

## **DUKEENGAGE IN CHINA – ZHUHAI**

Enriching the lives of children through arts education

**Dates: May 13-July 8**

(Dates subject to change up until the point of departure.)

### **Program Focus**

Partnering with a middle school to provide arts education and English lessons, creating an active and positive learning environment with a focus on creativity, leadership development, self-discovery, and personal growth.

Curricular Connections: While all students are welcome to apply, this program may be of particular interest to students taking service-learning courses or courses related to education, theater studies, documentary students, visual or media studies, dance, music, creative writing, or Chinese language/society. (See below for additional details about connecting this program to your academic work.)

### **Service Themes**

- Arts
- Education/literacy
- Children/youth

### **Program Leader**

Hsiao-Mei Ku is a Professor of the Practice in the Department of Music at Duke University. She has developed both research and performing interests inspired and informed by her Chinese heritage. As a Naxos Artist, Professor Ku is a member of the Ciompi Quartet-which performs concerts worldwide. She teaches courses in chamber music for piano and strings.

### **Program Overview**

The DukeEngage Zhuhai program began in the summer of 2010 with a mission to integrate arts-education into the local curriculum at Zhuhai No.9 Middle School (grades 7-9). During their two months in Zhuhai, DukeEngage students will work with their host campus to design and deliver a diverse selection of art and enrichment courses to the students at No.9 Middle School. In addition, the DukeEngage student cohort will also host oral English courses with a focus on listening and conversational skills. During their final weeks of service, DukeEngage students are expected to organize a culminating performance during which their middle school students will display their artistic talent and perform the acts and skills they have learned in their extracurricular courses. These performances will be intermixed with performances by the DukeEngage students themselves, as well as collaborative acts with the teachers at No. 9 Middle School.

Zhuhai, a southern Chinese city located within the former Special Economic Zone, is in many ways a perfect microcosm of 21st century China — a rapidly evolving country that continues to develop and transform daily, and acts as an influential force of the globe, home to extremely talented and innovative individuals. The intense momentum of forward development has also led to the building of new schools to meet demand. Yet, educational development in general has not matched the pace of this societal development. While most Chinese students are highly motivated to achieve in school, school administrators have made great strides in recognizing the greater needs of students. Institutions that once focused only on teaching for tests have now been transformed into places that harbor a sense of appreciation for the arts as well as academics.

The DukeEngage Zhuhai program aims to connect Duke undergraduates with the students and teachers No. 9 Middle School. Students will spend time in their host community, learning about and from the experiences of the teachers and students in China, while also sharing their own varied educational experiences. During their two months of service at No.9 Middle School, DukeEngage students will expose Chinese students to a form of arts education, which they have not been exposed before. They will encourage Chinese students to understand school as the beginning of a lifelong journey — a place in which they can expand their boundaries, push limitations, and try novel pursuits.

### **Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

Students will:

- Recognize their creativity capacity and leadership potential;
- Apply classroom learning in the real world;
- Gain a more nuanced understanding of the self and their place in the world — a process of self-discovery which will help students prepare for life beyond Duke;
- Gain a deeper understanding and ability to respect and work with people with different beliefs, languages and cultural backgrounds;
- Build relationships and connect with the hearts of people who may speak little or no English;
- Gain flexibility by working in a non-conventional, self-structured environment; and
- Improve interpersonal skills along with the ability to work together as a team.

### **Partnership Opportunities**

- Develop an art-based educational project for the school and establish afterschool extracurricular classes.
- Assist both middle school students and English teachers in the English teaching program.
- On teacher workdays and Saturdays, engage in other activities such as service at a local orphanage and a school for children with disabilities and autism, as well as with nearby primary, middle, and high schools.

All Duke students work as a team throughout the program at Zhuhai No.9 School. They generally arrive at the school by 8:30am in the morning each day and teach 13 different English classes a week: three on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, and two on Wednesdays and Fridays (subject to change depending on how many students the school places in the program for the summer) at the seventh and eighth grade levels. Each class is 45 minutes in length with approximately 10-20 students. English lessons are up to the individual's discretion to plan and teach; students are provided with the textbook used by the middle school and may create lessons in alignment with the curriculum. However, Duke students will simply take vocabulary from the textbooks and create new and innovative class structure involving games or other hands-on learning activities. Classes can even consist of choosing a theme for discussion for the day. Lessons are focused less on teaching grammar and more on promoting conversational skills and encouraging Chinese students to speak during class. (They are generally very shy initially and will refrain from participation.) Duke students will learn much about flexibility and impromptu lesson-making as they must often adjust their plans according to the diverse levels of each class.

Additionally, extracurricular classes are taught after academic English classes three to four days out of the week for an hour-long period. Thus, service hours are often extended to the early evenings since the arts classes are taught during the late afternoons. After school ends, many Duke students will remain at No.9 School after hours to interact with students — talking with them, spending extra time to personally tutor students who seek additional help in either English or an arts-related area, playing pickup basketball games, etc. All Duke students share one large office with air-conditioning. However, with limited school facilities to accommodate all the smaller English teaching groups and the many extracurricular classes, Duke students will teach classes mostly on the school playground outdoors.

During the school day, there is a long lunch break and many Duke students choose to eat with the local school children. Students can use this time to make lesson plans as well. Although students should expect to engage in service opportunities on Saturdays, Sundays are free.

The following are some examples of the arts classes that past program participants have offered: singing, breakdancing, ballet, modern dance, hip-hop, K-pop, film-making, acting, photography, arts and crafts, guitar, cheerleading, baseball, football, Frisbee, and journalism.

### **Program Requirements**

**Language:** Students both with and without Mandarin Chinese language skills are encouraged to apply.

**Coursework:** Applicants who have been taking courses related to education, arts, and service learning are strongly encouraged to apply.

**Other Skills:** Applicants should be actively involved in various performing groups or arts-related organization/groups and activities at Duke and its community.

**Personal Qualities:** Your program leader will also be looking for the following attributes among participants:

- Commitment to honest and ethical behaviors: actively adhere to the values, policies, procedures and protocols of DukeEngage and the host school/community; demonstrates high ethical standards and integrity.
- Ability to manage stress in novel environments: embraces unconventional cultural working conditions, and calmly practice coping strategies; seeks help from teammates when overwhelmed; responds with patience and perseverance to new or unanticipated situation and obstacles.
- Ability to work productively on a supervised team: responds to feedback and critique from co-workers and supervisors with maturity and openness to improvement; listens actively and demonstrates respectful behavior toward others; accepts responsibility for their actions.
- Self-reliance and culture sensitivity: understands and meets their own physical and emotional needs in new environments with positive attitude and realism; balances personal expectations with the realities present in new cultural and workplace conditions; effectively communicates and interacts with people of different age groups and culture; demonstrates judgment free and curiosity about the lives of others.
- Passion for the Arts: creative and willing to step out of the “comfort zone;” strong desire to bring energy to the program and to inspire others; resourceful and willing to go the extra mile.

### **Curricular Connections**

Applicants are encouraged to take one or more courses from the following: theater or documentary, or visual and media studies; Department of Dance or Music; and service-learning courses. Educational experience working with youth, or ESL teaching experience will also be helpful to participants:

Asians in Higher Education: EDUC 345S

Children, Schools and Society: EDUC 243S

Foundation of Education: EDUC 101

First-Year Chinese: Chinese 101

Film: Special Topic in Film, Theater 290

Acting: Theater 145S

Hip Hop: Dance 142

Jazz Dance: Dance 240

Civic Engagement/Social Changes: Engaged Citizens/Social Changes, CESC 201S

Chinese Society: Chinese I M/Migration, AMES 409

English Writing: Introduction Creative Writing: English 110S

## Program Details

**Description of Community:** China has witnessed its largest internal migration in the last 30 years than it has in centuries. Zhuhai — a key destination for migrants and a perfect microcosm of 21st century China — has grown from a fishing village to a coastal city with a population over 1.3 million. Zhuhai No.9 Middle School was built to meet the demand of this expansion. Located in Xinxiangzhou district, a newly developed urban community, Zhuhai No.9 School is within walking distance to public transportation, restaurants, shops, and the majority of host families' homes.

**Housing and Meals:** All DukeEngage students will stay in a local hotel during the first week of the program, where each student will share a room with another DukeEngage student of the same gender. After the first week, the program leader will place Duke students with local host families chosen for their proximity to the school. Students are not permitted to stay overnight with relatives during the two-month program unless the program leader or site coordinator gives special permission. All host families will provide a single room, internet service, hot showers, and access to laundry machines. The Zhuhai Sports Center is about 20-25 minutes walking distance, and Duke students may use the sports facilities for a fee.

Duke students will receive a meal stipend and can discuss meal arrangements with their host families or eat at nearby restaurants. They can purchase breakfast and lunch daily at the No.9 Middle School canteen. Duke students can also arrange with host families if they would like to buy groceries and cook for themselves.

**Health Note:** Shellfish and soy are common ingredients in the local cuisine. Ready, nearby access to treatment for travelers experiencing a severe allergic reaction to these and other food(s) may be limited at this program site. Students who are considering application to DukeEngage-Zhuhai should review these facts with their families and medical providers before applying. Once accepted, a participant with severe food allergies is expected to inform DukeEngage, [dukeengage@duke.edu](mailto:dukeengage@duke.edu), of their specific concerns and needs no later than January 18. The DukeEngage staff will work with participants on a safety assessment to identify reasonable accommodations and meal options.

**Transportation:** Students can walk to school if their host families are within walking distance; others can take public transportation or use a taxi service to their work site. If a field-trip is organized by the Zhuhai No.9 School, transportation will be arranged by the school. Some field trips will require students to use taxis, subway, or China's Long-Distance Bus System, rail system, ferries, etc.

**Communication:** Students will have internet access at their hotel (week 1) as well as at the homes of their host families. Students can decide to bring their laptops, but DukeEngage is not responsible for the loss, theft, or damage of personal property or electronic devices. Every Duke student must have a local cell phone for emergency contact throughout the duration of the program. Local phones will be arranged and purchased by the DukeEngage program. Students will use DukeEngage funds to purchase their phone minutes for work-related activities.

**Local Safety and Security; Cultural Norms, Mores and Practices:** As part of their planning, DukeEngage strongly advises all prospective applicants to familiarize themselves with the common challenges travelers encounter at this program site in order to make an informed application decision that is right for them. We recommend starting with these two resources:

- the International SOS (ISOS) portal for up-to-the-minute travel, health and security advice ([Log in to the Duke ISOS portal](#) with your Duke NetID)
- the [Diversity, Identity and Global Travel](#) section of the DukeEngage website.

**Opportunities for Reflection:** The program leader or the program site coordinator will lead weekly reflection sessions during the first two weeks of the program. In subsequent weeks, Duke students will take turns leading discussions related to privilege; personal goal setting; relationship to the community and team dynamics, etc.

Meetings also provide a platform for the exchange and contribution of ideas, and updates on individual work. In addition to the group reflection sessions, every participant will be required to write and post weekly entries on the DukeEngage Zhuhai blog.

Other Opportunities: Each day, quiet hours are held after lunch in school from 1-2:30pm — a time during which students can read, rest, or work on their own projects. During the week, students will have two or three group commitments in the evenings, generally from 6:30-9pm. There will also be downtime at evenings and on each Sunday. However, past participants have discovered the cultural norms and hospitality of their Chinese hosts and embraced the idea of joining their host families for activities on Sundays. No student is allowed to travel beyond Zhuhai City proper at any time, except with program-led activities. Ocean swimming will not be allowed in any DukeEngage program.

### More Information

Documentary films and blogs from past DukeEngage Zhuhai participants:

- <http://dukeengage.duke.edu/immersion-programs/international-programs/china-zhuhai>
- <https://sites.duke.edu/dezhuhai2016/>
- <https://sites.duke.edu/dezhuhai2015/>
- <https://sites.duke.edu/dukeengagezhuhai2014/>
- <https://sites.duke.edu/dukeengagezhuhai2013/>
- <https://sites.duke.edu/dukeengagezhuhai2012/>
- <https://dukeengagezhuhai.wordpress.com>

Blogs and websites:

- <http://zhtb.hizh.cn/news/ShareService/showShareDetail.json?id=edf6173bM24f4M46d3Mbe06Md6da9b14b8f0&from=singlemessage&isappinstalled=1>
- <http://zhtb.hizh.cn/news/ShareService/showShareDetail.json?id=e0bfbf87bM490eMac6cM23aa90938db7&from=singlemessage&isappinstalled=0>
- China Digital Times: <http://chinadigitaltimes.net/>
- Han Han's Blogs (translated):
  - Collected translations: <http://chinadigitaltimes.net/china/han-han/>
  - "Life as I see it" <http://chinadigitaltimes.net/2012/07/han-han-life-i-see-it/>
- An aggregated list of popular China related sites: <http://www.chinawhisper.com/top-10-most-popular-china-blogs/>

Documentary films about China today:

- "Last Train Home" by Lixin Fan: watch on hulu: <http://www.hulu.com/watch/397082>
- Curated collection of documentary films about China: [http://www.pbs.org/pov/lasttrainhome/photo\\_gallery\\_documentaries-china-recommendations.php#.VSbf5PnF8eo](http://www.pbs.org/pov/lasttrainhome/photo_gallery_documentaries-china-recommendations.php#.VSbf5PnF8eo)

Chinese feature films:

- "Mao's Last Dancer"
  - <http://search.library.duke.edu/search?id=DUKE004348914>
- "To Live" by Zhang Yimou
  - Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GAZUbjttUPc>
  - Full movie: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZB7HYhUpDz8>
- "The Road Home" by
  - Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4jooHgWZVY>
  - Full movie: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wh4lkzsPY3A>
- "Shower" by Zhang Yang

- Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I2-9TSuZtiM>

Book about arts: The Arts of Possibility: Transforming Professional and Personal Life by Benjamin Zander

Books about contemporary China:

- Country Driving: A Journey Through China from Farm to Factory – Peter Hessler
- Factory Girls – Leslie Chang
- China in 10 Words – Yu Hua
- Mao's Great Famine – Frank Dikötter
- Wild Grass – Ian Johnson
- One Billion Customers – James McGregor
- <http://fortune.com/2015/04/04/china-modern-economy-10-books/>

Additional books about modern to contemporary China:

- China Road: A Journey into the Future of a Rising Power – Rob Gifford
- China Shakes the World: a Titan's Rise and Troubled Future – and the Challenge for America – James Kynge
- River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze – Peter Hessler

Books about Chinese society past and present:

- Mao's Last Dancer – Li Cunxin
- Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China – Jung Chan
- Spring Moon: A Novel of China - Bette Bao Lord
- A Daughter of Han: The Autobiography of a Chinese Working Woman – Ida Pruitt, as told by Ning Lao T'ai T'ai

Many DukeEngage Zhuhai alums realize service is not a one-time experience; it is about helping others and about sacrifice and giving, which do not have an expiration date. Some of them have created new organizations upon their return, and some have been involved in existing organizations, such as the following:

- [Harmonies for Health](#) is a Duke student-run nonprofit organization that provides music therapy and performances to children at the Durham Ronald McDonald House and elders at Durham Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.
- [Duke China Care](#) is an independent, student-run service organization at Duke University, and a recognized China Care Club under the China Care Foundation. Our goal is to help Chinese orphans through fundraising for their needs. Cultural and mentorship activities are planned for adopted Chinese children in the local area to foster pride in, and understanding of, their birth heritage.
- [Kidznotes](#) is a music program in Durham that aims for social changes. It provides musical lessons to students from K-12 envisioned as an educational enrichment free of charge for the local the communities particularly the children of the lowest-income families in Durham area.
- [Global Engagement Program](#) - A Leadership Program for American Students with Global Mindset - Global Engagement Program provides students with beneficial interactions with international students and scholars at Duke, preparing them to be true global citizens. Selected students will be involved in International House program activities for a semester and receive training on cross-cultural awareness and communication as well as career and leadership development.
- [America Reads/America Counts](#) tutoring program