2010 Winter Chinese Bridge Program Application F&Q

1. Is this program open to participants from past “Chinese Bridge for American Schools” delegation?

Participants in past delegation are eligible to apply, with exception of participants in the 2009 Chinese Bridge Delegation: Taking the Next Step (Dec 2-10, 2009) and the 2010 Chinese Bridge Delegation: Taking the Next Step (June 21-29). Combined the exploration of Chinese language, culture, and society with educational workshops and school visits, the activities and itinerary of this winter delegation are specially tailored to the needs of schools and district looking for resources to start offering Chinese language and/or culture courses in the next 3 years, and also serves to facilitate the needs of those planning to expanding their existing Chinese programs by establishing partnership with local Chinese schools.

2. What is the general itinerary plan for the trip?

The delegation will first arrive in Beijing, where they attend the official welcoming event and explore the city for a few days. Then the delegation is divided into groups to visit one of several host provinces, where they will participate in educational activities, visit schools, do sight-seeing etc. to experience the diversity of the landscape and culture of regional China. Please note that daily schedule begins in the early morning and continues through the evening, therefore is quite demanding on the physics. Delegates are expected to attend all activities and events, therefore it is important that applicants should be in a relatively healthy condition.

3. Do I need to make arrangement for my own international flight?

No. Each Confucius Institute is responsible to book group international air tickets for the delegates they recruited. The delegates will need to pay for the airfare in full to the CI prior to the trip; when the program finishes and delegates have returned to the U.S., the CI will reimburse 50% of the ticket cost to each delegate.

4. Costs involved:

Delegates are provided with, and do not need to pay for accommodations, food and travel expenses in China. However they are responsible to pay for:
1. Their independent domestic travel to and from designated U.S. hub cities;
2. 50% of the cost of their international round-trip airfare between U.S. and China;
3. Application fees for obtaining independent Chinese tourist visa.

5. How do I know if my participation is permissible under applicable laws?

Requirements vary by state/locality. You need to make sure whether there are rules that may
affect your ability to participate in and/or accept the sponsored airfare, accommodations, food and travel expenses in China. To find out the relevant information, you need to consult your employer’s legal and/or ethics office. Some concerns may include applicable ethics, conflict of interest guidelines for public employees (e.g. elected or appointed officials, employees of agencies, superintendents, etc.)

6. **What type of accommodation is provided in China?**
We provide single-room accommodation in three or four-star hotels, which are authorized to host international guests. **Delegates will receive the name and addresses of their hotels prior to departure.**

7. **Can my spouse and/or guests accompany me in the program?**

Due to the nature of this educational trip, spouse and other guests are not eligible to join the Delegation. If you have made arrangement for friend or family to travel in China at the same time, please be advised that they will not be able to attend the delegation events and activities and need to pay for their own accommodations, meals and other expenses in China.

8. **Can I depart from the Delegation or choose not to attend events during the trip?**
Delegates are hosted in China as the guests of Hanban/Confucius Institute Headquarters, who organizes and sponsors this program. Except in the case of illness or other unforeseen emergencies, delegates are expected to attend ALL scheduled events and to stay with their assigned group at all times. Due to the size of the delegation and for safety reasons, delegates are not permitted to leave the group, and will be responsible for their own safety, well-being, transportation, and expenses, if they separate from the group.

9. **Can I arrive early/late? Can I stay in China after the program?**

Due to the complex logistics involved and tight schedule of the delegation program, delegates must travel to China with the delegation on their designated flight. It is not possible to request an earlier or later departure from the U.S. to China since most delegates will arrive in a group. However, if any delegates want to extend their stay in China after the delegation, they may request a later date for their return trip from Beijing to the U.S. -- this will be subject to availability and any extra costs and travel arrangements may incur.