

The 2008 Summer Service Learning Program in Rural China

Brief introduction to The Educational Poverty Alleviation Project at Tsinghua University

The Educational Poverty Alleviation Project, initiated by Tsinghua University in 2002, is a public project aimed at benefiting China's poverty-stricken areas. Our goal is to provide people in underdeveloped areas with the opportunity to utilize high-quality educational and training resources through the support of modern technology. The program's ultimate goal is to eliminate poverty by spreading knowledge.

As of December 2007, we have selected 217 counties, identified by the national government as impoverished locales, to assist them in establishing distance-learning centers. We then provide critical educational resources via free satellite broadcasting to public officials, primary and middle school teachers, students, and farmers.

Brief introduction to the Summer Service Learning Program in Rural China

Since summer 2004, Tsinghua University has successfully organized the Educational Poverty Alleviation and Social Service Activity. In 2005, 162 students from Tsinghua University went to 22 rural counties to teach and conduct research. In 2006, with the support of the Wang Foundation, we created the Summer Service Learning Program in rural China. In the past two summers, 694 Tsinghua students, 86 Tsinghua faculty, and 151 American students and teachers from 16 American Universities went to 94 rural counties in China. Participants taught English and computer skills, conducted social research, and provided lectures and intercultural communication exercises for students and teachers in rural counties. They brought hope, confidence and information for them, opening a window for poor people to learn about the outside world.

The 2008 Summer Service Learning Program in Rural China

In summer 2008, we plan to recruit 250 Tsinghua students and 50 faculty, plus 100 American students, to serve in 50 rural counties. The program begins July 1 and ends July 22. The programs include teaching English, population and poverty alleviation research, lectures and cultural communications, and visiting local villages. Based on the 2006 experience, we will continue collaborating with the National Population and Family Planning Commission and the Population Issue Research in Rural China. Each participant will submit a report of the research they conducted onsite, and the best paper will receive an award from the National Population and Family Planning Commission of China.

Program Schedule

Application Period (January 21 to March 31)

If you are attending a Partner Institution, please submit these documents through your campus coordinator by your campus deadline. If you are not attending a Partner Institution, please mail or fax the application form and other documents to Tsinghua University before the March 31 deadline. The

Application form is attached.

Selection Period (April 1 to April 10)

Applicants will be notified of the selection results by email no later than April 10. Candidates who have been accepted will receive an official notice of acceptance and a visa application form. The visa type is F and the duration of stay is 45 days. The total number of American volunteers will be limited to 100.

Remote Station Announcement (Approximately April 10)

Information on the 50 remote stations, including location, participating school profiles, and training objectives will be posted on the Wang Foundation website.

Team Announcement (Approximately April 30)

Information on the 50 teams, remote station assignments, and the names of team leaders and team members, will be posted on the Wang Foundation website. Generally, each team will have 2 American students, 5 Tsinghua students and 1 Tsinghua faculty member.

Registration Fee and Waiver of Liability (June 1)*

American participants attending Partner Institutions must submit their \$300 Registration fee and signed Liability Waiver form to their Campus Coordinator. Non-partner participants should submit to Tsinghua.

Flight Information (June 10)

Email flight information for arrival pickup at the Beijing International Airport on July 1 or 2.

Arrival at Beijing International Airport (July 1 and 2)

Tsinghua University will provide a shuttle service between Beijing International Airport and Tsinghua University. Rooms will be reserved for American participants at Zijing Apartments for Overseas Students on Tsinghua's main campus.

Orientation Program (July 3 to 5)

Project teams will meet and participate in an Orientation Program at Tsinghua University. The program will include information sharing from former participants, English teaching skills, research background on poverty and population issues in China, team activities and logistics.

Travel to Remote Stations (July 6 to 7)

Project teams will travel together by train to their assigned Remote Station.

Service Learning Activities in Rural Areas (July 8 to July 18)

All team members will live in local school dormitories or nearby hotels. Living conditions may not be as good as in Beijing, but all accommodations will be provided within a safe and healthy environment. The hospitable local people are always trying their best to improve conditions for their honored visitors.

Travel to Beijing (July 19 to 20)

Project teams will travel together by train to Beijing and again reside at Zijing Apartment for Overseas Students at Tsinghua University. Please note that Zijing Apartments will be used by others for the 2008 Olympic Games, so no one will be able to stay there after the Summer Service Learning Program.

Closing Ceremony (July 21)

Each participant will receive a certificate from Tsinghua University during the Closing Ceremony. All participants will share their experiences with other teams and enjoy a farewell dinner together.

Departure from Beijing (July 22)

Tsinghua University will arrange a shuttle service to Beijing International Airport for those who will be leaving China. Please note that Zijing Apartment will be used by others for the 2008 Olympic Games, so no one will be able to stay there after the Summer Service Learning Program.

Personal Finances

- Participants are responsible for paying a \$300 Registration Fee upon selection, round trip air travel to and from Beijing, health insurance throughout the program, and any vaccinations they choose.
- Tsinghua will pay for room and board when staying at Tsinghua July 1-7 and July 19-21, a total of 10 days. Participants will stay in Zijing Apartments for Overseas Students.
- Tsinghua will provide on campus food cards for use in Tsinghua cafeterias during the same dates, July 1-7 and July 19-21, a total of 10 days.
- Tsinghua will provide subsidies of 30 Yuan/RMB per day per person to all Tsinghua and American participants during their stay at the remote stations from July 8 to July 18, a total of 11 days.
- Tsinghua will purchase train tickets for all participants to and from Beijing and the remote stations. If travel time is beyond 12 hours, tickets will be for a sleeper berth; if travel time is less than 12 hours, tickets will be for a common seat. Tsinghua will also provide traveling fees between local railway stations and the remote stations. Payments will be distributed by the team by its leader.
- Tsinghua will purchase accidental insurance for all the participants during the program in China. This is in addition to the health insurance required for all American participants.
- Except for the above stated items, Tsinghua will not pay for any additional expenses.

Vaccinations

The Chinese Government has no recommended vaccinations or preventive medications for foreign visitors. Participants can consult the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention at <http://www.cdc.gov> for their recommendations.

Visa Information

Upon selection, Tsinghua University will issue each participant the documentation to obtain an F Visa (Visiting Student) from the nearest Chinese Consulates in the U.S. Since the duration of stay will be for 45 days, it will be difficult if you change or extend the Visa because of the Olympic Games, Tsinghua can

Not provide the changing visa application service then. So if you enter China with a travel Visa, or you will already be in China before the summer service learning program, please confirm your visa information with Tsinghua in advanced.

Waiver of Liability

Upon selection, all participants will be asked to submit a signed Waiver of Liability agreement with Tsinghua University and Wang Foundation. Participants who do not submit a Waiver of Liability agreement by the June 1 deadline will be considered not qualified to participate in the 2008 summer service learning program.

APPLICATION FORM

For American Applicants to Participate the 2008 Summer Service & Learning Program in Rural China

Surname		Nationality Country/Region issuing your passport	
Given Name		Country/Region where you plan to get your visa from the local Chinese Embassy/ Consulate/ Visa Office	
Date of Birth		Sex	
Passport No.		Name of University	
Emergency Contact Phone # with Name		Specialization and Major Study	
Home Address and University Address		Academic Degree	
Mailing Address Now (for receiving the Visa Application Form)		Chinese Level	
		SIGNATURE	
Duration of Stay	July 1- 22 nd , 2008		
EXPENDITURE	Room and Board	In Tsinghua University	Paid by Tsinghua University
		In the Remote Stations	Tsinghua University will provide the subsidy
	Travel**	Round trip air fares between USA and Beijing, China	Paid by Applicant
		Domestic trips to Distance Learning stations and Tsinghua University (Train Ticket Cost)	Paid by Tsinghua University

Notes**Applicants attending Partner Institutions***

- Complete the application form and submit it to your Campus Coordinator by the campus deadline.
- Include a brief resume, a copy of an official university transcript, and a letter of recommendation from your professor.

Applicants not attending Partner Institutions*

- Complete the application form and e-mail it by March 31 to [Ms. ZHANG Yan](mailto:Ms.ZHANG_Yan@zhy0907@mail.tsinghua.edu.cn) at zhy0907@mail.tsinghua.edu.cn or [Ms. LIU Wei](mailto:Ms.LIU_Wei@jxyliuwei@mail.tsinghua.edu.cn) at jxyliuwei@mail.tsinghua.edu.cn so we can apply for an official invitation letter send to you for visa purpose.
- Mail or fax the following three documents together with this form signed with your signature to Educational Poverty Alleviation Office, Tsinghua University. The mailing address is: **4th Floor, Tower A, Chuangxin Building, Tsinghua University, Beijing 100084 P.R. China;** The fax number is **(8610)62782897.**
 - A brief resume, plus a copy of an official university transcript.
 - Two letters of recommendation from your professors
 - Evidence of health insurance coverage for the duration of the program.

2008 Partner Institutions and Campus Coordinators*International Student Exchange Program**Program Coordinator: Dr. Lisa Karz lkarz@isep.org**New York University**Program Coordinator: Dr. David Austell David.Austell@NYU.edu**Pacific Lutheran University**Program Coordinator: Dr. Neal Sobania sobania@plu.edu**San Diego State University**Program Coordinator: Dr. Mei Zhong mzhong@mail.sdsu.edu**San Jose State University**Program Coordinator: Dr. Ping Hsu Ping.Hsu@sjsu.edu**University of South Florida**Program Coordinator: Dr. Scott Solomon msolomon@cas.usf.edu**Wayne State University**Program Coordinator: Dr. HaiYong Liu Haiyong@Wayne.edu