

**“I came as a stranger, and left
with many friends”**

Amity Summer English Program

“Initially my friends thought I was crazy to consider leaving my home and work for one month to teach in China. I am glad I didn’t listen to my friends. This has been a very meaningful experience, one that I will always treasure. My students not only improved their English-speaking ability, but also developed self-confidence and critical-thinking skills.

I came as a stranger and left with many friends.” – Lynn Robinson

Every summer, Amity promotes this kind of cross-cultural dialogue as English-speaking volunteers work with rural Chinese teachers of English to develop their listening and speaking skills. Chinese participants see foreign friends engaged in service that directly benefits their communities, while volunteers gain a deeper understanding of an important and growing nation that is often misunderstood and misrepresented in their own countries. Seemingly small seeds of faith and friendship are sown in these summer conversations, but taken together they point the way to a greater harvest of development and peace.

If you are a fluent English speaker interested in offering a month of service in China, think about joining Amity's Summer English Program. We know a lot of people who are eager to have a conversation with a good teacher -- how about you?

FAQ's about the SEP:

If I'm not a professional teacher, can I still apply?

Teaching experience—especially *English teaching* experience—is always helpful, but it is not necessary. Many of our volunteers are not teachers by profession.

What the Chinese participants need most is practice in listening and speaking; as a fluent speaker of English you already have the basic skills necessary to provide that practice.

For the benefit of those who don't have a teaching background, Amity provides some basic teacher training during the orientation prior to the start of the Summer English Programs.

Would I be teaching alone or on a team?

Volunteers work with a team, and teams are usually made up of 4-6 members.

If you are affiliated with a church, you may apply through your denominational sending agency and that agency will be responsible for screening applications and grouping team members.

It simplifies the process if you and a group of friends can apply as a team, but if you apply individually, the sending agency will help to place you on a team with other interested volunteers.

If you are more comfortable with an independent approach, you may apply to Amity directly—either as a group or individually.

In the case of independent applications, Amity will facilitate the process of team formation.

Are there other requirements to consider before I apply?

There are five basic requirements for team members:

1. You must be willing to observe the laws and ordinances of the Chinese govt. and refrain from any activity of a proselytizing nature.
2. You need a college degree. If most members of a team are experienced teachers, the team can include someone that does not have a degree.
3. You need to be in good health and be willing to work in tough, hot conditions.
4. Each individual teacher must make sure that his/her trip to China is properly covered by medical insurance.
5. If you are new to Amity's Summer Programs, you must be 70 years old or younger for service on a summer team. Veteran SEP volunteers may apply up to the age of 75.

** SEP volunteers should not take their children to the program since there may be possible problems such as creating conflicts within the team, or conflicts between the parent's team responsibilities and parenting responsibilities, and it may cause an additional burden to the host school.

How much does it cost?

Either you or your sending agency is responsible for arranging and paying for the following:

- Transportation from your home country to Nanjing before the program.
- Your China visa
- Your medical insurance
- Transportation from Shanghai back to your home country after the program has finished.

In addition, each volunteer pays a block grant of US\$ 1,200.00 to cover orientation costs, domestic travel, and other program costs.

The payment should be made to Amity before or during the Nanjing orientation.

What are the dates for the program?

The exact dates for the program change from year to year, but generally speaking, the program runs from the beginning to the end of July.

There is a 3-day orientation in Nanjing during the first week of July. Teams then travel to their sites and teach Mon. - Fri. during the following 3 weeks. Finally, there is a 1-day debriefing in Shanghai.

Exact program dates for any given year should be available on the Amity website by October of the previous year.

The dates of 2014 SEP will be from July 7 (Mon.) through August 3 (Sun.).

How do I apply?

The Amity SEP application form is available on our website.

If you are applying through a sending agency, check with that sending agency to clarify how to proceed in filling out the application. They may have other forms for you to fill out as well.

If you are applying individually, simply print the application form and health questionnaire from the website. After you fill them out, post them or send scanned copies by email to us.

If I have further questions, whom should I contact?

Our website is a good source of information.

Look for: www.amityfoundation.org

When you initially reach the website, choose the English version and then look for information about the SEP. You can also find our *SEP Handbook* and our teaching materials under "Teaching Resources".

For certain questions, you may want to contact a representative from your sending agency, but to contact us directly, use the information provided below:

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