



Two-Week International Professional Exchange Program

Overview

The Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs (ICISP) is pleased to be able to offer a Two-Week International Professional Exchange Program with China (Xi'an) and the Netherlands, Finland and Switzerland. Applicants will be matched as closely as possible with an overseas participant with similar job responsibilities. Other match factors such as age, gender, personal interests, and family composition will be incorporated into the matching process when possible. The two-week period will allow for approximately nine days of professional exchange, three days of weekend time, plus a day for orientation upon arrival. English is spoken in most exchange locations, which enhances both the professional and personal aspects of the exchange.

Arrangements for the exchanges are made by ICISP in cooperation with the home college. These exchanges involve home stay to defray some costs of the exchange and to provide increased opportunities for exposure to the cultural aspects of the exchange. ICISP exchange participants will first host their incoming exchange partners in mid-October, and complete their outgoing exchange visit in mid-May.

Qualifications

To qualify for the program, all participants must:

1. Be a full-time employee of the college;
2. Complete the application form;
3. Complete any home college procedures for application;
4. Make a commitment to share the experience upon return;
5. Make a commitment to complete an evaluation of the experience upon return.

Exchange Locations

Regardless of your exchange location, you will be able to study and observe students, faculty and administrators in post-secondary studies. Most of the exchange sites are similar to American community and technical colleges. The sites provide vocational career education to both full-time and part-time students of all ages. Some of the sites provide a third or fourth year of study for students in particular fields. General education courses are offered in all of these vocational programs thus enabling us to provide some exchanges for faculty teaching general education courses.

Exchange Matching Variables

A thorough completion of the application form is very important to the exchange process. The professional objectives for the exchange are the primary criteria for making your match; however, factors such as age, gender, and personal interests will be taken into consideration because of the home stay exchange aspect. We want our exchange partners to enjoy the home stay as well as the professional study part of their exchanges. We will also try to take into consideration such factors as smoking and diet preferences.

Exchange matching is arranged by ICISP exchange contacts and communicated by ICISP staff to ICISP representatives. Other arrangements or changes should not be made without involvement and approval through ICISP.

Each year the applicant pool varies. Applicants who are not matched are strongly encouraged to reapply.

Timetable

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| February | Applications made available |
| April 1 | Application with appropriate college signatures due to ICISP |
| April/May | Preliminary matches made |
| June | Notification of successful matches Visa Process begins for China exchange participants |
| July | Late matches as necessary |
| Mid-September | Orientation |
| Mid-October | Arrival of participants abroad |
| Mid-May | Departure of US participants |

US participants will be expected to make arrangements to pick up their exchange partner at O'Hare, Madison, Appleton, or St. Louis when they arrive and to return or provide transportation to the airport for departure.

Costs

ICISP College's Obligations (per participant)

- Airfare to travel to exchange destination, \$1000.00 - \$1500.00 (depending on destination country)
- Travel reimbursement for selected participants to attend orientation (1 day typically in September)
- ICISP administrative fee \$100.00
- Ordinary professional expenses (conference and other fees)

Host's Obligations

- Room and board (all meals during stay)
- Local transportation
- Ordinary entertainment or entertainment at the host's invitation
- Gifts
- Any travel outside of the period of the exchange program (Often participants elect to extend their travel)
- Arrangements necessary for visa (China only)
- A passport valid 6 months after travel period
- Health insurance coverage (if not provided already)

Visitor's Obligations

- Optional travel related to visit
- Gifts
- Arrangements necessary for visa (China only)
- A passport valid 6 months after travel period
- Health insurance coverage (if not provided already)

Orientation

After notification of acceptance into the program, all participants are required to attend the orientation scheduled for a Saturday in September. Orientations are typically held at Elgin Community College, Fox Valley Technical College, John A. Logan College, and Parkland College. This orientation is required for all participants and detailed information will be sent to all participants after their acceptance into the program. An online orientation may be made available.

Schedule of Activities

To make this a valuable experience, a schedule of activities will be arranged for the overseas participant by the US host, taking into consideration the expressed interests of the overseas participant. The following are some of the types of activities participants may elect to participate in: lecturing or giving lab demonstrations on pre-arranged topics, speaking to faculty or community groups, observing the programs offered to learn about a different system of education, visiting other colleges or universities, visiting community-based professional, business, industrial, or social organizations, having a chance to socialize with people of another country, and seeing some of the local area.

Housing

During your exchange, you will be expected to provide room and board for your guest while he/she is in our country, and you will stay with your counterpart while in their country. Accommodations do not need to be elaborate, but separate sleeping facilities and appropriate bathroom facilities are a necessity. Consideration should also be made related to laundry, phone usage, and weekend family activities.

Assistance During the Exchange

To ensure the best possible exchange, participants are asked to work closely with their home college ICISP representative and the exchange contacts. The home college ICISP representative is available to both the host and the exchange visitor if questions or problems should arise in the US.

Health Insurance

Please check your home college insurance to see if out-of-country travel is covered. Purchase of travel health coverage is recommended especially if additional travel is planned.

Travel

The short duration of this visit does not allow for extensive travel in your host country. You can gain a great deal from spending your weekends with your host family during both parts of the exchange. If you desire to extend your stay following the professional part of your exchange in May, you may make arrangements for this at the time that you arrange for your tickets.

Note: This is a professional exchange: Spouse/children/significant others are not allowed to join you during this exchange. We encourage you to invite them to join you following the professional exchange, if you so desire.

Evaluation

Following the exchange, participants are asked to complete an Evaluation of the Program form, which will be provided in June. This information will assist ICISP in improving the program in subsequent years.

Additional Information

Consult with your home college ICISP representative or another faculty or administrator on your campus who has participated in the program.

Exchange Contacts:

Europe: Sangeeta Kumar, (708) 596-2000, ext. 2574, skumar@ssc.edu
Albert Jackson, (708) 596-2000, ext. 2349, ajackson@ssc.edu

China: Li-hua Yu, SOC461@clcollinois.edu, (847) 543-2741