Chinese Language and Culture Immersion for Rising 9-12 Graders

Learn Chinese!
Earn a Stipend!
June 27, 2011-July 7, 2011

Developed by the Department of East Asian Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at the University of Virginia

Funded by the U.S. federal STARTALK grant

Supported by the East Asia Center & Asia Institute at the University of Virginia
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The *Chinese Language and Culture Immersion Program* is a crucial component of the Virginia STARTALK Chinese Teacher Academy. Learners will participate in the so-called demonstration class in which excellent in-service and prospective teachers recruited nationwide apply research-supported best practices to teaching learners in a linguistically and culturally enriched environment. The teacher to student ratio is 1:1.5, and learners in the program will be engaged in a truly interactive, communicative, and innovative class featuring an integration of a wide array of authentic materials and instructional technology.

PROGRAM HISTORY

The *Chinese Language and Culture Immersion Program* is created for the Virginia STARTALK Chinese Teacher Academy (VSCTA), a three-week residential teacher training program from June 20th to July 8th in 2011. In 2008 and 2009, the teachers in the VSCTA taught in the Virginia STARTALK Chinese Academy (VSCA) at the Governor’s Foreign Language Academy at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in Richmond. In 2010, VSCTA separated from the student program at VCU and moved to University of Virginia Grounds in Charlottesville. After three years of excellence and success, the 2011 VSCTA will once again be implemented on-Grounds at U.Va to benefit local high school learners in the community surrounding U.Va. The VSCTA has been made possible by US federal STARTALK funding to maximize capacities in Chinese language teaching and learning.

ELIGIBILITY

Rising 9th through 12th graders with zero or very little knowledge of Mandarin Chinese.

DATES

June 27, 2011 – July 7, 2011 (excluding July 3rd and July 4th)

CLASS SCHEDULE

Classes begin at 9:00 a.m. and end by 12:30PM.

REFRESHMENTS

A mid-morning snack will be provided.

TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING

The program cannot provide transportation services or parking. Parents and student participants are solely responsible for daily transportation to and from University Grounds. For parking information, consult: [http://www.virginia.edu/parking](http://www.virginia.edu/parking)

SCHOLARSHIP

Each admitted participant is granted a $300 scholarship which waives the cost of attendance so the program is totally free for admitted students.
STIPEND

Students who successfully complete the program will receive a $75 stipend.

CULTURAL GIFTS

Students who successfully complete the program will receive a t-shirt and Chinese cultural products.

APPLICATION

The completed application package includes the following five components:
  1. Student Application Form (Parts I & II)
  2. Teacher Recommendation Form (completed by one teacher who should directly mail to the application address below)
  3. Student Commitment Form
  4. Parent Permission Form
  5. Most current semester’s official transcript (Fall 2010 if Spring 2011 is not available) (can be mailed directly by the school or included with other application materials).

The application deadline is April 8th, 2011. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, and the total number of participants is limited. Spots will fill quickly. We recommend that you submit your application early.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Further questions should be directed to Dr. Rachel Stauffer, Outreach Coordinator of the Asia Institute at U.Va by phone (434) 982-0560 or via e-mail, staufferr@virginia.edu

APPLICATION ADDRESS

Chinese Language and Culture Immersion
2011 Virginia STARTALK Chinese Teacher Academy
University of Virginia
Asia Institute
Attn: Rachel Stauffer
PO Box 400169
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4169
PART I. Personal Information

English Name (Last/First): __________________________________________

Chinese name (if any): ______________________________

Gender: _____ Male _____ Female

Home Address: ________________________________________________________________________

City: ___________________________ Zip Code: _______________

Home Phone: ___________________________ E-mail: ___________________________

Current School: ______________________________________________________________________

Current Grade: ________________

Date of Birth: ________________

Place of Birth: ___________________________

Language(s) that you speak at home: __________________________________________

Language(s) that your parents speak: __________________________________________

Language(s) that you have studied: __________________________________________

Do you have a computer at home with internet access? _____ Yes _____ No

Ethnic and Cultural Background (select all that apply):

( ) American Indian or Alaska Native
( ) Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
( ) Asian
( ) Hispanic or Latino
( ) Black or African-American
( ) Middle Eastern or Arab
( ) White
PART II. Essay Questions

Please provide a minimum of 100 words for each of the following questions except for item #3.

1. Describe your primary motivations for participation in the Chinese Language and Culture Immersion Program.

2. Describe any previous study of Chinese language and culture.

3. List all foreign language courses you have taken so far. Specify when, where and the grades received.

4. State what you hope to learn and gain from the program.
TEACHER RECOMMENDATION FORM

Please ask one of your current teachers to complete the following recommendation form and directly mail it to the following mailing address postmarked by APRIL 8th, 2011. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, and the total number of participants is limited. We encourage you to submit your application early.

Mailing Address:
Chinese Language and Culture Immersion
2011 Virginia STARTALK Chinese Teacher Academy
University of Virginia
Asia Institute
Attn: Rachel Stauffer
PO Box 400169
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4169

Dear Fellow Educator,

Thank you for your assistance in the selection process for the Chinese Language and Culture Immersion Program at U.Va, funded by US federal STARTALK funding. As we look for bright, dedicated students to take part in this unique opportunity for high-quality instruction, personalized insight into each individual applicant is of the utmost importance. This is why your thorough and honest feedback is so essential, and so very much appreciated. The more detail you can provide, the better. If you feel that it is necessary to write on the back of this form, or to attach additional sheets of paper, please feel free to do so. When you have completed the form, please mail it to us directly at the above address.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Rachel Stauffer, Outreach Coordinator of the Asia Institute at U.Va by phone, (434) 982-0560 or via e-mail, staufferr@virginia.edu. Thank you, once again, for your help!

Applicant name: ____________________________________________________________

Teacher’s Name (Last/First): ________________________________________________

Subject(s) that you teach: __________________________________________________

School where you teach: ____________________________________________________

E-mail: ___________________________________________ Phone: ___________________
1. For how long and in what capacity have you known the applicant?

2. How would you characterize the applicant’s ability to consistently demonstrate a high level of maturity and sense of responsibility?

3. How would you describe the applicant’s dedication to academic achievement? How will the applicant benefit from the program?

4. Please indicate your level of recommendation for this applicant:

   ( ) Recommend with great enthusiasm
   ( ) Recommend
   ( ) Recommend with reservation
   ( ) Do not recommend

5. Additional Comments

Teacher’s Signature:  

Date:  

Date:
STUDENT COMMITMENT FORM

I am very interested in the Chinese Language and Culture Immersion Program, to be held June 27th through July 7th (excluding July 3rd and 4th). I acknowledge that if I am accepted to the program, I will be expected to attend all classes and participate in all activities. I understand that this means that I will not be able to make other plans during the dates and times of classes and activities associated with this program. I also understand that there will be daily work for me to complete in preparation for each day’s classes. I will do my best to maintain a positive attitude because of the importance of this for success in the program. I understand that disruptive and/or inappropriate behavior is not only disrespectful to my teachers but also to my fellow students. Recognizing this, I promise to follow the program instructions and behave appropriately and cooperatively in all program activities. I understand that if my behavior or conduct is determined to be disruptive or inappropriate, I may be dismissed from the program at any time at the discretion of the Director.

Student signature:   

Print name:   

Date:   


PARENT PERMISSION FORM

Parent/Guardian Name: ________________________________________________________

Home Address: ______________________________________________________________

Home Phone: _______________   Cell Phone: _________________________________

Email: _________________________________________________________________

I understand the commitment involved in my child’s participation in the program and I give permission for my child to attend. I will ensure that my child attends all classes and activities.

YES    NO

I understand that my child and I are responsible for securing reliable transportation to and from University Grounds for program activities.

YES    NO

I give consent for my child to be videotaped or recorded in class and activities during the program.

YES    NO

Parent/Guardian Signature: ________________________________________________________

Date: __________________________