

SECTION V

Focus

International Programs



Photos Courtesy of Bill Pech, Asia University America Program



Focus on campus inclusion

ASIA UNIVERSITY AMERICA PROGRAM

(Academic Affairs)

Target Group: Students of Asia University & WWU

Program Description: The WWU-Asia University America Program (AUAP) is an English language and cultural orientation program that has been developed cooperatively with Asia University (Tokyo, Japan), Central Washington University, and Eastern Washington University. The program represents a 20-year collaborative effort dedicated to broadening the international perspectives, knowledge and skills of students both at Asia University and at Western. Between 100 and 150 AUAP students come to Western each year, with sessions running from September to mid-February, and late February through late July.

The AUAP makes important contributions to diversity, intercultural understanding, and internationalization at Western:

- The AUAP contributes to the cultural diversity and internationalization of the Western campus in classrooms, dormitories, social events, and extracurricular activities. Western students who share dormitories with AUAP students have an opportunity to interact with Japanese students on a daily basis in their dorms and their dining halls, on issues such as cultural differences, racism, intercultural communication, and the politics and economics of Japan.
- The AUAP offers Western students a range of student leadership and employment positions (International Peer Advisors, Curriculum Assistants), positions which not only give students valuable experience in an intercultural context and an opportunity to develop international friendships, but also assist them in financing their education.
- The AUAP offers language and culture exchange opportunities to Western students and community residents through the “Campus Friends” and “Community Friends” programs. These programs provide opportunities for intercultural contact which go beyond the classroom.
- The AUAP offers cultural-exchange services to the community, including programming in public schools throughout Whatcom County. The AUAP’s “Friends from Japan” program has introduced hundred of local elementary school children to Japanese language and culture and, most important, to international friendship.
- The AUAP offers research opportunities to Western faculty and students. Faculty and students from the departments of Communications, Modern Languages, Psychology, Business, and Anthropology have conducted research based on linguistic or attitudinal surveys of AUAP students.

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INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS AND EXCHANGES

(Academic Affairs)

Target Group: Faculty, Staff, Students and Community Members

Program Description: International Programs and Exchanges (IPE) works with faculty, staff, and study abroad program providers in the coordination, development and promotion of a broad array of international education opportunities to prepare students for global leadership and citizenship. IPE study abroad programs and activities include classroom-based and experiential activities, both on-campus and abroad. Students may study abroad in over 100 programs in more than 75 countries, including reciprocal exchanges with 21 universities abroad. Many programs abroad offer global studies and regional studies (Canadian American Studies, East Asian Studies, Latin American Studies, African American and Middle Eastern Studies). Through the National Student Exchange (NSE) program, students can study at another U.S. institution, including historically black colleges and universities.

IPE fosters international expertise by facilitating faculty and student international exchanges in keeping with the quality, community, and diversity goals of the university. IPE represents Western in the Northwest Council on Study Abroad (NCSA), a consortium that provides study and teaching abroad opportunities all over the world. IPE sponsors the annual International Education Week events that highlight faculty research and teaching abroad, international student experiences and student learning abroad.

IPE offers quality services and support to visiting international students, scholars and faculty from over 30 different countries, recognizing their critical role in the internationalization of the campus. IPE serves as liaison with U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Department of State, other institutions, agencies and governments, and community members on issues related to international students and scholars and their educational programs. IPE is an institutional member of NAFSA: Association of International Educators and is guided by NAFSA's Code of Ethics, Principles for International Educational Exchange, and NAFSA policy statements.

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PRACTICUM & SEMINAR IN TESOL – MORELIA, MEXICO OPTION

(Woodring College of Education; TESOL Program)

Target Group: Future Teachers of English Language Learners in K-12 or Adult Immigration Programs

Program Description: TESOL program participants can choose to travel to Morelia, Mexico to complete a practicum in teaching English to non-native speakers, to study Spanish language, and to learn about the culture of many of their future students. Participants live with local families, are mentored in a language school, and participate in an English enrichment program for street children. Participants are immersed in Mexican culture with abundant opportunities to form friendships with local people and experience both the joys and stresses of functioning in a foreign language and culture. Participants report a heightened understanding of Mexican values, a heightened fluency in Spanish, and more insights into the challenges facing Mexican English language learners as they adapt to life in the United States.

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WORLD CONSERVATION LEARNING NETWORK

(Huxley College of Environmental Studies)

Target Group: Students

Program Description: Brad serves as the president of the World Conservation Learning Network. This Network is a program of the United Nations and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The network includes universities, colleges, other institutions of higher education and training, and the conservation, environment and sustainable development communities. The network builds professional capacity and strengthens partnerships for sustainability globally especially in the developing world.

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