

## **Education for a Global Citizen**

The Education for a Global Citizen program is an intensive and immersive program designed for Chinese undergraduate students that explores American culture and prepares students for future study in American universities. The program is designed to equip students with the skills necessary to be successful international students by teaching them to be more independent, helping them acquire time management skills, and developing their academic writing and presentation competencies. The program is also designed to expose students to various aspects of daily life in the United States through culturally immersive activities, such as service learning, visits to historical sites around Minnesota, and tours of area college and universities campuses. This program is overseen and managed by the University of Minnesota China Center's Mingda Institute for Leadership Training, in partnership with the Minnesota English Language Program (MELP) housed at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

### **Orientation**

During the first week on campus, students will be given an intensive orientation to their sixteen-week-long program. Students will be expected to participate in all orientation sessions and activities. Orientation week will include:

- Campus registration (UMN ID card, student email accounts setup, student bus pass registration, etc.)
- An introduction to U.S. classroom expectations
- An overview of their academic program
- Campus tour
- ESL proficiency/placement exams
- Using the Metro Transit and campus shuttle bus systems
- Expectations for the host family experience
- Interactive games and activities

### **American Culture, Education, and Society Course**

In this course, students will be introduced to intercultural competence concepts, theories, frameworks, and models through a variety of learning methods, including lectures, activities, readings, reflections, and written assignments. Students will also be introduced to major events in U.S. history, and will learn about aspects of current issues in U.S. culture. Students are encouraged to think critically about course topic and expected to contribute to class discussions and activities.

This course is designed to teach students about the basic, foundational concepts of culture and communication in multi-cultural and cross-cultural

environments. The course material is designed to help students engage to the best of their ability in other aspects of the EFGC program, including host family and campus life.

The course will explore the impact of culture in our lives, both formally and informally. In this course, culture is defined broadly to include race, ethnicity, gender, age, socio-economic class, and so on. Students will be encouraged to examine what influences their own culture, and to use their own reflections to promote the understanding and appreciation of multiple world-views.

### **Academic Writing Course**

In this course, students will:

- Improve their abilities to read a wide variety of authentic materials in English
- Use steps in the pre-reading process (preview, access prior knowledge, predict)
- Recognize organization of a reading—identify main ideas (stated or implied and supporting details)
- Improve their writing in English, both in paragraph responses and essay structures
- Begin to use the five steps of the writing process (brainstorm, organize, write, revise, and edit)
- Write about a reading by summarizing, paraphrasing, and responding in a critical and creative way
- Revise writing for content, organization, and development, and edit writing for grammar and mechanics
- Use context clues to understand vocabulary
- Become more familiar using a variety of sentence types, academic vocabulary, and grammatical structures

### **Academic Presentation Course**

In this course, students will:

- Improve their ability to read in English
- Discuss topics in American culture
- Give presentations on topics related to American culture
- Improve their listening comprehension skills
- Improve their writing in English
- Improve their vocabulary in academic English
- Improve their speaking fluency and pronunciation
- Learn about interviewing skills
- Practice giving and commenting on their classmates' presentations
- Learn how to scan and skim when reading long articles

## **Cultural and Academic Field Trips**

The EFGC program complements in-class learning with cultural and academic field trips outside of the classroom. Students will have the opportunity to participate in service learning activities, visit historical sites in Minneapolis and St. Paul, and visit regional university campuses. Whenever possible, the field trips will be timed to coincide with course content.

Past field trip locations have included the following:

- Minneapolis Institute of the Arts
- Midtown Global Market
- Minnesota State Capitol Tour
- Cathedral of Saint Paul
- Ebenezer Retirement Community
- University of Minnesota-Duluth
- University of St. Thomas
- St. Cloud State University
- Target Field

Prior to each field trip, students will be prepped on the experience and introduced to the significance of the visit, thereby maximizing learning opportunities from the experience. This may include readings, vocabulary reviews, and in-class discussions. During and after each excursion, participants will be asked to debrief each experience through a series of reflective discussions and/or writings. By the end of the program, students will be able to:

- Understand how they learn and use knowledge
- Recognize different learning and communication styles
- Approach learning in new ways
- Better understand people who learn and interact in dissimilar ways

## **Contact Information**

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