

# STARTALK

*Start Talking!*



***Virginia STARTALK Chinese Student Academy  
for rising 9-12 Graders***

**Learn Chinese!**

**Earn scholarships!**

**June 23 - July 3, 2014**

**Developed by the Department of East Asian Languages,  
Literatures, and Cultures of the University of Virginia**

**Funded by the U.S. federal STARTALK grant**

**Supported by the East Asia Center  
& Asia Institute of the University of Virginia**

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The **Virginia STARTALK Chinese Student Academy** (VSCSA) partners with the **Virginia STARTALK Chinese Teacher Academy** (VSCTA), a three-week residential teacher training program, to offer the opportunity of learning Chinese language and culture at the University of Virginia for 10 days to rising 9-12 graders. It is a full-day program through which students will experience flipped classrooms, cutting-edge technology, and productive learning outcomes in a linguistically and culturally enriched environment. The teacher to student ratio is 1:1.5, and the students will frequently interact with excellent teachers to satisfy their individual needs on a daily basis. The program strives to create a truly interactive, communicative, and innovative class featuring an integration of a wide array of authentic tasks and instructional technology.

## PROGRAM HISTORY

The VSCSA started as a half-day **Chinese Language and Culture Immersion Program** part of the VSCTA that offered a graduate course in teaching Chinese as a foreign language from 2010-2013. In 2008 and 2009, the teachers in the VSCTA taught in the Virginia STARTALK Chinese Academy (VSCA) at the Governor's Foreign Language Academy at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in Richmond. Since 2010, VSCTA separated from the student program at VCU and moved to the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. After six years of excellence and success, the 2014 VSCSA will be implemented on-grounds at UVa to benefit local middle and high school students in the Charlottesville community. The VSCSA and VSCTA have been made possible by US federal funding for STARTALK to maximize capacities in Chinese language teaching and learning.

## ELIGIBILITY

Rising 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders with zero or very little knowledge of Mandarin Chinese.

## DATES

June 23<sup>rd</sup> – July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 (excluding **Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>**)

## CLASS SCHEDULE

Classes begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 4:00PM.

## ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Learning Mandarin Chinese is different from learning any alphabetical language. The intensive 10-day academy ensures refreshing and productive experiences in learning a foreign language. With a combination of in-class and online learning, the students will develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills across three communicative modes. They will also be able to experience hybrid instruction and flipped classrooms. While most learning takes place during the day-time section of the program, self-paced learning is required and crucial before and after class on a daily basis. Learning materials and tasks are thoughtfully created and organized by dedicated and excellent teaching team. The material is fun, engaging and effective for productive learning. It is required that the selected students be **fully** committed to meeting programmatic academic requirements throughout the entire program. We

cannot stress enough the importance of daily progress that makes the achievement of ultimate learning objectives possible.

### **LUNCH**

The program does not provide lunch. Students will bring their own lunch.

### **REFRESHMENTS**

A mid-morning snack will be provided.

### **TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING**

The program cannot provide transportation services or parking. Parents and student participants are *solely* responsible for daily transportation to and from University Grounds. For parking information, consult: <http://www.virginia.edu/parking>

### **SCHOLARSHIP**

Each admitted participant is granted a \$500 scholarship which waives the cost of attendance, making the program is totally free for admitted students.

### **CULTURAL GIFTS**

Students who successfully complete the program will receive a t-shirt and Chinese cultural products.

### **APPLICATION**

The completed application package includes the following five components:

1. Student Application Form (Parts I & II)
2. Teacher Recommendation Form (completed by one teacher who should directly mail it to the application address below)
3. Student Commitment Form
4. Parent Permission Form
5. The most current semester's official transcript (Fall 2013) (this can be mailed directly by the school or included with other application materials).

The application deadline is **APRIL 30, 2014**. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis and the total number of participants is limited. **Spots will fill quickly. We recommend that you submit your application early.**

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Further questions should be directed to Jo Watts, Administrator of the Asia Institute at U.Va by phone (434) 924-7453 or via e-mail, [wattsj@virginia.edu](mailto:wattsj@virginia.edu)

### **APPLICATION ADDRESS**

2014 Virginia STARTALK Chinese Student Academy  
University of Virginia  
Asia Institute  
PO Box 400169  
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4169  
Fax: 434-982-6167  
Email: uva-startalk@virginia.edu

## STUDENT APPLICATION FORM

### PART I. Personal Information

English Name (Last/First): \_\_\_\_\_

Chinese name (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Current School: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Language(s) that you speak at home: \_\_\_\_\_

Language(s) that your parents speak: \_\_\_\_\_

Language(s) that you have studied: \_\_\_\_\_

Technology tools and mobile devices that **I have and use at home**. Please check **ALL** that apply.

PC laptop	_____ YES	_____ NO
Mac laptop	_____ YES	_____ NO
Ipad	_____ YES	_____ NO
Iphone	_____ YES	_____ NO
Others (please specify)		

Technology tools and mobile devices that **I can bring to class during the program**. Please check **ALL** that apply.



3. List all foreign language courses you have taken so far. Specify when, where and the grades received.

4. State what you hope to learn and gain from the program.

#### **TEACHER RECOMMENDATION FORM**

Please ask one of your current teachers to complete the following recommendation form and directly mail it to the following mailing address postmarked by **APRIL 30, 2014. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis, and the total number of participants is limited.** We encourage you to submit your application early.

**Mailing Address:**

2014 Virginia STARTALK Chinese Student Academy  
University of Virginia  
Asia Institute  
PO Box 400169  
Charlottesville, VA 22904-4169  
Fax: 434-982-6167  
Email: [uva-startalk@virginia.edu](mailto:uva-startalk@virginia.edu)

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Dear Fellow Educator,

Thank you for your assistance in the selection process for the Virginia STARTALK Chinese Student Academy at UVa, funded by US federal STARTALK. As we look for bright, dedicated students to take part in this unique opportunity for high-quality instruction, personalized insight into each individual applicant is of the utmost importance. This is why your thorough and honest feedback is so essential and very much appreciated. The more detail you can provide, the better. If you feel that it is necessary to write on the back of this form, or to attach additional pages, please feel free to do so. When you have completed the form, please mail it to us directly at the above address.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jo Watts at the UVa Asia Institute by phone, (434) 924-7453 or via e-mail, [wattsj@virginia.edu](mailto:wattsj@virginia.edu) . Thank you, once again, for your help!



( ) Do not recommend

5. Additional Comments

Teacher's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**STUDENT COMMITMENT FORM**

I am very interested in the Chinese Language and Culture Immersion Program, held June 23 through July 3, 2014 (excluding June 29, Sunday). I acknowledge that if I am accepted to the program, I will be expected to attend **ALL** classes and participate in **ALL** activities in the full-day program. I understand that this means that I will **NOT** be able to make other plans during the dates and times of classes and activities associated with this program. I also understand that there will be daily work for me to complete **in class, before class, and after class** as preparation. I will do my best to maintain a positive attitude for success in the program. I understand that disruptive and/or inappropriate behavior is not only disrespectful to my teachers but also to my fellow students. Recognizing this, I promise to follow the program instructions and behave appropriately and cooperatively in all program activities. I understand that if my behavior or conduct is determined to be disruptive or inappropriate, I may be dismissed from the program at any time at the discretion of the Director.

Once accepted, I promise I will bring the following to the program on a daily basis. Please check **ALL** that apply.

Laptop

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT PERMISSION FORM**

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand the commitment involved in my child's participation in the program, and I give permission for my child to attend. I will ensure that my child attends **ALL** classes and activities.

YES                      NO

I understand that my child and I are responsible for securing reliable transportation to and from University Grounds for program activities every day.

YES                      NO

I give consent for my child to be videotaped or recorded in class and activities during the program for educational purposes.

YES                      NO

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_