

Chinese Bridge High School Summer Camp FAQ

Application Related:

1. Can students from heritage families apply for the summer camp?

The program is designed to stimulate interest in students to learn Chinese, especially those who have not or have just begun learning Chinese language and culture. If there are too many students from heritage families, we will not be able to maximize our impact, as these students have already been speaking the language and understand the culture for many years. Also, in China, we have an organization called Overseas Chinese Affairs Office under the State Council. They have a summer camp program targeting only the students from heritage families, so there will be an overlap for our target groups.

Also, most heritage speakers have already attained a very high level of Chinese. With our program design, those non-heritage students and Chinese beginners would benefit much more than the heritage students.

We can accept students with zero knowledge of Chinese, and those in Chinese I, II, or even III, but priority will be given to students with no prior training or those who are early beginners. Please pay attention to the factor of too many different levels of Chinese in one group. It's ideal to limit the number of levels

of Chinese in one group to 2, or even 3. At the moment, the host institution simply cannot provide one on one instruction or too many small classes.

Considering all these factors, we would prefer to give the opportunity to students who would not readily have access to Chinese language and culture or are just beginning to learn the language. But of course, we understand that it would not be fair to completely exclude heritage students. We would suggest limiting the number of heritage speakers to within 10% of the total students in your group.

2. Should the students be U.S. citizens?

Yes, the student applicants should be US citizens. However, if the students are immigrants with US Green Card, they can also apply. While in screening, you need to provide Hanban with detailed information (including their academic records, school performance, family background, interest and achievements in Chinese, etc.) about those students for our approval.

3. Is it okay for the Chinese teacher going with the group of students to write one recommendation letter on behalf of the entire group? In some cases, there is only one teacher going so it is quite a lot for them to write so many individual letters. Would it be okay if a non-Chinese teacher (such as

an English, History or Math teacher) wrote the recommendation letter for the student?

Yes, it is okay for the Chinese teacher (chaperone) to write one letter on behalf of all his/her students. Also it would be okay for a non-Chinese teacher to write the letter for students.

4. In regards to the recommendation letter: “Would it be okay if the Chinese teachers just give a very brief description of the students about their grade and their attitude towards Chinese learning?”

It is better that teachers give a detailed description of the students, which will further help the Confucius Institutes’ screening. But if teachers have to write recommendation letters for many students, it would be okay that they give a brief description, at least including their academic performance, their activities in school and their attitude towards China or Chinese learning.

5. For the teachers’ applications to the summer camp, is there a separate application form for chaperones? Do teachers only need to submit a copy of their CV, or do they need to provide other documentation as well?

There is no separate application form for chaperones. Teachers only need to submit a copy of their CV for Confucius Institute screening and Hanban approval. The screening is based on the requirements mentioned in our 2009 Chinese Bridge Summer Camp plan. They do not have to submit other

documentation.

6. Is this program open to rising ninth graders in high school?

This program is open to students in 9-12 grade, aging 14-18. If students are rising ninth graders or going to graduate from high school this summer, it would also be okay for them to submit applications.

7. Where do students send their applications?

Students participating through the Confucius Institute at the University of Rhode Island need to send in their applications before the deadline on March 25th, 2009. The Confucius Institutes will conduct primary selections in accordance with the application materials; indentify qualified candidates and summary information into a list (already offered in our program plan), which needs to be submitted to Hanban prior to March 31st, 2009.

8. How should applications be submitted?

Applications can be submitted to the Confucius Institute at URI by either email or snail-mail. If you email your application, please make sure it is in PDF format, otherwise simply mail completed application form to address given on application form for the Confucius Institute at URI.

9. When is the final list of participants in the Hanban program released?

The Confucius Institute at URI will be notified on April 17th, 2009 of the final list of students selected to participate in the program. At this time, students will be notified and necessary documents to obtain the visa will be collected by the Confucius Institute at URI.

Travel, Insurance and Visa related:

10. How are tickets purchased?

Tickets may be purchased through the Confucius Institute, or independently if that better suits your budget and schedule. It is strongly recommended that students allow the Confucius Institute to purchase the tickets through their travel agent, as this makes scheduling much simpler to coordinate with so many students.

If you choose to purchase tickets independently, you are responsible for coordinating arrival and departure times to sync up with the rest of the group.

11. Do the kids need to have had their passports for more than 6 months before the arrival date to be eligible to apply?

When they apply, they do not necessarily have to have that, but it is requirements for all visitors to China have a passport that is valid at least 6 months from their arrival date. In this case, since all our students will arrive on

July 15th, 2009, their passport expiration date needs to be after January 15th, 2010.

12. How are the visas obtained, and how much will it cost?

Once notified, all relevant documents are given to the Confucius Institute, which are processed through the China Silk Tours travel agency in New York City. The cost of the visa is \$150.00 each.

13. What documents are needed for the visa?

Accepted students will be notified immediately of what documents they will need to give to the Confucius Institute to obtain the visa. PASSPORT IS NECESSARY.

14. What is the international travel insurance? Is it mandatory to have for every student who participates in the program?

Every student has to purchase international insurance. Once the students arrive in China, a few of them may become sick because they do not adjust to the new environment physically or mentally. If they need to be sent to hospitals, it is the international insurance that pays for the cost. Of course if they are not sick enough, the host school's infirmary will help deal with this. In addition to the sickness, there might be other emergencies. In order to deal with these emergencies appropriately, we require that students purchase international

insurance.

15. Does Hanban provide medical insurance?

We will only cover travel and living expenses while in China (not airfare). It is the students' obligation to get insurance for their study in China.

Cost Related:

16. Will the liaison/chaperone be responsible for his/her international round trip tickets, as is the case for the students?

Yes, the liaison/chaperone must be responsible for their own international round trip tickets.

17. Who is to sponsor the students' travel while in China?

Hanban will cover students' cost in China, which includes accommodation, transportation and cultural tourism.

Itinerary Related:

18. Where will students go after Beijing?

We plan to send students to a province after their visit in Beijing. This changes every year, so when the students are selected for the trip, they will be alerted to the full itinerary.

Logistics Related:

19. Where will the students stay while they are in China? Host families, school dormitories, or hotels?

They will stay in school dormitories. The host school will provide student housing appropriate for accommodating international students. Every two students will share one unit (the teachers in charge will have a single-bed unit). The dormitory buildings have telephone lines, air conditioning, laundry facilities and a lounge space.

20. What (daily necessities) do students need to bring with for daily life?

Students will live in school dorm while in China. Usually there are sinks, towels, soaps, slippers, shampoo, etc. in the dorm. Students would need to bring daily clothes, casual shoes, general medicine, and other essentials they need in daily life, such as makeup, deodorant, umbrellas, etc. If students take medicine regularly for asthma, diabetes and so on, they should bring all medicine in original containers, with a note from their doctor in the U.S. in case of emergency.

21. How will the students do their laundry?

Usually there are several automatic washing machines in the dorm. The host schools will make arrangements for students to do their laundry. They will either distribute washing cards/access for students to do laundry themselves or

collect students' clothes and do laundry for them.

22. What type of food will be served to the students every day? All Asian food, or some western food?

The host school will provide food that is rich in flavor, reaching hygiene standards and suitable to foreigners' taste. It needs to be able to satisfy special requirements such as vegetarians too. Western food will also be made available.

23. Are there computers with internet access or international phones that the students can contact their families with, and will the parents be able to contact the students if needed?

The host schools all have computer rooms where students are able to log onto the internet and send emails to their families and friends. Also there are international phones in students' dormitory for calling home.

We will provide the contact person of each host school to parents before students depart for China. Thus, when parents are not able to contact their kids, they could call the contact person in the host school, who will always be with the kids.

24. If the camps are set up in the schools, what type of schools specifically?

The host schools are elementary or secondary schools Hanban recommends for

helping promote Chinese language and culture. These schools are usually experienced in international education exchange and they have plenty of qualified Chinese language teachers and staff; as well as enough facilities for students' entertainment, sporting and medication.

Chaperone Related:

25. I will have students coming from different schools. Am I responsible to arrange a teacher to lead for every 9-10 students?

Yes, you have to arrange a chaperon for every 9-10 students. If it is really difficult for you to arrange enough chaperones for students, the ratio between chaperones and students can be as low as 1:15, as long as it is in line with legal requirements in the U.S.

26. The information package mentioned a "Teacher" with a list of qualifications which included Chinese (speaking?) teachers. Does it mean that a Chinese speaking teacher is required to lead the group?

It is better that Chinese language teachers will lead students, but if the chaperone is not a Chinese language teacher, he or she must have teaching experience in K-12 and must be experienced in student management. Also, he or she must meet the other requirements mentioned in the list of qualifications.

27. Are Parents allowed to accompany the students on the trip?

We do not encourage that parents accompany students on their trip to China.

For additional information, please feel free to contact the following people:

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