Frequently Asked Questions from Changchun Students about the Changchun Partnership 2+2 Programs:

1) How much are PSU tuition and fees per academic term?
   a) For the 2014-2015 academic year, tuition for a non-resident engineering or computer science student admitted officially into their department’s upper division program is $6372 per term, based on 12 credits per term (12 credits is typically 3 classes). International students must take at least 12 credits to be full-time and maintain their F-1 visa status. Each additional credit hour is $531. Additional mandatory fees, including health insurance, are $1017 per term. Note that most engineering and computer science students take 14-16 credit hours per term; therefore, per term tuition and fees will range between $8451 (14 credits) to $9513 (16 credits). [2014-2015 Tuition and Fees]
   b) CCUT and JLJU program students who are eligible to receive the Changchun Partnerships scholarship will get a $1,500 scholarship during Fall, Winter, and Spring term (total scholarship is $4,500 for the academic year).

2) What TOEFL score do I need to be admitted to PSU?
   a) Students need an overall minimum Internet-based TOEFL score of 71 (with minimum subscores of 15 in both reading and writing).
   b) [PSU Undergraduate English proficiency requirements]

3) If I failed my TOEFL exam in China (if my Internet-based TOEFL score is less than 71), may I go to Portland and study English first?
   a) Yes. If your Internet-based TOEFL score is below 71 you can be conditionally admitted to the program. You can retake your TOEFL after applying. Since it takes six weeks to process scores, you must retake the exam at least six weeks before your first day of classes at PSU.
   b) If you do not obtain a satisfactory TOEFL by retaking the exam, you will be placed in the Intensive English Language Program (IELP) at PSU. CCUT and JLJU students who begin in the IELP will not be eligible for the Changchun Partnerships scholarship until they meet English proficiency requirements to take full-time academic classes at PSU.
   c) Conditionally admitted students will likely take longer than 4 years to complete their degree.
   d) Tuition for the IELP program is different from the tuition for the Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science. [IELP tuition and fees for the 2014-2015 academic year]
4) If we go to PSU, where will we live? Will we live with students from CCUT/JLJU, American students, or other international students?
   a) We require 2+2 students participating in the Changchun Partnership Programs to live in PSU University Housing their first year. We will reserve housing in PSU dormitories for these students. Our current recommendation is for students to have roommates that are not from China. Both domestic and international students stay in the PSU dorms. For more information about PSU University Housing click here.

5) How many roommates would we have? How much is the rent?
   a) Typically two students share a room. Some spaces may be shared, such as a bathroom or kitchen. Rates include electricity, water, gas, phone, Internet and cable television, but do not include food. Students may buy and prepare their own food or may eat on campus with a PSU meal plan. 2014-2015 rates for furnished housing with one roommate range from $1385 to $1840 per academic term, depending on the building. Rates are higher if students live alone (from $2140 to $2795 per term).
   b) For on campus dining, there are several meal plans to choose from. Cost varies according to number of meals per week. A 10-meal per week plan costs $1164 per term, while a 15-meal per week plan is $1221 (Fall 2014 rates). PSU Dining information

6) How many courses will we need to take if we transfer after two years at CCUT?
   a) It is our expectation that CCUT and JLJU 2+2 transfer students will be able to complete their degrees by following the second two years of the standard course of study for their major. The standard courses of study for all Maseeh College undergraduate programs can be found here.
   b) Failure to follow the standard course of study for the second two years of the major may delay students’ ability to graduate in 4 years.

7) How difficult is it to get a part-time job in your major?
   a) There are four factors that govern your employment.
      i) All international students are eligible for on-campus employment, but these opportunities are limited.
      ii) Student visas support limited employment outside the university during your studies through a program called Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and employment after graduation through the Occupational Practical Training (OPT). Not all internship opportunities are available to international students.
      iii) China is subject to “export controls”, so some employers need to obtain permission from the government to employ Chinese students. Intel is an example of a large local employer that is subject to these restrictions.
iv) Not all companies are able to sponsor foreign nationals for employment (i.e. pursue an H1B Visa).

b) You can subscribe to the Maseeh College Job Board at intranet.cecs.pdx.edu/careers. You will need a PSU ID to login.

8) What are Maseeh College’s laboratory facilities like?
   a) Maseeh College has extensive, state-of-the-art computer science and engineering lab facilities. Students use labs for courses, research, or personal projects. More information about Maseeh College research and labs can be found here.

9) How do the students in Portland innovate?
   a) Each term the Maseeh College provides an opportunity for students to obtain funding and other resources to support their own project ideas through the Beta Project. A review panel selects projects for an award up to $1,000 per project. Successful projects may be eligible for up to $3,000 in additional funding.

10) How many classes would we take each day?
    a) Typically a full-time student takes 2 to 4 classes a day.
    b) A typical full load for engineering and computer science students is 4 four-credit classes, plus associated laboratory sections. Each class will have its own meeting schedule. There are three common patterns for lectures:
       i) Monday and Wednesday
       ii) Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
       iii) Tuesday and Thursday
    c) Often laboratory sections will meet once a week

11) My English skills are not very good. If I can’t understand someone very well in English, how should I communicate with them?
    a) PSU faculty, staff, and students (and people in Portland in general) are very friendly and helpful so do not be afraid to communicate, ask questions, or seek help. The best way to improve your English skills is to practice, practice, practice! Practice speaking English as much as possible without fear of making mistakes. Once in Portland, join Maseeh College student clubs to make friends from the United States or other non-Chinese speaking countries. Immerse yourself in English - watch movies and listen to music in English, read books in English, etc.

12) In Portland, how many movie houses are there? American films are very famous around the world.
    a) Portland has many cinemas located all over the city, including several in the city center close to PSU. 5th Avenue Cinema, adjacent to the PSU campus, is a
student-run cinema with free entry and popcorn for PSU students.

13) Do different cities have different tastes? Can we find hot and peppery food in Portland?
   a) Portland is becoming widely known for the diversity and quality of its cuisine. From inexpensive food carts to elegant restaurants, all manner of world cuisines can be found, including Sichuan and other spicy cuisines, such as Thai. There is even a Chinese hot pot restaurant, Hot Pot City, very popular with PSU students located near the PSU Engineering Building.

14) What do young people in Portland do?
   a) Maseeh College students study very hard but in their free-time they like to do what other young people do: go to the cinema, have parties with friends, go shopping, travel, and exercise. Regular exercise is a very good way for students to balance the rigors of academic life. PSU has a beautiful and modern sports facility called the Student Rec Center. The Rec Center has a swimming pool, indoor rock climbing wall, basketball courts, exercise machines, and gym. It offers many types of fitness classes and sports clubs. Portland is ideally located for students who like outdoor pursuits, such as biking, hiking, running, skiing, and camping. Young people in Portland also like to follow their favorite local sports team, such as the Portland Trailblazers (National Basketball Association) and the Portland Timbers (Major League Soccer).

15) Could I rent a house?
   a) We require 2+2 students participating in the program to live in university housing their first year. For their second year at PSU, they may remain in PSU housing or find local accommodation on their own. Click here for more information about off campus housing options.

16) If I go to the IELP Foundational Course Levels 1-3, how long does it take to pass the TOEFL exam?
   a) Students can meet PSU’s language proficiency requirements in two ways: passing the TOEFL exam or successfully completing the advanced level of the IELP. On average, students study in the IELP for 3 terms before transitioning to their degree program. Students who place into Levels 1 and 2 will take between 4 and 5 terms.

17) What are the students like at PSU?
   a) PSU is a university with approximately 30,000 diverse students. Students come from all 50 states of the United States and from nearly 100 nations around the world. PSU students share an interest in community engagement, curiosity about the world, and appreciation for PSU’s urban university location in one of
18) How can I improve my English level so that I will be successful at PSU?
   a) Research has shown that the TOEFL exam alone is not a comprehensive measure
      of English language preparation. At PSU, you will be in classes delivered in
      English with a combination of native speakers and international students. You
      should try to develop the following skills:
         i) Reading technical material in English
         ii) Understanding lectures given by guest PSU faculty
         iii) Engaging in class discussions
         iv) Being able to work in teams with other students in English
         v) Writing technical material; particularly being able to write answers to
            questions on homework and exams.
         vi) Engaging informally with peers outside the classroom

19) What kind of students do PSU professors like? Talkative, quiet, gentle, active?
   a) PSU faculty is here for each and every student to develop the potential in his/her
      own way. In general, students need to participate in class, work hard on their
      studies, and ask questions of the faculty, tutors, or Teaching Assistants as
      needed.

20) After graduation, is it easy to get a good job as a Chinese person in Portland?
   a) See question 7.
   b) On your student visa it is possible to get employed in the US through F-1
      Optional Practical Training. To work beyond that requires a different kind of visa,
      such as an H1B. Those visas are frequently obtained with the sponsorship of an
      employer. This is a higher barrier for international students than domestic
      students, but many international students are employed.
   c) In addition to the visa issues, there is an additional barrier for Chinese nationals
      as they cannot work for some companies that work with “sensitive technology”
      without special permission. This is referred to as export restriction.

21) Can we change our major when we get to PSU? What if we change to something that’s
    not in engineering or computer science?
    a) Once you are admitted to PSU, you will have all of the freedoms of a PSU
       student, so you can change your major at PSU.
    b) If you do change your major, we will reevaluate your eligibility for the
       Changchun Partnerships scholarship. If you make a change within the College of
       Engineering and Computer Science for which you are academically well prepared
       we anticipate approving the continuation of the scholarship. If you change to a
major in another college we do not anticipate continuing the scholarship. Changing your major at PSU may also impact your ability to graduate in 4 years.

c) If you do change your major, you may not be awarded a dual degree from CCUT or JLJU in your new major.

22) If Changchun students are admitted into the IELP first, can they take the paper-based TOEFL exam at PSU instead of the iBT TOEFL?
   a) Prior to beginning their study, they may take any of the approved university English language assessment instruments. If they get a score that satisfies university requirements their conditional status can be removed. It takes approximately six weeks to process scores. So we recommend retaking the TOEFL no later than six weeks before the start of term.
   b) Once they are in the IELP program they will be evaluated by IELP placement tests.

23) Can students enter PSU in any term or just Fall term?
   a) PSU accepts international transfer students during any term, but 2+2 students may only be admitted to their CCP engineering or computer science degree program in the fall term. The application process for 2+2 students begins as they are completing semester 3 in Changchun.
   b) PSU does not have rigid deadlines for applications for admission. The International Admissions office recommends applying 6 months prior to the desired start of your academic program. Applications for Fall that are received after July 15 are unlikely to be processed in time to complete the immigration processes necessary to attend. Students wishing to apply for Fall 2014 are strongly encouraged to apply promptly.

24) Can I transfer to PSU as a 1+3 student?
   a) Yes. CCUT and JLJU program students can transfer to PSU before completing the first two years of required coursework at their home institution. They should follow the PSU admission process for regular international transfer students since they wish to transfer outside the 2+2 program (http://www.pdx.edu/admissions/international-transfer).
   b) If 1+3 students are admitted to PSU and meet English proficiency requirements, they may take engineering and computer science courses but must apply for admission to the upper division degree programs as they are completing the second year curriculum. Admission into the upper division degree programs is not guaranteed. Click here for civil engineering admission requirements, here for electrical engineering, and here for computer science.
c) If 1+3 students are admitted to PSU but do not meet English proficiency requirements, they may take English classes at the IELP until they do so. See question 3.

25) Once I transfer to PSU, am I guaranteed to graduate?
   a) No. Once Changchung students transfer to PSU they must maintain good academic standing at PSU and make satisfactory progress toward completing their degree program.
   b) Students are in good academic standing when their term Grade Point Average (GPA) is 2.00 or higher (on a 4.0 scale) and the cumulative Portland State GPA is 2.00 or higher. Students whose cumulative PSU GPA falls below 2.0 will be placed on academic warning. If students on academic warning do not meet specific criteria they risk being put on academic probation followed by academic dismissal. For more information about academic standing at PSU read this.
   c) Students must also meet their department’s continuation criteria for making satisfactory academic progress toward completing their degree program. Electrical engineering’s continuation criteria can be found here, civil engineering’s here, and computer science’s here.