



Young Envoys Scholarship



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American teenagers Meet Terracota Warriors and explore Chinese culture in Xi'an

"Wearing traditional Tang Dynasty costume and strolling through the Grand Tang Dynasty Ever Bright City, I truly come to appreciate the beauty of Chinese culture, especially after learning about the history of Tang Dynasty at the Shaanxi History Museum," said American high school student Rowan Glaser excitedly to others about her experiences in Shaanxi.

On April 8th, the launch ceremony for the study tour of American teenagers in China was held at Xidian University. 43 students and 6 teachers from the French American International School in San Francisco arrived in Xi'an to participate in the "Meeting the Terracotta Warriors, Exploring Chinese Culture" research course.



This study tour is an extension of the online course. After completing the online course, the American students are invited to Xi'an to experience Chinese culture firsthand. According to Zhang Xinliang, President of Xidian University, since 2022, the online course "Meeting the Terracotta Warriors, Exploring Chinese Culture," co-developed by Xidian University and Emperor Qinshihuang's Mausoleum Site Museum, has been offered in more than ten primary and secondary schools in the United States. The course, featuring online Chinese language classes, live-streaming museum tours, and video lessons about the museum, has been very well received by teachers and students alike.

During this study tour, students visited the Shaanxi History Museum, Grand Tang Dynasty Ever Bright City, "The Longest Day in Chang'an" theme block, Xi'an Qinling Wildlife Park, Xi'an City Wall, and Emperor Qinshihuang's Mausoleum Site Museum. They also visited Xi'an Aizhi Middle School and Xi'an Tieyi High School to experience Chinese school, family, and community life. Additionally, they participated in related language and culture courses at Xidian University and its affiliated elementary school.

Listening to Guzheng, playing Tai Chi, wearing Hanfu, learning to write in small seal script in the Qin Dynasty, experiencing Chinese painting and calligraphy, and tasting and making Shaanxi cuisine... Seeing is believing. In the ancient land of Shaanxi, American students and teachers experienced Chinese culture in a real and vivid way.



Muscatine High School delegation builds friendship in China

On April 18th, the High School Affiliated to Beijing Normal University, in collaboration with over forty teachers and students from Shijiazhuang Foreign Language School, warmly welcomed a delegation of teachers and students from Muscatine High School in the United States, marking the beginning of a grand Sino-American cultural exchange event.

The event commenced with a captivating performance by the Jinfan Dance Troupe. The dances with Chinese ethnic minority characteristics, enchanted every guest present, immersing them in vivid portrayals of ethnic customs and traditions.



After the welcome ceremony, the American teachers and students, guided by volunteers from the affiliated high school, embarked on a vibrant cultural experience journey. They visited each classroom, attending lessons with the local teachers and students, learning diligently, and feeling wholeheartedly.



The cultural exchange event concluded successfully amid happy laughter and cheerful voices. The American teachers and students expressed that this visit deeply impressed upon them the profoundness of Chinese culture and the warmth and friendliness of the Chinese teachers and students. They will take these wonderful memories back to the United States and share them with many others.



Stanford University faculty and students visit Chongqing Bashu Ivy Academy for cultural exchange

A delegation from Stanford University, including faculty and students, visited various sites from April 25th to 28th, focusing on the themes of new quality productive forces, the new international land-sea corridor, rural revitalization, and Sino-American youth exchanges, etc. They toured the Chang'an Automobile R&D Center, Chongqing Jingdong Digital Economy Industrial Park, the International Logistics Hub in Inland China Exhibition Centre, Chongqing Stilwell Museum, and Yongli Village in Bayang Town,

Yunyang County. Additionally, they engaged in exchanges with Chinese youth students at Chongqing University and Chongqing Bashu Ivy Academy. Teacher and student representatives from the international high school of Chongqing Bashu Ivy Academy volunteered to accompany the Stanford University delegation throughout the visit.



The Stanford "China Studies in Beijing" program is a project dedicated to interdisciplinary social science research on modern China. Since its establishment in 2007, the program has aimed to thoroughly analyze various aspects of Chinese society from a social science perspective.

This visit to Chongqing is an important activity of the program, aiming at providing students with a more comprehensive understanding of China's social, economic, and cultural development through on-site tours.



On the Xinpaifang campus (Zheng Da De Shan School) of Chongqing Bashu Ivy Academy, the delegation from Stanford University made campus tours, and participated in ice-breaking activities and other forms of interaction. This

has promoted cross-cultural learning and cooperation among Chinese and American students and injected new vitality into the future of education.



Experiencing the differences between Chinese and American cultures, seeking harmony in diversity

During the ice-breaking activities, students engaged in tongue twisters. “黑化肥发灰会挥发，灰化肥挥发会发黑……” ("Black chemical fertilizer may evaporate when it turns gray, Gray chemical fertilizer may turn black when it evaporates……") "Betty bought butter, but the butter was bitter, so Betty bought better butter to make the bitter butter better……"



At the event, the teachers and students from Stanford University recited the tongue twisters in Chinese, while the students from Chongqing Bashu Ivy Academy took on the challenge of English tongue twisters. The stimulating and tense activity concluded amidst the students' laughter and cheers.

During this exchange program, as volunteers, the students from Chongqing Bashu Ivy Academy, not only showcased the academy's image but also gave an excellent introduction to the characteristics, cuisine, and scenic beauty of both the academy and Chongqing.



"The teachers and students from Stanford University are very friendly and approachable. When we went to Yunyang County together, we picked loquats, cooked together and made preserved eggs. These are all unforgettable memories," said Sun Yayue, an international high school student at Bashu Ivy Academy.

"China-U.S. Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges Seminar" and photo exhibition hosted by WKU

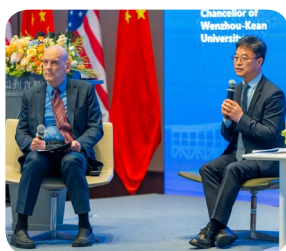
On the morning of April 26th, the China-U.S. Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges Seminar and photo exhibition were held at Wenzhou-Kean University. At the event, the representatives from Wenzhou-Kean University and Kean University in the United States gathered together with administration representatives from New Jersey public schools and other professionals from various fields such as education, culture, and economics. They engaged in in-depth discussions on how to deepen cooperation between the two countries and universities, further promote youth exchanges and reciprocal visits between China and the United States, and jointly advance the implementation of President Xi Jinping's initiative to "invite 50,000 American youth to China for exchange and learning in the next five years."



Wenzhou-Kean University (WKU), as a cooperative project between Zhejiang Province and the state of New Jersey under the sister province/state relation, has undertaken the crucial mission of fostering Sino-U.S. cooperation and exchanges since its inception. Over the past decade, the university has consistently aimed for high-quality development of "a demonstrative key construction project for Sino-foreign cooperative education and an international and high-level institution." Through talent cultivation, research collaboration, and engagement with local communities, the university has actively facilitated the flourishing of Sino-U.S. cultural exchanges. It ranks among the top in various internationalization indicators nationwide with its remarkable achievements in student education, standing as an important outcome of friendly cooperation and a crucial link for cultural exchanges between Zhejiang Province in China and New Jersey in the United States.



Dialogue on the future, jointly promoting exchanges between Chinese and American students



In November 2023, during the summit meeting between Chinese and U.S. Presidents in San Francisco, Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, emphasized that cultural exchanges are one of the five pillars of Sino-U.S. relations. He also proposed the initiative of "inviting 50,000 American youth to China for exchange and learning over the next five years." In response to this initiative, WKU proposed to attract at least 500 American students to study and exchange in China within five years, achieving 1% of the goal of 50,000 American youth visiting China.

This seminar not only reviews WKU's achievements in cultural exchanges over the past decade but also looks forward to the future direction of cooperative education. It aims to leverage the strength of Sino-U.S. cooperative education and enhance cultural exchanges between the two countries, especially among youth, to promote the future of Sino-U.S. relations and continue to create new stories of friendship between the peoples of the two countries in the new era.

After the seminar, the guests visited the photo exhibition on China-U.S. cultural and people-to-people exchange held by WKU. The exhibition showcases scenes of the innovative practices of the university in cultural exchanges, demonstrating WKU's respect and inclusiveness toward diverse cultures and expressing hopeful expectations for the future of China-U.S. friendship.



Wang Beijiao, Secretary of the CPC WKU Committee, and Lamont O. Repollet, President of Kean University in the United States, jointly "set sail" to launch the WKU China-U.S. Cultural and People-to-People Exchange Project

Seminar on "Increasing US Student Mobility to China" held successfully

On April 30th, the seminar "Increasing US Student Mobility to China", hosted by the China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE), was successfully held online. Liu Limin, President of CEAIE, and Allan Goodman, Chief Executive Officer of the Institute of International Education (IIE), attended the seminar and delivered speeches. Fu Bo, Deputy Secretary-General of CEAIE, introduced the "Young Envoys Scholarship". The seminar was chaired by Denis Simon, former Executive Vice President of Duke Kunshan University, with over 770 participants from Chinese and American educational institutions and universities online.



Liu Limin expressed his hope of a closer relations between universities and relevant educational institutions in China and the United States, providing opportunities and platforms for youth exchanges between the two countries. He also pointed out that there is a need for a more uncompromising attention on program design and promotion, such as orienting projects to the age-characteristics of youth, meeting student needs, possessing unique professional advantages, and addressing common global challenges. In this way, the exchanges programs can offer more study in China options while making the process more convenient for American youth.

Allan Goodman expressed that the longstanding history of U.S.- China educational cooperation and exchanges serves as a driving force for furthering educational interactions between the two countries. He hoped that the United States and China would work together to demonstrate that learning and ideas have no national boundaries and that the friendship between the two peoples knows no borders.



During the panel discussion session, Mirka Martel, Head of Research, Evaluation, and Learning at IIE, presented the latest developments in American students studying abroad, highlighting the changes in the number of American degree-seeking students and short-

term exchange students since the release of the "Open Doors Report" last year. Hannah Buxbaum, Vice President for International Affairs at Indiana University, and Eric Garfunkel, Vice President for International and Global Affairs at Rutgers University in New Jersey, shared the policies of American universities regarding overseas studying in China and discussed the reasons for the low number of American students studying in China. Lou Yongqi, Vice President of Tongji University, and Adam Jones, Director of China Programs and Special Initiatives of CET, shared experiences from the perspectives of Chinese universities and third-party educational institutions respectively on how to attract American students to study in China and meet their needs. David Pe, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at NYU Shanghai, shared specific practices of Sino-American cooperative education institutions in attracting more American students to study in China.



Fu Bo introduced the "Young Envoys Scholarship" (YES) program, welcoming the participation of American universities and educational institutions. He invited American youth students and university staff and faculty to come to China this summer to participate in the China-U.S. Young Leaders Dialogue, which is the highlight of the YES program. CEAIE will provide further support and facilitate the visit of American youth to China.

The Chinese and American guests also responded to and discussed the questions posed by online participants.

Ten-day Dali visit of graduates from Presidio Knolls School, SF

The busy Xizhou town, located in Dali, southwest China's Yunnan Province, recently welcomed a group of 14-year-old students who talked with a lovely exotic accent. They were eighth-grade graduates from Presidio Knolls School in San Francisco, USA.



The team successfully solved the clues of the scavenger hunt

There are over 300 full-time schools in the United States that offer immersive Chinese language instruction. Presidio Knolls School is the first and only school in the country that combines progressive education with immersive Chinese language teaching. On the one hand, students are placed in a close community where they can "learn by doing," grow through experiences, and achieve comprehensive development in their intellect, mind, emotion, and body. On the other hand, through immersive Chinese learning, students also use Chinese to study subjects like math and science.

One of the features of the school is Project-Based Learning (PBL), which helps students use Chinese to understand the world through various thematic projects. Presidio Knolls School takes students on study trips to China regularly, with Linden Centre Xizhou being the most visited destination.

This year, Presidio Knolls School conducted a project in Dali called "Dali-Documentary." The project aimed to explore how to use visual storytelling to showcase the landscapes and culture of Dali. The documentary covered four types of stories: culture, community, changes, and harmony. The students practiced photography, questioning, interviewing, observing, researching, story writing, and oral expression. They documented the current Dali through visuals and videos and brought the footage back to San Francisco to edit into their unique documentary.

During the ten days in Dali, they climbed Cangshan Mountain, biked along Erhai Lake, hiked Shibao Mountain, and visited the ancient town of Shaxi. They followed residents to make “瓦猫” (tile-made cats) and “印甲马” (print armor horses), learning about the history of Yunnan and the culture of the Bai ethnic group. The students were divided into groups by drawing lots to explore and capture the essence of Dali through visuals.

In these ten days, images and videos captured the moments of the twenty students' experiences in Dali. These daily life images are often overlooked but excited the students from America. With new perspectives from American students across the ocean, they created precious memories and built connections with the people of Dali through their lenses.



Everyone seems satisfied with the Bai ethnic dishes made by themselves



On Jade Belt Yunyou Road of Cangshan Mountain



Mini show catches the attention

Bryce, a project teacher at Linden Centre Xizhou, said, "The ten days' stay here is their last trip before they graduate from high school. These ten days were filled with activities, from traditional crafts to temple visits. The students gained cultural literacy, boosted their confidence, and built better connections with people."

IUP delegation in "Discover China" summer program at BFSU

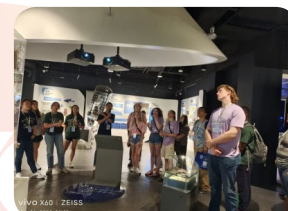
On May 16, a delegation of 15 students and faculty from Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) arrived in China at the invitation of Beijing Foreign Studies University to participate in a two-week "Discover China" Sino-U.S. students exchange program.



Opening ceremony

Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU) is renowned as the "Cradle of Chinese Diplomats." Currently, it offers 101 foreign language programs, making it the university that teaches the most diverse range of foreign language courses in China. It is also one of the earliest institutions in China to enroll international students. BFSU is dedicated to cultivating high-level, multilingual, and interdisciplinary talents, promoting people-to-people exchanges, and facilitating mutual understanding between civilizations.

The Discover China Program is part of BFSU's efforts to implement the "San Francisco Vision". The program aims to enable students from the U.S. and other countries to discover, understand and experience China through a combination of lectures, seminars, and field visits, thereby enhancing the comprehensive understanding of China among the youth from the U.S. and around the world, actively supporting cultural exchanges between China and other countries, and promoting interaction and exchanges among young people globally.



The first session of the program centered on four themes: "Experiencing profound traditional culture," "Exploring the development of technological industries," "Sensing the sportsmanship of the dual Olympic city," and "Witnessing the prosperous social landscape." It featured a variety of discussions, research activities, and lectures, combining academic and practical experiences. During the 12 days, the IUP delegation participated in five academic seminars on rich subjects at BFSU and visited more than ten cultural landmarks in Beijing and Hangzhou. They delved into China's new rural areas and smart manufacturing industries and experienced intangible cultural heritage such as Peking opera, Hanfu, and Kung Fu tea. All the practical research and visits were well integrated with classroom teaching and lectures, reinforcing each other and achieving the program's objectives.



Students in the Ping-pong and Tai Chi classes

On the afternoon of the 26th, the IUP faculty and students visited the field area and team locker rooms of the New Beijing Workers' Stadium,

which are seldom open to the public, learning about its history and high-tech features. After a 90-minute match, the Beijing Guoan team won decisively against Nantong team Zhiyun with a score of 5:2. Together with other 40,000-50,000 spectators, the IUP delegation offered passionate cheers, experiencing the top-tier atmosphere of Asia's premier stadium and deeply understanding the vibrant sports and entertainment life of Beijing residents. The tour of Workers' Stadium, as the grand finale of the BFSU international students' "Discover China" journey, brought the summer program to a successful conclusion.

Emma, who watched the entire match, said, "This is my first time at such a large stadium to watch a game. I was amazed by the passion and focus of the Beijing fans, especially those in the north stand. Their cheers and songs greatly encouraged the team. I also noticed many kids at the stadium, cheering along with their parents. This is a way of passing down football culture. It's also a similarity between sports fans in China and the U.S."



The U.S. delegation experienced the "top" stadium at the new Beijing Workers' Sports Stadium

During the program, mainstream media such as China Daily, CGTN, and People's Daily interviewed the IUP students. The students highly praised China's high-tech enterprises, Beijing's environmental greening, and the content of the study activities. At the end of the program, IUP faculty and students expressed that they deeply felt the strong support from both universities during this trip to China. They were profoundly impressed by the hospitality of the Chinese people and the high-quality study activities. After returning home, they plan to share their authentic and multifaceted experiences in China with their friends and look forward to returning to China for further study or travel.

Students from UIUC in "Global Classroom Summer Program" in China

On May 20, 22 students from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign arrived at the Haining International Campus of Zhejiang University. Together with 7 students from the Zhejiang University–University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Institute (ZJ–UIUC), they embarked on a 14-day "Global Classroom Summer Program" journey.



A group photo in front of the statue of former Zhejiang University President Zhu Kezhen

The Global Classroom Summer Program originates from the global classroom exploration of the "ENG 100-Engineering Orientation" course at the ZJ–UIUC Institute since 2020. Each

year, over 400 freshmen from both universities study through online discussions focusing on cutting-edge engineering technologies. This session of the "Global Classroom Summer Program" incorporates the idea of sustainable development into the engineering curriculum, combining theoretical knowledge with practical applications in economics, environment, and society. Emphasizing practical experience, it encourages students to understand international sustainable development practices and standards from both local and global perspectives, applying theories to real-world scenarios. This is the first time the program has facilitated in-person "face-to-face" exchanges between students from the two universities.



A visit to the Integrated Transportation Research Platform

Focusing on the theme of "sustainable development," young students from both China and the United States participated together in lectures on engineering and interdisciplinary seminars. They delved deep into cutting-edge research and innovative technologies that shape the future and explored intersections of business, technology, and globalization, which broadened their academic vision. Additionally, they visited leading Chinese enterprises to experience firsthand their innovative technologies, sustainable development practices, and global strategies. They also toured historical and cultural districts, visited homes of historical figures, and experienced local customs, immersing themselves in the beauty of Chinese traditional culture together.



Students in the course of Chinese calligraphy

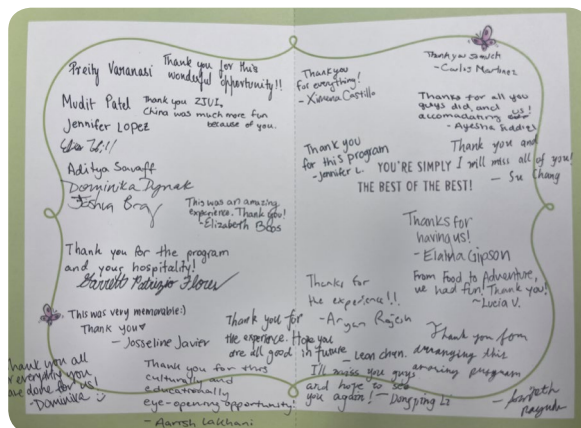


Students experiencing shadow puppetry in Haining

Student representatives from both countries shared their feelings, saying "Through daily interactions with our American counterparts, I was deeply touched by their enthusiasm for encouraging others, active participation, and passion for sports." Another student added, "I had an immersive experience of Chinese culture, and the hospitality of Chinese people left me a deep impression. I'll recommend this Global Classroom Summer Program to more friends."



Awarding "YES" badges to students



A thank-you card to program staff from the students

Continuing friendship: Students and faculty from SEU and UPenn studied Chinese architecture together

In the morning of May 30th, the opening ceremony of the Southeast University–University of Pennsylvania International Summer School Program was held. At the ceremony, 45 faculty and students from the University of Pennsylvania and over 50 faculty and students from Southeast University embarked on a summer study journey. This summer school is an academic journey connecting China and the U.S. across national borders, in the form of two-week workshops. The participants studied the selected architectures, landscape, and urban design works in the cities of Nanjing, Shanghai, Suzhou, and Yangzhou. The students learned the philosophy of integrating nature into design and fostered an understanding of China's natural culture.

Since the early 20th century, Southeast University has established a deep relationship with the University of Pennsylvania, the prestigious Ivy League institution. Yang Tingbao and Tong Jun, two prominent architects known as pioneers in modern architectural education at Southeast University and members of China's "Four Great Masters of Architecture," were among the first Chinese students to study at the University of Pennsylvania. This initial connection has evolved into a lasting collaboration, with the friendship between the two universities for over a century.



The 2024 Southeast University–University of Pennsylvania International Summer School focuses on "Artificial Nature: Bridging the Dichotomy between Artificial and Natural." The academic guidance for this program is provided by Professor David Leatherbarrow, the Foreign Dean of the Architecture Internationalization Demonstration School at Southeast University.

At the workshop following the project investigation, the students presented the pictures taken during their study as the basis for discussion, debate, and learning. They also reexamined the binary distinction between artificial and natural, completing the design tasks of the summer school through collaboration and discussions.

During the summer school, the School of Architecture at Southeast University and the Weitzman School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania held a MOU signing ceremony, multiple high-level academic lectures, and seminars. In the meantime, a series of events, including exhibitions and international symposiums themed around "Design with Nature Now" were jointly hosted in Nanjing by the two schools.

The collaborative research and study activities have stimulated innovative spirit and professional creativity among students and faculty from both universities. It provides a common learning platform for exploring academic frontiers and exchanging learning

experiences. Students engage in deep exchanges and mutual learning with friends from different cultural backgrounds and academic fields, which helps broaden their horizons, inspire creativity through collaboration and jointly explore the possibilities of integrating nature into contemporary design in the context of globalization.

Through this program, Southeast University and the University of Pennsylvania have deepened their understanding of each other's traditions and cultures, promoted the development of educational initiatives between China and the U.S., and injected youthful vigor into Sino-U.S. relations, thus nurturing an enduring friendship between the peoples of the two countries.



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