



NANJING STUDY TOUR REPORT



JULY 21, 2025

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Contents

Acknowledgements.....	2
1. Lessons Learned.....	3
1.1 Cultural and Historical Understanding	3
1.2 Technological Advancement and Innovation.....	3
1.3 Social and Emotional Growth.....	4
1.4 Personal Reflection	4
2. Study Tour Schedule and Reflections	4
2.1 Day 1 – July 16: Nanjing Museum	4
2.2 Day 2 – July 17: Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall and Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum.....	6
2.3 Day 3 – July 18: TopxGun Robotics and Laomendong Confucius Temple.....	7
2.4 Day 4 – July 19: Presidential Palace, Jiming Temple and Xuanwu Lake.....	9
3. Conclusion	10

Acknowledgements

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I would like to extend my **special thanks and heartfelt appreciation to Teacher Wang and Teacher Li**, who accompanied us throughout the five-day journey. Their dedication, patience, and hard work ensured that every aspect of the tour ran smoothly. From early mornings to late evenings, they supported us with kindness, enthusiasm, and professionalism, always prioritizing our learning, safety, and comfort. Their constant presence and commitment significantly enriched our experience, and their efforts will always be remembered with gratitude.

I am truly honored to have been part of this meaningful learning journey. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to expand my academic horizons, cultural awareness, and global perspective through this exceptional study tour.

Nanjing Study Tour Report

Organized by: College of International Education (CIE)

Participant: B K D Jagath Rohan Samarasinghe (兰卡)

Student Number: 2023072037

Tour Dates: July 16–20, 2025

Location: Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, China

1. Lessons Learned

The Nanjing Study Tour was not only an academic and cultural visit, but a transformative experience that greatly enriched my personal, intellectual, and professional development. It provided a multidimensional learning platform where I could connect with the historical, cultural, social, and technological facets of China in real-time. Each location we visited deepened my understanding and appreciation for China's profound civilization and contemporary progress.

1.1 Cultural and Historical Understanding

Before this tour, my knowledge of Chinese history was mostly theoretical. However, walking through the ancient corridors of the Nanjing Museum and the somber spaces of the Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall allowed me to experience history emotionally and intellectually. I saw, for the first time, authentic artifacts from ancient Chinese dynasties, and gained insight into centuries of tradition, art, craftsmanship, and resilience. It was particularly eye-opening to learn how deeply the past influences modern Chinese society.

Visiting places such as the Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum, Laomendong district, and the Presidential Palace gave me a solid grasp of China's transition from imperial rule to modern nationhood. The architectural grandeur, symbolic landscapes, and preserved relics offered a living classroom that taught more than any textbook could.

As a Buddhist, the visit to Jiming Temple held deep personal significance. It was not only spiritually uplifting but also emotionally grounding. Lighting incense, making wishes, and observing the peaceful temple surroundings gave me time for self-reflection and spiritual connection. The experience reminded me of my home country, Sri Lanka, and strengthened my cultural identity while fostering cross-cultural respect.

1.2 Technological Advancement and Innovation

One of the most insightful and impactful components of the study tour was our visit to TopxGun (Nanjing) Robotics Co., Ltd., a pioneering company in industrial drone innovation. At their Industrial Drone Digital Sky Technology Basic Platform, we explored the latest advancements in UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) technology, which integrates artificial intelligence, autonomous flight control systems, and big data analytics. The company's focus

on developing intelligent, safe, and efficient drone solutions for industrial applications reflects China's strong commitment to technological advancement.

As I am currently engaged in research on the use of drone technology in the rice sector in Sri Lanka, this visit was particularly relevant and valuable. It provided me with practical insights into how UAVs are being applied in real-world agricultural settings, for tasks such as crop monitoring, precision spraying, and data collection. These observations directly support the objectives of my research and have inspired new perspectives on how drone technology can be adapted to address challenges in rice production in Sri Lanka.

This experience has significantly enriched my academic journey and strengthened my interest in integrating smart technologies into sustainable farming systems.

1.3 Social and Emotional Growth

This tour was also a time of team bonding and cultural exchange. Sharing experiences with my colleagues and teachers helped me build stronger relationships and enhanced my communication skills in an intercultural context. Whether it was exploring historical alleys in Laomendong, boating on Xuanwu Lake, or enjoying Qinhuai street food under glowing lanterns, each moment was filled with joy, curiosity, and learning. These moments also gave me emotional clarity, a break from my regular academic pressures, and the motivation to become a more globally aware citizen.

1.4 Personal Reflection

Above all, the Nanjing Study Tour helped me realize the importance of respecting the past, embracing the present, and preparing for the future. I saw how a nation like China balances its ancient legacy with futuristic ambitions. This has encouraged me to think deeply about my own country's development, and how I, as a professional in agriculture and education, can contribute to sustainable and culturally respectful progress.

I now have a stronger desire to engage in international academic programs, explore opportunities for research collaboration, and continue learning from diverse global perspectives. This tour has strengthened my motivation to pursue higher education and professional excellence with a broadened worldview.

2. Study Tour Schedule and Reflections

2.1 Day 1 – July 16: Nanjing Museum

We began our tour with a visit to the Nanjing Museum, located in Xuanwu District. It is one of the oldest and most comprehensive museums in China, with its origins dating back to 1912. Architecturally stunning, the museum blends Chinese and Western styles and houses a vast collection of cultural relics, including ceramics, bronzes, jade, calligraphy, and paintings. The well-curated exhibitions offered a rich narrative of Chinese civilization and highlighted the regional diversity of Jiangsu's heritage. This visit laid the foundation for our understanding of China's historical continuity and artistic evolution.



Photo gallery of Nanjing Museum taken during the visit

2.2 Day 2 – July 17: Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall and Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum

In the morning, we visited the **Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum**, located within Zhongshan Scenic Area. As the final resting place of the founding father of modern China, the site is a masterpiece of landscape architecture. The mausoleum's symbolic layout, the serene environment, and the central axis design inspired a deep sense of respect for visionary leadership and national unity.

In the afternoon, we visited the **Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall**, a solemn site dedicated to the memory of the victims of the 1937 atrocity. The emotional intensity of the exhibits, personal testimonies, and sculptures created a powerful impact. It was a deeply moving experience that emphasized the importance of peace, tolerance, and the responsibility of future generations to prevent such tragedies.

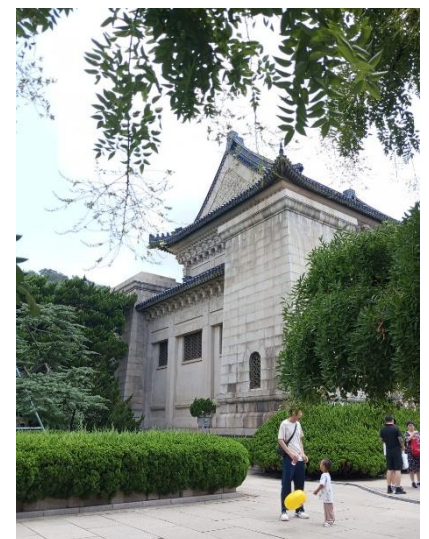


Photo gallery of Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum taken during the visit

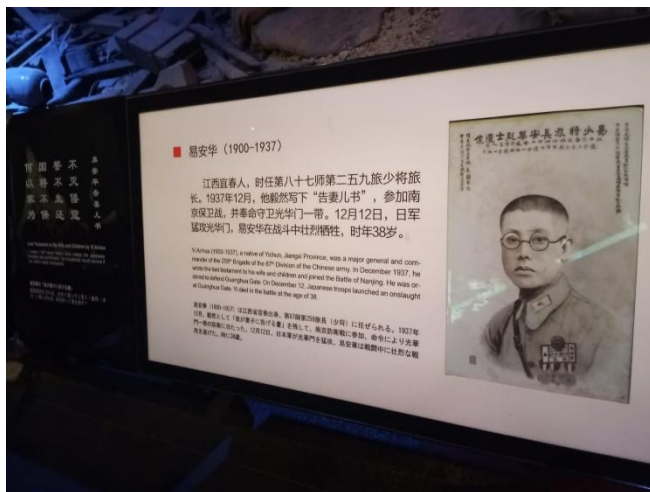
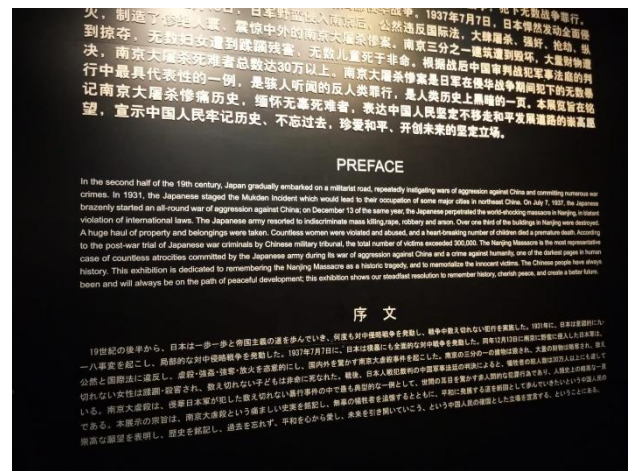


Photo gallery of Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall taken during the visit

2.3 Day 3 – July 18: TopxGun Robotics and Laomendong Confucius Temple

Our third day began with a fascinating visit to **TopxGun (Nanjing) Robotics Co., Ltd.**, a leading enterprise in industrial drone development. We were introduced to their Industrial Drone Digital Sky Technology Basic Platform, which integrates cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence, big data, and autonomous flight control. The demonstrations

highlighted how UAVs are being applied across various sectors, including agriculture, infrastructure inspection, logistics, and environmental monitoring, showcasing the remarkable progress China has made in smart technology innovation. The experience was highly informative and aligned closely with my ongoing research on drone applications in the rice sector in Sri Lanka.

Later in the afternoon, we visited **Laomendong**, a culturally rich heritage district that beautifully reflects traditional Jiangnan-style architecture and local lifestyle. The narrow stone-paved alleys, historic residences, and artisan markets created an authentic atmosphere of old Nanjing. This part of the tour offered a unique opportunity to connect with the city's historical charm and community traditions.

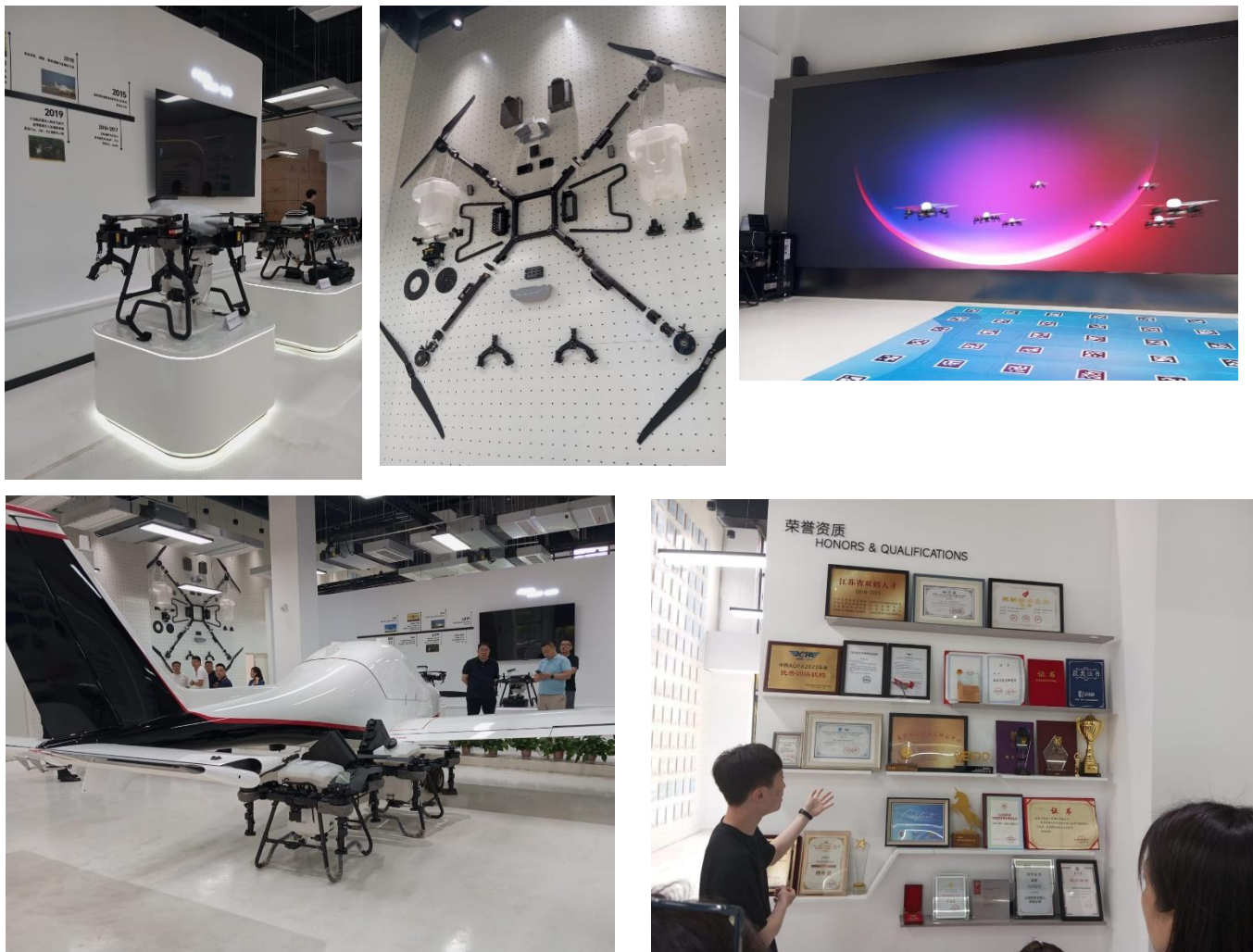


Photo gallery of TopxGun (Nanjing) Robotics Co., Ltd. taken during the visit



Photo gallery of Laomendong taken during the visit

2.4 Day 4 – July 19: Presidential Palace, Jiming Temple and Xuanwu Lake

On the final day, we visited the **Presidential Palace**, an iconic site that witnessed key moments in modern Chinese history. With its combination of classical Chinese gardens and Western-style administrative buildings, the site reflects the transitional phase of Chinese political history. As the former residence of several historic figures and a key governmental center, it provided deep insight into China's political transformation.

Next, we visited **Jiming Temple**, one of Nanjing's oldest and most revered Buddhist temples. The temple's spiritual ambiance and panoramic views from the pagoda were a perfect ending to our educational journey. The visit reinforced my cultural identity and inspired personal growth.

Our final stop was **Xuanwu Lake**, a tranquil urban park once used as a royal garden and military training ground. The lush scenery, peaceful water, and lotus flowers provided a moment of calm and reflection.



Photo gallery of the last day taken during the visit

3. Conclusion

The Nanjing Study Tour was an unforgettable journey filled with historical insights, cultural depth, technological exploration, and emotional richness. It broadened my worldview, sharpened my academic curiosity, and deepened my appreciation for cross-cultural understanding. This experience has equipped me with valuable knowledge, lifelong memories, and a renewed sense of purpose as I pursue my educational and professional goals. I am truly thankful for the opportunity and hope that more students in the future can benefit from such transformative international study programs.