

شىنجاڭ ئۇيغۇر ئاپتونوم رايونلۇق خەلق ھۆكۈمىتى
新疆维吾尔自治区人民政府
The Government of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China

International Cultural Exchange Program Sponsored by the Government of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China (ICEP2012)

A program jointly administered by the Carolina China Council, Raleigh, North Carolina and Xinjiang University, the People's Republic of China



APPLICATION DEADLINE:

April 10, 2012

THIS APPLICATION FORM IS FREE OF CHARGE AND MAY BE DUPLICATED

International Cultural Exchange Program

A Program Sponsored by the Government of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China and jointly administered by the Carolina China Council and Xinjiang University

Thank you for your interest in the 2012 International Cultural Exchange Program (ICEP2012)!

Since 2009, the Carolina China Council has administered educational and cultural exchange programs to promote cross cultural understanding and peace for students enrolled full-time in a high school or college in North Carolina or China. Such exchange programs enable North Carolina students to travel to select regions in China to experience and explore the diverse Chinese culture and society and help to bring students from China to experience the U.S. educational system and explore U.S. culture and values.

The ICEP2012 is pleased to extend this opportunity to visit Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China for adult supervisors and college undergraduate and graduate students from the State of North Carolina. This three week culture exchange program will provide fun-filled field trips to exotic natural scenic and historic sites in Xinjiang, classroom instructions in Chinese language, art and culture, and cross-culture project development, diversity, and Xinjiang Uygur culture, history and society.

The Carolina China Council, a Raleigh based NGO, will implement the **ICEP2012** in cooperation with Xinjiang University and the Government of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China. The goal of this project is to foster cross-cultural understanding and mutual respect among college students and adult leaders from Xinjiang and North Carolina, empowering them with the skills and multi-cultural knowledge to become people ambassadors in a globalized world. Sixteen student participants (full-time undergraduate and graduate students) and four adult leaders will represent the State of North Carolina.

The program will include two-way exchanges between Xinjiang and North Carolina. The trip to Xinjiang will occur between June 10 and 30 2012, with the return trip of Xinjiang participants to North Carolina occurring in summer 2013.

What to Expect as a Participant

The **ICEP** focuses on cross-cultural opportunities for sharing and learning and building a lasting friendship among the participants and the people they represent. Participants are selected from a broad variety of backgrounds and ethnic groups across the state. All activities will take into consideration of the varying ethnic and cultural background of the participants and develop a multi-cultural program for sharing and mutual understanding.

Student Participants of the program should:

- Have a strong desire to learn from others
- Show the ability and willingness to share best practices and lessons learned from their own experiences
- Be open to experiencing new cultures and ways of thinking
- Have a desire to share their own culture and values with students and adults from different cultures, religions and varied backgrounds without prejudice
- Work with diverse groups throughout all aspects of the programs
- Be flexible in working with other participants and coordinators during scheduling, travel, etc.

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What to expect during the program:

- Meetings with Carolina China Council prior to taking the trip to learn about trip logistics and mission goals
- Cultural activities utilizing the local surroundings such as hikes, outdoor activities, sporting events, field trips to local attractions, museums, etc.
- Classroom activities on sharing and learning of language, culture, and arts with other groups
- Free time to interact with other participants
- Communicate with people who speak a different language
- Long days with some early mornings and late nights
- Dance and sing with Uygur minority students
- Eating Chinese and Uygur minority food which may be outside of your comfort zone; be ready to try new things!

Who is eligible to apply?

Student participant applicants must

- Be between the ages of 16 and 29
- Be currently enrolled in a university in North Carolina as a full-time undergraduate or graduate student or high school senior who has already been admitted by and decided to attend a university in North Carolina (students who will have graduated from a university degree program by the time of this trip but not committed to attending a higher level degree program in North Carolina do not qualify)
- Have a GPA > 3.0 for the most recent college program (for undergraduate and graduate students) or high school program (for incoming college freshmen)
- Have United States citizenship and current residency in North Carolina
- Submit a complete application, including photograph and an essay on “My China Dream”

Note: American student participants must be fluent in English, but knowledge of Chinese is not required.

What are the criteria for selection?

Student participant applicants will be evaluated on the following characteristics:

- Demonstrated interest in Chinese culture or language
- Expressed interest in sharing their own culture with others
- Expressed interest in promoting cross-cultural understanding and world peace
- Good social and communication skills
- Academic excellence
- Regional and ethnic diversity
- An energetic, positive attitude

What is covered?

The Xinjiang Government, in conjunction with Xinjiang University, will pay for round-trip airfare to and from the United States to Xinjiang, program and field trip costs, ground transportation, lodging and meals, cultural activities, and educational materials, to selected student and adult participants through the “North Carolina - Xinjiang ICEP Scholarship”. Each scholarship has a minimum value of US\$2000.

Full Legal Name:	Family Name:	First:	Middle:
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Participants are responsible for expenses related to the application process (\$200 application and program administration fee), passport and visa fees, health and accident insurance and spending money for souvenirs and other items.

Optional Tour?

I am interested in a 2-day tour in Beijing (Great Wall, Forbidden City, Olympic Village, Summer Palace etc.) on July 1 and 2, and I am willing to pay \$300 to join this tour.

Yes: _____, No: _____

Important dates

- April 10: Application deadline
- April 15: At least one reference letter must be received by Carolina China Council
- April 25: Participant selection announced
- May 1: Your decision day. If for any reason you decide not to participate, just let us know, and there is nothing you need to do or pay.
If you decide to accept the travel award and participate in the program, you need to submit your passport along with visa application form, visa photo and visa application fee (\$180) to Travel International via Carolina China Council. If you already have a valid China visa, or prefer to use an alternative visa service agency, you do not need to submit your passport and visa application form and fee to Carolina China Council.
The \$200 ICEP program application fee is also due at Carolina China Council.
- May 5: Last day to withdraw from the program with 50% refund of the \$200 ICEP program application fee.
- May 9: Last day to withdraw from the program without refund of the \$200 ICEP program application fee.
- May 10: International travel tickets booked for all confirmed participants (cancellation of participation on or after this date will incur \$300 airline penalty except for emergency excuses accepted by major airlines)
- May 13: Pre-trip orientation
- June 9: Scheduled departure for China
- June 10-30: Program in China
- July 1: Scheduled return date (actual return date may differ if optional tours are selected)

Full Legal Name:	Family Name:	First:	Middle:
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Have you ever lived or visited China before? Yes / No

If yes, please provide a brief description including dates and location.

Would your family be able to host a Chinese Participant during his or her stay in the US for two weeks?

Yes/No/Maybe: _____

LANGUAGES

Are you a native English speaker? _____ Yes / No _____

If not, what is your native language? _____

****If English is your second language****

How would you describe your English skills? (1=poor; 5=excellent)

Speaking:	1	2	3	4	5
Reading:	1	2	3	4	5
Writing:	1	2	3	4	5

How many years of English study have you had? _____

(An English speaking skill of at least 4 is required to qualify for this application)

How would you describe your Chinese skills? (1=poor; 5=excellent)

Speaking:	1	2	3	4	5
Reading:	1	2	3	4	5
Writing:	1	2	3	4	5

How many years of Chinese study have you had? _____

(Chinese ability is not required, but this information will help us pairing you with your partners)

Full Legal Name:	Family Name:	First:	Middle:
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INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL INFORMATION

(Note: You may apply even if you do NOT have a U.S. passport but you will need one by May 1, 2012 to be accepted into the program.)

Do you have a valid U.S. passport? Yes / No Passport Number _____

Country that issued passport _____ Expiration Date _____

PART II: LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Please give the attached letter of recommendation form to a teacher or an adult contact who is not related to you. He or she should know you well enough to talk about your academics, character, volunteer work and interest. The referee should sign and send the letter via email directly to lian.xie@gmail.com . If your referee does not have access to a scanner, or cannot sent the letter by email, he or she should sign across the seal of the envelope and send them via postal mail directly to Carolina China Council before **April 15** at:

**ATTN: Lian Xie
Carolina China Council
3308 Cookefield Ct.
Raleigh, NC 27606**

CONSENT

I agree that all of the information in this application is true and I agree that if chosen to participate, I will participate in ALL program activities including the pre-departure orientation, program in China and post-trip report. I agree that the Carolina China Council, its employees and staff administering this program will not be held liable for any injury, illness, or lose due to accidents or any other unforeseeable events which may occur during the ICEP program. Such injury, illness or lose are covered by the participants accident and health insurances.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

CHECKLIST To complete this application, please make sure you have included:

- Background information _____
- Essays _____
- Letter of recommendation _____
- Photograph _____
- Scanned first two pages of your passport _____

Background Information about Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region

About Xinjiang

The Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, also called Xin for short, is located in northwestern China. Largest in area in all the province-level administrative regions of China, the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region covers an area of 1.66 million sq.km, one sixth of Chinese territory. Situated in the hinterland of Eurasian continent, Xinjiang of China borders eight countries such as Russia, Kazakhstan, Kirghiziastan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Mongolia, India and Afghanistan. The geographic position of Xinjiang makes it very important in strategy. In history, Xinjiang served as the key controlling section of the well-known Silk Road, while now it is an unavoidable part of the railway leading to the second Eurasia Continental Bridge.

Xinjiang, called Western Region in ancient times, has been an inalienable part of China from ancient times. In 60 B.C., Xinjiang officially became a part of China's territory for that year central government of the Western Han Dynasty founded the West Region Frontier Command here. In 1884, the government of the Qing Dynasty established Xinjiang Province. In 1949, Xinjiang was liberated through peaceful means. October 1, 1955 saw the establishment of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

Presently, there are 14 prefectures (including prefectures, autonomous prefectures and prefecture-level cities) and 88 counties (including cities and cities at county level) under the government of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, including 33 counties (county-level cities) in border areas. The Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC) is an important component part of Xinjiang and has 174 regimental agricultural and stockbreeding farms under it. By the end of 2004, the population of Xinjiang had reached 19.6311 million.

Informational web links:

Xinjiang Official Website: <http://www.xinjiang.gov.cn/>

Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xinjiang>