	Fidelity to the religious

for one's religious missionary life.	missionary life through daily Eucharist, prayer and meditation; spiritual direction and other spiritual exercises.	missionary life.
To have deeper understanding of JPIC issues.	Get involved in social, political and environmental issues.	Awareness and interest in these issues.