



LEAD ENGAGE ADVANCE DISCOVER

You can be a LEADER!



Asian Affairs Center
University of Missouri

Updated on : February 21, 2025



Dear Future LEADers,

The MU Asian Affairs Center has been working with university students from Asia for over 25 years, accumulating the knowledge on how to help prepare them to be global and international professionals. Through this program, you will gain the confidence and skills to become cross-culturally competent and more marketable internationally. Our excellent faculty provide courses that are globally relevant and will increase your leadership skills, English fluency, and intercultural acuity. Your coursework will be enhanced by community involvement, American peers, and diverse hands-on activities, allowing you to LIVE in ENGLISH while you are here.

LEAD is designed with your future in mind. We will give you the tools to succeed; all you have to do is engage in the program with an open-minded attitude to transform yourself to be more international and global. I truly look forward to welcoming you in person on the Mizzou Campus.

Sincerely,



*Sang S. Kim, Director
MU Asian Affairs Center &
Missouri International Training Institute*

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

CLASSES

Coursework provided by the AAC's Missouri International Training Institute is designed to enhance students' confidence in English by developing their presentation, general conversation, facilitation, writing, and critical thinking skills, as well as improving their ability to navigate practical, real-world communication scenarios.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FIELD EXPERIENCE

Students will learn about healthy community-building through interactive field experiences that will complement coursework in the same area. Students will have the opportunity to select a variety of site visits or volunteering based on their interests, curiosities, and career goals. The diversity of experiences will allow students to learn about a wider breadth of professions and community service organizations, and help them to understand how these organizations strengthen our local community. Field experiences will include companies or organizations related to business, technology, hard sciences, environment, education, community, and government.

AMERICAN AMBASSADORS

American Collegiate Ambassadors are what bring the program together, fostering authentic, personal connections that immerse participants in a genuine American experience – making it both enriching and memorable. These American college students come from diverse backgrounds and are integrated into the program in many ways. They serve as conversation partners and cultural guides, helping students enhance their English language skills and cultural understanding, while also participating in in-person activities and cultural site visits. Beyond structured activities, Ambassadors act as go-to guides, offering insights into American daily life, culture, and everyday spoken English. Through these cross-cultural connections, students build meaningful friendships and professional networks that often extend well beyond the program.

CULTURAL SITE VISITS AND ACTIVITIES

Students will engage in a variety of activities designed to enhance cultural awareness and provide firsthand experience of life in America. These activities include attending festivals, sporting events, and visiting historical and recreational sites both locally and across Missouri.

PEER EDUCATORS

Peer educators accompany students in their *Trends & Culture in the U.S.* course, offering deeper insights into American society. They help students understand key concepts covered in class, providing context and support for a more comprehensive grasp of the topics.



THE SPECIFICS



Gain the confidence and skills to market yourself on a global scale.

Develop tools and strategies to become a forward-thinking leader.

Receive instruction from experienced faculty with years of career experience and education.

Make lifelong friendships with American students and your program peers.

Visit a variety of professional, historical, and cultural sites in Missouri.

Live in English!



Fall 2025

**Tuesday, August 19 -
Friday, December 5**

(arrival date Aug. 15 - 17 | departure on/after December 6)
Application Deadline: April 15, 2024 (or earlier)

Spring 2026

**Tuesday, January 20 -
Friday, May 8**

(arrival date Jan. 16 - 18 | departure on/after May 9)
Application Deadline: October 15, 2025 (or earlier)



VISA TYPE: J-1 Student, Non-Degree DS-2019

ELIGIBILITY:

Must be a current international university student or recent graduate.

**Minimum requirements: TOEFL iBT 55 IELTS 5.5
TOEIC 550 | CET 4-6 | Duolingo 80**

**Preferred requirements: TOEFL iBT 61 IELTS 6.0
TOEIC 800 | CET 4-6 | Duolingo 85**

If you do not have official test scores, a video interview will be conducted to determine eligibility

16 WEEKS = A LIFETIME OF EXPERIENCE!



PROGRAM FEES & OTHER EXPENSES

GENERAL PROGRAM FEES

\$5,000

- All courses including instruction and course materials
- University facility access/usage fees
- Instructional site visits, field trips, and related costs
- Application and visa document (DS-2019) processing

HOUSING, DINING, INCIDENTALS

COSTS WILL VARY

- You will complete your application directly through the MU Residential Portal.
- We encourage you to select a room with a domestic roommate.
- Your fees will vary depending on your preferences and selections during the application process, as well as residence hall availability.

EXPENSE BREAKDOWN

Program Fees

Tuition: ^[1]	\$3,800
University facility fees:	\$ 400
Activity fees: ^[2]	\$ 500
Application and DS-2019 processing:	\$ 300

Housing, Dining, Incidentals

Dormitory (1 semester): ^[3]	\$3,500-5,500
Dining (Gold Plan):	\$ 1,760
Health insurance:	\$ 950-1,000
Personal expenses (est.):	\$1,500

Total Program Fees:

\$5,000

Total Other:

\$7,710-\$9,760

^[1] These fees include computer labs and on-campus Wi-fi, libraries, recreation center (swimming pools, sauna, gymnasium, racquetball/squash courts, basketball courts, indoor track, soccer field, etc.)

^[2] This is for cultural and campus activities (often with collegiate ambassadors). For example, orientation, welcome lunch, field trips, graduation dinner. Includes all transportation and entrance fees. For full-day field trips, 1-2 meals will also be included.

^[3] Dormitory fees will vary depending on student's selection or availability

-- Cancellation Policy --

Selected students will be responsible for the following percentage of program fees:

- **\$300** any time after visa materials are submitted to the Asian Affairs Center **PLUS**
- **10%** if cancelled between 45 and 21 days prior to the beginning of the program; **OR**
- **20%** if cancelled between 20 and 0 days prior to the beginning of the program
- **NOTE:** You will also lose any deposits paid to MY housing or dining departments.



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS



STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION FOR GLOBAL SUCCESS (45 HOURS)

The main objective of this class is to improve the students' English skills and confidence in a variety of settings. By introducing students to multiple situations, they will be able to discern the appropriate tone and demeanor to use in any given interaction.

This is done through:

- Activities focused on improving pronunciation, intonation, and non-verbal communication.
- Teaching new vocabulary relevant to modern American culture.
- Examining proper usage for emails and professional correspondence.
- Increasing ability to speak comfortably in natural English settings.
- Using podcasts to increase listening and conversation skills.
- Creating individual podcasts, "TED Talk" and giving a final presentation to the public on their growth and experience while in the U.S.

TRENDS AND CULTURE IN THE US (45 HOURS)

This course aims to increase students' cross-cultural understanding through an in-depth look at what makes the United States unique culturally. Students will learn to recognize the stereotypes they have learned and will challenge how they understand American culture by examining US history and social movements. The class will incorporate guest speakers, American collegiate ambassadors and peer educators, allowing the students to understand American culture more deeply. Throughout the semester, students will examine topics of American culture, leading them up to a capstone project where they will present their thoughts and findings in a formal presentation. Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Understand many aspects of American culture, both from a broad perspective, as well as through a more individualized lens.
- Identify how history has led to social justice movements, which change cultural trends over time.
- Recognize what authentic American culture means and how it varies across regions.
- Interact with American peer educators and better understand American college life.
- Build their knowledge of a specific cultural topic to be presented in a capstone presentation.



“ *Every class, I could enjoy learning, and I never felt bored. Because we were actively engaged, the experience was very rewarding.* ”

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

NEXTGEN LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS (45 HOURS)

In this course, students will learn about leadership skills that have aided leaders across the world. They will spend time developing their own leadership skills through introspective activities. By learning about effective leaders and working with peers who have different skills, students will better understand the strengths and challenges of their own unique leadership style. By the end of the course, students should:

- Understand how different leadership styles can affect team work and management.
- Know the difference between managing and leading.
- Be able to articulate their own leadership style.
- Recognize leadership traits in people around them, and apply skills to more effectively work with others.
- Have a solid leadership portfolio for future reference and continued learning.

BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES (45 HOURS)

Strong communities are built on effective governance, civic engagement, healthy business ecosystems, rich culture, quality education, and the responsible use of resources. They also offer equitable opportunities and are considered safe and inclusive by their residents. This course will explore the characteristics of healthy communities while examining assets, areas of need, and potential barriers in the change process. The aims of the course are to:

- Introduce students to, and help students to clearly identify the characteristics of a healthy community ecosystem.
- Engage students in experimental learning through the creation of individual community maps.
- Introduce the importance of community feedback for community-based policies and services.
- Highlight need for community involvement including volunteering to be a positive force for change within their communities.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FIELD EXPERIENCE (HOURS VARY)

Designed to complement the *Building Strong Communities* course, this field experience will include opportunities for students to engage with the community through group volunteering, self-directed volunteering, local cultural experiences, and professional site visits. Students will see how all of these pieces fit into the wider community ecosystem. Students will increase their community awareness by:

- Engaging in hands-on experiences to actively contribute to the community
- Gaining insight into how different organizations directly affect individuals and communities
- Understanding how organizations work together.
- Immersing themselves in community activities.



***Academic transcripts will be provided upon completion of the program.**

SAMPLE CALENDARS

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00am-12:00pm	Strategic Communication			Trends & Culture	Grocery Shopping	Field Trips
12:00pm-1:30pm	Lunch					
1:30pm-4:30pm		NextGen Leadership	Building Strong Communities		Site Visits/ Volunteering	

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00am-12:00pm	Strategic Communication	Building Strong Communities	Trends & Culture	NextGen Leadership	Grocery Shopping	Field Trips
		Trends & Culture		NextGen Leadership		
				Building Strong Communities		
12:00pm-1:30pm	Lunch					
1:30pm-4:30pm	Building Strong Communities	NextGen Leadership	Building Strong Communities	Site Visits/ Volunteering	Site Visits/ Volunteering	
	Trends & Culture	NextGen Leadership	Trends & Culture			
	Strategic Communication	Strategic Communication	Strategic Communication			

**Note: Professional site visits and field trip times and days of the week will vary.
*Large groups will be sorted into cohorts of roughly equal size**



“LIVE ENGLISH”

The Asian Affairs Center’s educational philosophy on language and cultural acquisition is a full immersion approach. Program participants start “living” English and American culture, rather than studying them. The center fosters an optimal learning environment for participants to pursue that goal with community involvement, American collegiate ambassadors and peer educators, and an English-only policy through the program.

“ The AAC gave me a special opportunity. It gave me a unique opportunity express myself, immerse in an English-speaking environment, and lots of new experiences to help me grow! ”



ABOUT US

ASIAN AFFAIRS CENTER

The **Asian Affairs Center (AAC)**, created in 1998 by the MU Office of the Provost, reflects the university's formal recognition of cultural, strategic, and economic importance of the Pacific Rim. The Center has a mandate to build upon MU's substantial Asian programs, university and alumni linkages, and teaching and research connections in the region to benefit citizens, government entities, and businesses in Missouri.

MISSOURI INTERNATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

The **Missouri International Training Institute (MITI)**, established in partnership with the Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED), is housed within the Asian Affairs Center at the University of Missouri. Since 2000, MITI has provided international professionals and visiting scholars with training programs across various academic and professional fields. Leveraging resources from the university, state and local governments, and Missouri-based corporations, MITI offers customized and specialized educational programs ranging from one week to one year in length. To date, our alumni network includes more than 3,500 Asian scholars, government officials, professionals, and university students.

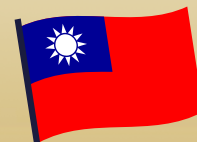


40+

**University
Partnerships in
Asia**

3,500+
participants

**from 12
countries**



THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI



The University of Missouri is a land grant, AAU (Association of American Universities), flagship university, located in Columbia, Missouri, USA. Established in 1839, Mizzou is the oldest public university west of the Mississippi River, an institution with rich traditions, a physically beautiful campus, and a strong commitment to furthering the tenets of respect, responsibility, discovery, and excellence.



With 13 schools and colleges offering more than 300 degree programs, and a total enrollment of more than 30,000 students, Mizzou is the birthplace of world-class research breakthroughs, home to Nobel prize winners, and produces Mizzou-made leaders of tomorrow. Find out more at <http://www.missouri.edu>

WHAT MAKES A TIGER

RESPECT

We commit to acting ethically, welcoming differences and exchanging ideas openly.

RESPONSIBILITY

We are accountable to ourselves, each other and the public we serve.

DISCOVERY

We foster the lifelong process of seeking knowledge and greater understanding.

EXCELLENCE

We reach for excellence through diligent effort and collaboration.





Asian Affairs Center

University of Missouri



asia.missouri.edu



umcaacoffice@missouri.edu



+1 573-882-6902