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The Green Alliance of Universities for a Sustainable Future (GAUSF)

GAUSF ECO SUMMER PROGRAM 2015

Local Wisdom for Sustainability
in the Anthropocene



Guizhou, China

July 10 – 19, 2015

Sponsored by:

Peking University and Guizhou University

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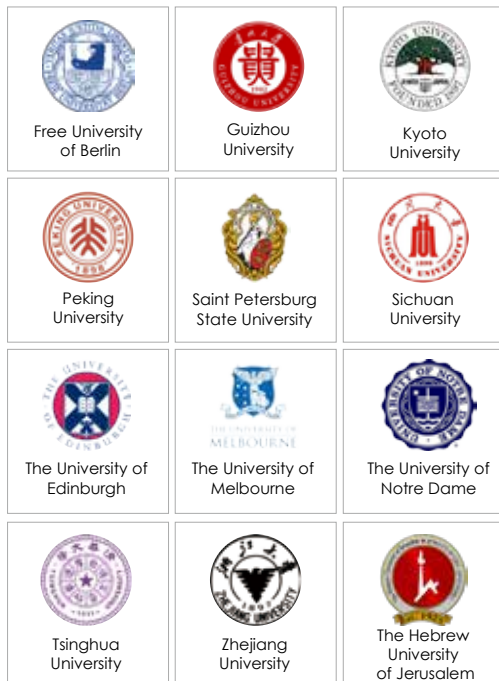
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About GAUSF



The Green Alliance of Universities for a Sustainable Future (GAUSF) consists of universities from around the world that are actively practicing and promoting a green campus, a green society, sustainable development, and that have made outstanding educational or research contributions in these areas.

Formally established in July 2014, GAUSF focuses on academic research, international exchange and societal advancement. The co-initiators of GAUSF are listed on the left.

GAUSF aims to further integrate its member universities' resources particularly in the area of education for sustainable development. Environmental education and environmental social practices are seen as key players in resource conservation and sustainable development at both the domestic and the global level. GAUSF utilizes its findings to initiate policy and/or technical recommendations to address ecological, environmental, economic, social and cultural issues in the local, regional and international contexts. GAUSF plays a leading role in many initiatives: green campus, development and dissemination of integrated environmental curricula, lectures by leading experts in the field, international student exchanges, public education and community service.

About the Eco Summer Program 2015



Program content

Local Wisdom for Sustainability in the Anthropocene

“The Anthropocene” defines human domination over the Earth’s ecosystems. We need to be reminded that we have reached the point when a new relation between man and the biosphere must be established. Long-term human settlements, wherever they may be in the world, in hospitable or hostile environments, always show two constants in their civilization’s development: technological advancements that enable mankind to explore unfamiliar worlds, and create sources of greater comfort for itself; and the gradual build-up of a pool of knowledge accumulated and transmitted through each succeeding generation. As GAUSF members, we all share a common interest: learning from each other by understanding ancestral and current local and indigenous knowledge, in order to enrich our global perspective.

The Eco Summer Program “Local Wisdom for Sustainability in the Anthropocene” will be held in Guizhou Province, China from July 10, to July 19, 2015.

It will include:

1. Introductory lectures and seminars about the topic’s global issues, with a focus on ecology, culture, anthropology

and human subsistence. Speakers will include professors from GAUSF member universities.

2. Field studies with on-site lectures and discussions that will review:

- Folk music, architecture and way of life in a Dong ethnic minority village.
- Rice cultivation, nature conservation and lifestyle in a Miao or a Shui ethnic minority village.
- The interaction of traditional and contemporary architecture in today’s Zhengyuan old city.
- Ways to adjust traditional agricultural production to the contemporary urban environment in Liupanshui city.

3. Workshops during which participants will share experiences and insights gained.

The program will:

1. Demonstrate how the understanding of local knowledge is relevant across different epochs and different countries.
2. Help participants discover Guizhou’s rich natural, cultural and ethnic heritage.
3. Provide attendees the opportunity to engage in a conversation on their expectations and visions.



Date and location

Date: July 10-19, 2015

July 10: Arrival and check-in

July 11: Opening ceremony and orientation

July 12-18: Lectures and field trips

July 19: Closing ceremony and departure

Location: Guizhou, China

Lectures

- Historic villages in Guizhou
- Chinese water adaptability experiment
- Protection of cultural and biological diversity
- Chinese vernacular dwelling
- Indigenous knowledge in ancient Chinese irrigation projects
- Ancient Chinese agriculture
- Chinese ecological agriculture

Note: Lectures are subject to change based on the feedback from our member universities. The program may be updated accordingly.



Field trips

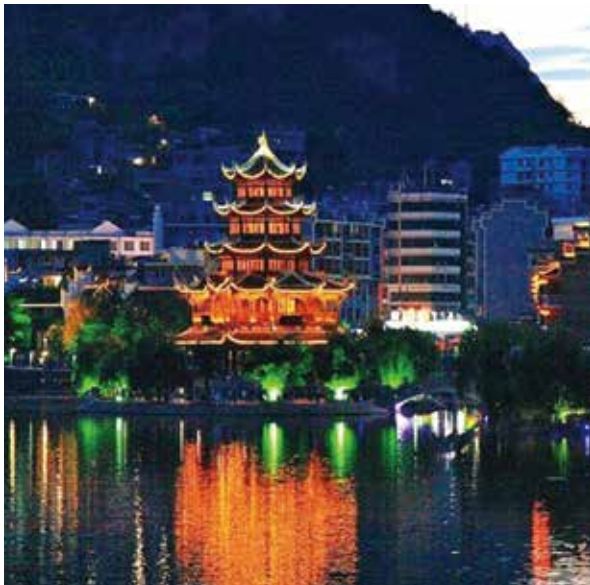
Located in southwest China, Guizhou is a picturesque province rich in natural scenic spots and cultural landmarks. It is the ancestral land of many Chinese ethnic minorities. Field trips during the GAUSF Eco Summer Program will give participants the opportunity to experience several minority groups' unique ways of life, interact with members of these groups, and appreciate the distinct architectural styles found in the province. These field trips will allow students to deepen their understanding of how people and the environment interact harmoniously within an ecosystem.



Rice terraces

水族梯田

A terrace is a sloping area that has been cut into a series of successively receding flat surfaces or platforms, which resemble steps. This type of landscaping, or terracing, is commonly used to make farming more effective on hilly or mountainous terrain.



Zhenyuan old city

镇远古城

Located on the eastern part of Guizhou province, Zhenyuan was established by the Miao people perhaps as long as 2280 years ago. Old-style buildings grace the banks of the river that runs through the city, which explains why visitors have called it “The oriental Venice”.

Because of its long history, Zhenyuan boasts a wealth of cultural landmarks. Although the town is only 3.1 square kilometers (about 1.2 square miles) it offers more than 160 scenic spots including caves, canals, palaces, pavilions, and temples displaying a unique architectural style, exquisite engravings, in a marvelous natural landscape setting.



Liu Pan Shui Wetland Park 六盘水明湖湿地公园

Liu Pan Shui Wetland Park is a conservation, education and tourism facility located in the western part of Guizhou. The park was conceived as a mitigation area to remedy water and air pollution caused by industrial development in the Liu Pan Shui area. Kongjian Yu, Professor and Dean of the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at Peking University was in charge of the park's design and construction.



Dong village, Liping County 黎平县侗寨

Liping County is home to many members of the Dong ethnic group, one of the 56 ethnic minorities officially recognized by the People's Republic of China. They are famous for their locally-grown Kam Sweet Rice (香禾糯), their carpentry skills, and their unique architectural achievements - in particular the covered bridges known as the "wind and rain bridges" (风雨桥). The Dong are internationally renowned for their polyphonic choir called Kgal Laox (侗族大歌) or Kam Grand Choir, which UNESCO listed as an Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2009. Dong choral songs include odes to nature, epics, and children's songs.





Miao village

苗寨

With a population of 8,940,116, the Miao are one of the largest ethnic minorities in China. They are settled across Southwest China in Guizhou, Yunnan, Hunan and Sichuan provinces. Most of them live in tightly knit communities, but a few reside in areas inhabited by several other ethnic groups. On the Yunnan-Guizhou plateau, and in other remote mountainous areas Miao villages, sometimes made of only a few families, are scattered on mountain slopes or in plains that offer easier access to transportation.

The Miao have a highly diversified culture that developed from a common root. They enjoy singing and dancing, and have a remarkably rich folk literature. Their songs, which do not use rhymes, and vary greatly in length from a few lines to more than 15,000, are simple tales that all Miao particularly enjoy.



Application Details

Qualification

Applying students should:

- be recommended by one of the GAUSF universities
- have a high level of proficiency in English since all courses will be taught in **English**
- have a relevant background in eco studies

Admission

The GAUSF Secretariat will send an admission notice or invitation letter to applicants within 10 business days upon acceptance to the program.

Applying students should submit:

- A. A filled application form
- B. A statement of purpose

Faculty members should submit:

- A. A filled application form
- B. (Optional but strongly recommended) Submit a topic and the abstract for a lecture related to “Local Wisdom for Sustainability in the Anthropocene”. This requirement only applies to faculty members who wish to give a lecture at the program, in which case the submitted essay will be the lecture’s paper

Fees

GAUSF will cover expenses for room and board, lectures and field trips during the program. Participants are requested to pay for their transportation to and from Guiyang, and for their personal expenditures.

GAUSF **WILL** cover:

- Tuition – Tuition at the GAUSF Eco Summer Program
- Accommodation – Accommodation will be provided for the exact number of days of the program
- Field trips – Entrance fees to museums and monuments, meals and ground transportation are included on all organized field trips

GAUSF **WILL NOT** cover:

- Round trip airfare from your departure country to Guiyang
- Insurance
- Telephone calls
- Fees incurred for passport, student visa/permit to stay, entry/departure fees, baggage fees, and/or airport taxes
- Personal expenses
- Optional activities on field trips

Insurance

According to the China's Ministry of Education regulations, GAUSF Eco Summer School participants must have a valid health and accident insurance during the official on-site period of the program. Participants should provide a copy of the relevant documentation with their application form.

Visa

For most participants, a visa is required to enter China. Participants are urged to consult the Chinese Embassy in their country of citizenship as early as possible. Upon acceptance to the program, the GAUSF Eco Summer Program secretariat will send an admission notice or invitation letter to applicants within 10 business days for visa application

Contact

GAUSF Secretariat (Beijing)

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Culture Shock 101

Culture shock is a normal process that occurs as one leaves their home culture and enters another. As defined in the Education Abroad Glossary, published by The Forum on Education Abroad, culture shock is: the anxiety and feelings (of surprise, disorientation, confusion, etc.) one feels coming into contact with an entirely different social environment, such as a different country. It often relates to the temporary inability to assimilate the new culture, causing difficulty in knowing what is appropriate and what is not. It is important for students to acknowledge culture shock when it happens and respond positively to the process. One way students can lessen the severity of culture shock is by taking a step back to observe their own traditions and customs, as well as familiarize themselves with their new host culture prior to going abroad. By observing the differences, students can learn to understand what to expect and not be as “shocked” by the differences

they will experience once abroad. Taking a deeper look at the traditions and peculiarities of your own culture aids in the understanding that just because a way of living is different, does not necessarily mean it is better or worse, just different.

The following resources have additional information and activities about culture shock to help prepare students for these processes:

University of California Education
Abroad Program Student Guide: Cultural
Adjustment
[http://eap.ucop.edu/_pub/forms/1011/
Cross-Cultural_Adjustment.pdf](http://eap.ucop.edu/_pub/forms/1011/Cross-Cultural_Adjustment.pdf)

SAFETI Adaptation of Peace Corps
Document: Maintaining Strong Mental and
Emotional Health
[http://gloaled.us/peacecorps/
maintaining-strong-mental-and-emotional-
health.asp](http://gloaled.us/peacecorps/maintaining-strong-mental-and-emotional-health.asp)

Student application form

Instructions: Please read instructions carefully before completing the form. Providing accurate information will reduce the risk of processing delays. The completed application form should be forwarded together with a written statement of purpose to gausf@puk.edu.cn. This form may be copied. **Application deadline: June 5, 2015**

Given Name	Middle Name	Family Name
<small>* As shown on passport. Chinese applicants should provide their names written in characters AND pinyin.</small>		
Nationality		
Gender	Date of Birth (YYYY/MM/DD)	
Country to Apply for Chinese Visa		
Passport Number/ID Number (For Chinese Applicants)		
University		
Department/Major		
Mailing Address		
Zip Code	Phone #	
Email Address		
Insurance Policy Number (if applicable)		
Awards (if applicable)		
Background in Eco Studies		
Statement of Purpose (To be attached to this form on a separate sheet of paper)	All applicants are required to write a statement of purpose, no longer than 450 words, that explains the reasons why they wish to attend the GAUSF Eco Summer Program. Applicants may include a description of their background, of significant personal and professional experiences that could be related to this program, of important details in their academic record, and of their professional goals upon completion of the Eco Summer Program.	

Faculty application form

Instructions: Please read instructions carefully before completing the form. Providing accurate information will reduce the risk of processing delays. The completed application form should be forwarded, together with a lecture abstract, to gausf@puk.edu.cn. This form may be copied. **Application deadline: June 5, 2015**

Given Name	Middle Name	Family Name
<small>* As shown on passport. Chinese applicants should provide their names written in characters AND pinyin.</small>		
Nationality		
Gender	Date of Birth (YYYY/MM/DD)	
Country to Apply for Chinese Visa		
Passport Number/ID Number (For Chinese Applicants)		
University		
Department/Major		
Title		
Mailing Address		
Zip Code	Phone #	
Email Address		
Insurance Policy Number (if applicable)		
Work Experience		
Publications		
Lecture (Optional but strongly recommended)	Topic and abstract for a lecture related to: “Local Wisdom for Sustainability in the Anthropocene” (To be attached to this form on a separate sheet of paper)	



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Local Wisdom for Sustainability in the Anthropocene

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