Frequently Asked Questions
Regents’ Chinese Academy
Peer Mentor Program
Miami University Hamilton (MUH), Ohio State University (OSU), Washington State Community College (WSCC)

Who sponsors the Academy?

The Regents’ Chinese Academy is sponsored by the Ohio Board of Regents and is a cooperative venture of Miami University Hamilton (MUH), Ohio State University (OSU), and Washington State Community College (WSCC).

What is the Regents’ Chinese Academy?

The Regents’ Chinese Academy allows students to earn credit for the equivalent of a beginning Chinese course at the high school and/or college level. The Academy consists of two segments of instruction: the first is a three-week intensive program (June 16-July 10) at Miami University Hamilton, Ohio State University and Washington State Community College, in which students earn a portion of the credits for the course and the second segment (Follow-up 1) is where they earn the remaining course credits through OSU’s self-study course/distance learning course. Both segments of the course will be completed by the end of August.

What is a peer mentor?

A common definition of “peer mentor” is a student who helps other students in the area of academics, personal development or leadership.

Who is eligible to be a peer mentor?

Peer mentors are required to be native or near-native speakers of Mandarin with an in-depth knowledge of Chinese and American cultures. Serving as a peer mentor in the Academy will provide you with a unique opportunity to share your language and culture with students who are beginning their study of Chinese. You must be at least an incoming 11th-grader as of Autumn 2009 and not older than 22 when the Academy starts on June 18, 2009.

What will a peer mentor do in the Regents’ Chinese Academy?

A peer mentor in the Academy will work closely with the students in the program and will have various roles such as being a linguistic and cultural model, tutoring, helping with homework, serving as a conversation partner, preparing students for oral presentations, having online office hours, etc. Most of the peer mentor’s work will be completed during the three-week intensive course but they will also be required to serve as online peer mentors during the second part of the Academy.

I’ve never taught Chinese before. Will that be a problem?

No, we will provide you with the necessary training for you to be an effective peer mentor in the Academy. You will receive three hours of credit for the course that will provide your training.

I’ve never been a peer mentor before. Will that be a problem?

No, you will receive training before and during the Academy to help you become an effective peer mentor. You will receive three hours of credit for the course that will provide your training.

What are the dates of the Academy?

The Peer Mentor training sessions will be held before the beginning of the intensive three-week portion of the Academy (Monday, June 15, 2009). Tuesday, June 16 is orientation for students and Peer Mentors must be present. The intensive Chinese course runs from Wednesday, June 17 to Friday, July 10 (week days only) plus additional course work offered through OSU’s self-study course (to be completed by the end of the summer). Peer mentors help in both sessions with the bulk of work being completed during the three-week intensive program.
Where will classes take place?

All students will take the same course but in three different locations: Miami University Hamilton, Ohio State University and Washington State Community College (Marietta). Peer mentors will work on the campus closest to their homes.

How is instruction organized since classes take place in three different locations?

The Regents’ Chinese Academy will use technologies (videoconferencing, Internet) to connect the three locations so that instruction can be shared and so that students at each of the three sites can get to know each other. A master teacher at OSU will offer FACT sessions (information about Chinese language and culture) to all students via videoconferencing with WSCC and MUH; a local teacher will work with students to develop their oral proficiency skills at each of the three locations (ACT sessions). There will be special sessions on different cultural topics (martial arts, Chinese television, Chinese teenagers, calligraphy, etc.) during the three-week academy. Peer mentors are required to attend all classes conducted by either the master teacher or the local teachers, and to help arrange cultural sessions. They will also be assigned an individual task related to technology or daily duties. Peer mentors will work directly with the local teachers and help them with all academic aspects of the Academy.

Does it cost to be a peer mentor?

No. Fees and tuition are paid. Peer mentors will receive free of charge books/materials for the course. Peer mentors may keep the materials if they finish the program. Lunch is provided during the academy. Students (or their parents or guardians) are expected to provide transportation to and from campus each day.

Am I paid to be a peer mentor?

Yes, you will receive a stipend of $1000 to serve as a peer mentor upon successful completion of your work during both portions of the Academy.

How much time can I expect to spend as a peer mentor during the three-week intensive course during the summer?

Classes meet from 8:30-3:30 (including lunch). Hours will vary during the follow-up portion of the Academy, but will not be more than five hours or so a week (mainly online tutoring and advising of students).

Will I have responsibility for the follow-up portion of the Academy?

Yes, part of your responsibilities will be to serve as an online peer mentor to Academy students as they complete the course in the summer.

Is this a residential program?

No, the Regents’ Chinese Academy is not a residential program; peer mentors must live close enough to be able to commute each day to their classroom at MUH, OSU, or WSCC.

Can I work while serving as a peer mentor in the Regents’ Summer Academy?

No, peer mentors cannot work outside of the Academy during the times that classes meet for the intensive three-week course and are expected to be present for the entire day of instruction. They also need to be available for limited online consultation in the evening during the second portion of the Academy.

I’m interested. How do I sign up?

Please visit our website (http://chineseacademy.osu.edu) for an application and reference forms. Applicants need two letters of reference from adults who know them well (teachers, employers, religious leaders). At least one letter must be from a teacher. For specific questions, please email Chinese_academy@osu.edu.

What is the deadline for submission of my application?

Priority will be given to students whose completed applications are received on or before May 15, 2009.