

Provision of a short course for students of Zhejiang University

The outstanding city of York and the beautiful lakeside university campus provide an ideal learning environment. We have over twenty years' experience in designing, teaching and administrating successful short-term programmes for students of our overseas' partners. This means that we can provide a successful and rewarding programme for students of Zhejiang University.

INTRODUCTION

The University of York

Just minutes from the historic centre of York, the University presently has over 17,000 students with over 30 academic departments and research centres. Highly rated amongst UK Universities, it regularly ranks highly for teaching quality.

York

One of Europe's most historic cities, York is a beautiful, safe and relatively small city but with a lively cultural life.



The Centre for Global Programmes (CGP)

Situated within the Global Engagement team, the Centre for Global Programmes provides summer schools and short courses both in York for partner universities, and at locations around the world for York students. The Centre also coordinates all York's study abroad and exchange programmes, overseas internships and international travel awards. All these programmes are designed to increase the participation of students and staff in international activity and connect York globally with partners around the world, many of which are also research partners.

CGP is a small and friendly centre. We get to know our participants and they get to know us.



The following outline syllabus can be considered a basis for discussion. On receipt of your expression of further interest, we will develop this descriptive account into detailed aims, syllabi and assessment plans in consultation with you.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Outline objectives

As one of the leading research institutions, environment, sustainability and resilience is one of the key research themes in York. The aim of this programme is to offer students the opportunity to learn about key environmental and sustainability issues, broaden students' knowledge of the latest research currently being implemented and to develop critical and creative thinking skills.

The key objectives can be selected from the following:

- To improve the participants' English language communication skills
- To develop students' intercultural competence
- To introduce and develop sound understanding of key issues, practices and research surrounding Environment, sustainability and resilience.

Programme content

We can offer the following components:

Academic lectures on Environment, Sustainability and Resilience

- Introduction to key themes
- Key practices and research currently employed in environment, sustainability and resilience

Academic Communication skills

- Revision of key language and concepts
- Asking and answering questions
- Agreeing and disagreeing; evaluating arguments
- Presenting opinions
- Summarising, reporting and paraphrasing
- Understanding key points and main ideas
- Understanding the lecture structure
- Taking notes
- Presentation skills

Site visits

- Visits to cultural and environmentally significant landmarks which ties in with key themes covered in the lectures.

Case studies and workshops

- Overview and activities to help develop a better understanding of the main themes
- Information gathering
- Considering further opportunities for research and innovation
- Problem-solving

Contact time will be 21 hours per week (Monday – Friday).

PROGRAMME DETAILS

Academic Lectures

will be delivered by renowned faculty members in fields of Environmental Sciences, Green Chemistry and Biology as well as contributions from the University of York's researchers and external speakers. These talks will provide the foundation of the programme with the discussion sessions and the trips providing further exploration of the key themes including marine conservation, water pollution, air quality, waste utilization, biofuel, mitigation, food resilience, green solvents and pesticides.

Academic communication skills

This component aims to provide students with the tools to develop their academic English with a focus on the key skills that are required for academic life in an English-speaking environment.

Workshops

These seminar-style sessions usually follow the keynote talks and will allow students to discuss the themes of the keynote talks in greater depth. Students will be expected to actively contribute to discussions by asking questions and giving opinions expected in top-class higher education institutions. These sessions will also help students to develop further understanding of the main factors and processes of the keynote talks in greater depth through critical evaluation of authentic collaborative problems.

Site visits

There will be visits to key sites and industries which are linked to the keynote talks.

Interaction with other students and social programme.

In order to further facilitate interaction with other international and home students, CGP will run weekly 'Conversation Afternoons' to which all university students are invited. These will take place in the Kitchen@Alcuin café and have proved extremely popular. There is also the scope for joining with other groups of CGP students for both classroom-based sessions and the trips in and around York.



Our approach to teaching

We aim to provide active and experiential learning with participants involved and engaged intellectually and affectively. Teachers will be responsive to participant needs and our programmes are designed to flexibly allow participants the opportunity to pursue their own personal and professional interests. We encourage and facilitate participants to use the university, their host families, if appropriate, and the city of York as resources in order to stimulate their use of English in practical situations.

Assessment

Assessment of participants can be arranged if desired, and grades sent within a reasonable time after the end of the programme. Individual reports on each student can also be supplied.

Programme evaluation

The programme will be evaluated both formatively and summatively.

Formative evaluation

Typically we use one-to-one tutorial meetings and end-of-week-one feedback questionnaire as a vehicle for mid-course formative evaluation. Tutors will continually monitor issues that arise in the delivery of the programme through reading individuals' journal entries and through regular contact with participants.

Summative evaluation

An online end-of-course written evaluation will inform us of revisions and adjustments to be made for future groups. A post-programme tutors' meeting will assess the effectiveness of the course structure, materials and activities, and generate action points to guide programme development. These will be followed up in a pre-course planning meeting for any further cohort. A programme report and evaluation will be sent after the programme along with participant grades and reports, as appropriate.

End of Programme Report

A full evaluative report will be prepared within a reasonable time after the end of the programme. It will summarise and assess the main components and include individual participant reports.

Certificate

On successful completion of the programme, participants will receive a University of York certificate of attendance.

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

A Programme Manager will be appointed to oversee all aspects of programme design. A Programme Administrator will handle all aspects of travel, accommodation and participant welfare and will be the participants' main point of contact while they are in York.

Dates

20 January - 7 February 2020

Accommodation and catering

Accommodation will be with homestay families in York. Breakfast and dinner will be provided with lunch at weekends.

The university has a wide range of cafes and restaurants for lunch as well as being a short walk from Heslington village and a 10-minute bus ride from the city centre.

Travel

We recommend arriving at either Manchester or Leeds-Bradford airport to minimise travel time after a long flight.

Class size and maximum numbers

The anticipated number of students is 10-15 per institution. They will be taught in two groups.

Independent travel

We can assist participants who wish to travel during or after the programme. The timetable will be arranged to allow two long weekends for independent trips. If required, we can also arrange weekend visits to London, Edinburgh or Stratford or other places of interest.



STAFFING

Teaching will be carried out by qualified and experienced staff. All teachers have specialist qualifications in English Language Teaching. Senior staff involved in this programme would include the following:

Matt Smelt-Webb (Head of York Courses, Centre for Global Programmes) studied Economics at the University of Manchester, holds a post-graduate certificate and diploma in English Language Teaching and has a Masters in Management from the University of Durham Business School. He has 20 years' experience of teaching English for General, Specific and Academic Purposes and he has taught and developed courses in professional communication skills to managers and diplomats in the UK and overseas. After training in Oman, he worked in Turkey, The Czech Republic and Portugal and became a Director of Studies at International House, Lodz, Poland and trained teachers in the Baltic States before returning to the UK to work as a Business English and Communication Skills trainer for York Associates. He managed and developed bespoke specialist programmes at the Centre for English Language Teaching for fourteen years before he and his team joined with the Study Abroad Office to form the new Centre for Global Programmes. His publications include a business grammar pack and teacher's books for business English course books.

Nick Milner (Deputy Head of York Courses) has over 25 years of experience working in ELT as a teacher, teacher trainer and manager. He worked in Spain for 10 years teaching both General and Business English, including work as a Cambridge Examiner. He then worked in Cambridge and York as a Director of Studies before spending 6 years working as Head of the International Department at a private secondary school. As well as a BA in English and a postgraduate certificate in teaching, Nick holds a diploma in ELT Management and specialises in professional development and teacher training.

Dr. Andrew Kerrigan (Programme Manager) has been researching and teaching English language, linguistics and culture for over 12 years and has worked in a range of universities and language schools in the UK and in continental Europe. As an independent scholar he holds a doctorate in English Studies from the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow specialising in critical discourse analysis and cognitive theory of metaphor. As an educator, he specialises in creating and delivering tailor-made professional development courses for international students and academics. He is also responsible for the integration of CGP students with the York student body.

PROGRAMME COSTS (2020)

Guideline costs for a programme per participant are as follows:

Tuition fee £349.00 per week

Accommodation with host family £180.50 per week

Notes:

1. The student and teaching staff costs are based on a group of 10-15 students and 21 hours contact time per week.

