

# Teaching and Community with the Amity Foundation

*Nanjing, China*

June 4 – August 6, 2018



## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

This summer the CPGC is offering up to three summer internship placements with the Amity Foundation in Nanjing, China. The Amity Foundation, an independent Chinese voluntary organization, was created in 1985 on the initiative of Chinese Christians to promote education, social services, health, and rural development in China. Through the promotion of holistic development and public welfare, Amity serves society benefits the people, and strives to promote world peace. This internship has three main components: working with the Amity Foundation in Nanjing, participating in community work in the urban areas of Jiangsu province, and the Summer English Camp.

## **SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM**

During the first half of their stay in China, interns will participate fully in Amity's Social Services Center at its Nanjing headquarters. Activities can include

- Volunteering as classroom aides at Amity's Children Development Center, a preschool for autistic children up to age seven;
- Teaching English at Amity's Home of Blessings, which runs a vocational program for mentally disabled individuals;
- Assisting in the daily operations of the Amity Foundation;
- Participate in art classes to experience aspects of traditional Chinese culture, such as calligraphy, Chinese painting etc;
- Volunteering in local community centers to provide services to the elderly and experience traditional Chinese folk arts;

Every year, the participants in this program have found that the more energy they put into the wider communities surrounding the Amity Foundation in their spare time, the more satisfied they were with the experience. Those interns who take time in the evenings to engage with the local community in Nanjing in creative ways have had more fun and have made stronger connections to the people of China than students who have opted to go out on the town. They also return to Haverford with a deeper understanding of contemporary social issues in China.

## **Outreach in the Service Learning Program**

Interns will have opportunity to travel to Kunshan (close to Shanghai in Jiangsu Province) and work in the local community center which is also managed by Amity Foundation. In 2017, interns spent 1-2 weeks doing this work at the end of June/early July. This proves to be an important opportunity to learn about educational practices in more informal settings, and will

inform the second portion of the summer camp program, in which students undertake a leading role for Chinese teenagers in western areas of China.

### **SUMMER ENGLISH CAMP**

The Amity's Summer English Program (SEC) invites international volunteers to lead English camps for Chinese teenagers in western areas of China. During the camp, CPGC interns and other SEC volunteers spend three weeks teaching English to middle school students (ages 12-18). Bi-Co interns have been placed in Jiuquan, Gansu Province since year 2016. Apart from improving the English proficiency of camp participants, all the interns have broadened the horizon of the participants with their profound and diversified cultural background. Interns will participate in a five-day training with the other Amity volunteers before they travel to their placement sites. Bi-Co interns will learn their SEC placement in May 2018.

2018 SEC schedule:

July 9-13 Orientation in Amity Nanjing

July 14-15 Settle in to local sites, opening ceremony

July 16- August 2 Teaching

August 3-6 Travel to Shanghai for debriefing, closing ceremony, departure

Applicants are HIGHLY encouraged to contact past interns to gain a more complete understanding of the program's requirements and intricacies. Contact Jessie Chen ([jchen7@brynmawr.edu](mailto:jchen7@brynmawr.edu)) or Jimmy Wu ([jrwu@haverford.edu](mailto:jrwu@haverford.edu)).

### **NUTS AND BOLTS**

**Eligibility:** This internship is open to Haverford and Bryn Mawr students; however, it is not open to Chinese nationals. While the study of Mandarin is strongly recommended for students wishing to participate, an interest in the culture and mission of Amity is vital. Students with two years or more of language instruction may find that they are much better prepared for the teaching and communication components of living in China. Students with classroom education experience and/or education coursework will be given extra consideration.

**Application Information:** Applicants must submit an application form, an unofficial transcript, and a recommendation form completed by a faculty member. Apply through [CPGC's website](#). The deadline for this internship is Sunday, February 4, 2018 via the CPGC's online application platform. Selected applicants will be contacted for an interview in mid to late February. Decisions will be announced around Spring Break, 2018. Students selected for the interview will be asked to bring a lesson plan for a 45-minute conversational English lesson.

**CPGC's Internship Program:** All CPGC internships are part of a larger framework that goes beyond just a grant. Internships include pre-departure programming and post-internship requirements. More specific information about these crucial elements of programming can be found on the CPGC website. **Interested applicants must meet with the Manager of International Programs, Stephanie Zukerman.**

**Stipend:** During this ten-week program, the CPGC will cover interns' expenses for food, flights and ground transportation, lodging, visas and vaccinations. The Center will pay the Summer Earning Expectation for students receiving financial aid in 2018-19.

**Preparing for working and teaching in China:** Working as a team of interns is important for this internship. Interns will need to work together to prepare lesson plans before landing in Nanjing, and you'll be expected to share teaching tools with one another before the SEC begins.

We have received feedback from our partners at Amity that interns will be expected to dress more professionally and conservatively than you might in the United States. We are looking for interns prepared to adjust their behavior in order to work within different cultural—and organizational parameters.