



International Summer Programs in East Asia: To Transfer or to not Transfer Credit?

Patrick Leahy – Sr. Int'l Credential Analyst - Michigan State University

Janine Pacheco - Program Manager, Int'l Admissions – University of New Mexico

Chris Adams – Assistant Director of Operations - Indiana University

“The more credits students earn in summer school, the fewer they will have to earn in regular semesters at their U.S. universities. It costs roughly USD\$800 to \$1,200 per credit at U.S. institutions, but only an average of USD\$350 per credit in Chinese summer schools, plus relatively lower living expenses. The difference in cost adds up to massive savings for these students—or appears to.”

Gu, M. (Nov. 15, 2018). The rise of international summer schools in China. Retrieved from <https://wenr.wes.org/2018/11/the-rise-of-international-summer-schools-in-china>

The Landscape: What is occurring?

- ◆ Since 2010, there has been an increase in the number of international summer programs in East Asia, particularly China.
- ◆ Programs are geared towards students studying in North American colleges and universities (mainly in the US and Canada).
- ◆ Undergraduate students enrolled in these universities select to attend international summer programs at universities in East Asia.
 - ◆ Many are from the countries they are in (e.g., China) and wish to return home for the summer, substitute regular college/university courses at a cheaper price and transfer them back to their home institutions. (In many ways, nothing unusual about this as study abroad is often advertised in this way)
- ◆ Some US & Canadian institutions have MOUs with these programs, others accept transfer credit outright, and other institutions may be listed as transfer credit-accepting on the summer program's website (whether or not they actually do, in some cases).

International Summer Program Types

- ◆ Third Party Company – Based
- ◆ University - Based

夏天

Third Party Companies

- ◆ Programs are run by third party businesses that attach themselves to host universities in East Asia (especially China), offering cheap classes and the possibility of transfer credit.
- ◆ Instructors are often from North American universities.
- ◆ Transcripts may be issued by an international education office, or a division of the university not associated with the regular, records/registrar office, or even a North American institution!
- ◆ May have low admissions benchmarks, including open to high school students and non-students as well.

List of Third Party Companies

- ◆ LION International Education - <https://www.lioneducation.org/cn/index.html>
- ◆ ONPS International Summer Schools - <https://www.onpsummer.org>
- ◆ SCP Summer China Program and Internship - <http://www.scpeducation.org>
- ◆ AUIA International Summer School – <https://www.auiaschool.com>
- ◆ GSS Education – <http://www.gsseducation.org>

University-Based

- ◆ These are run fully by a recognized university.
- ◆ Open to students enrolled in regular undergraduate programs at that university and may be awarded credit by the university.
- ◆ May have a low admissions benchmark as well - possibly open to high school students or others.
- ◆ Transcripts issued by the regular, records/registrar's office.
- ◆ Credit may transfer from summer program to a regular, bachelor degree program at the university.
- ◆ Quality assurance under umbrella of university. Essentially appear to operate the same way as third party companies, but are instead run fully by the university.

List of University-Based Programs

- ◆ Yonsei University (Seoul, South Korea)
 - ▢ Yonsei International Summer School - <https://summer.yonsei.ac.kr/home/>
- ◆ Korea University (Seoul, South Korea)
 - ▢ Korea University International Summer Campus - <https://summer.korea.ac.kr:5000/all/src/main/main.php>
- ◆ University of International Business and Economics (Beijing, China)
 - ▢ UIBE International Summer School - <http://www.uibesummer.org/web/english/index.php>
- ◆ Wuhan University (Wuhan, China)
 - ▢ Wuhan University International Summer Session - <http://www.wuhansummer.com/>

Broad Issues

- ◆ Quality assurance a general issue, as well as lack of regulation and oversight, particularly for third party-run programs.
 - ◆ CHESICC currently does NOT verify transcripts of these programs. They appear to be outside the purview of the MOE in China.
 - ◆ Need for more research on these programs to determine the full scope of these, especially regarding quality assurance, regulation, recognition/accreditation, scope of international partnerships, etc. Some even announcing/recruiting to programs at U.S. universities!
- ◆ If the downturn in Chinese students studying in the US continues, will we see these programs retract?
- ◆ Main concern: However your institution decides to look at these, the main thing is to have a rationale and a consistent approach that falls within a policy framework that is fair to both your students and your institution.

International Summer Program Characteristics/Contradictions

- ◆ May be organized and offered by a third party company that attaches itself to a (recognized) host university in East Asia.
- ◆ Alternatively, may be offered and fully run by recognized universities in East Asia.
- ◆ Often taught by North American (especially US) faculty in English.
- ◆ Curricula typical of those found in US or Canadian higher education programs.
- ◆ Credits may or may not transfer to regular degree programs at the university of record.
- ◆ Transcripts may or may not be issued by the regular, records/registrar office of the university (may be issued by an international office, or similar).
- ◆ Currently not verifiable by CHESICC.

Characteristics/Contradictions

- ◆ Many open to high school, college, or non-students
- ◆ Many have low admissions requirements
- ◆ Many have low or no English language proficiency requirements for admission
- ◆ Contradictory information on websites sometimes present
- ◆ North American course numbering system often present
- ◆ May or may not claim to match North American credits exactly (1:1)
- ◆ May or may not claim that credits are transferrable to North American colleges (“guarantee” type language)
- ◆ Transcripts may be issued by a third party, such as Portland State University or Texas Wesleyan University, in essence “forcing” universities to accept credit as credits appear to be earned at these institutions, even though they are not
- ◆ May have actual partnerships with North American institutions which issue the transcripts

To Accept or Not Accept?

- ◆ Acceptance/Non-Acceptance of undergraduate transfer credit:
- ◆ 1. Institutional Recognition? Program recognized by university and/or government?
- ◆ 2. Credits earned recognized by university?
- ◆ 3. Admission Requirements?
- ◆ 4. Faculty full-fledged at institution or home institution?
- ◆ 5. Transcripts issued by appropriate records/registrar's office at university where summer courses held?
- ◆ 6. Transcript issued by recognized/accredited university, but course(s) listed are from another location?
- ◆ 7. Course description and syllabi?
- ◆ 8. Is the program on the approved transnational program list on the Chinese government website?
<http://www.crs.jsj.edu.cn/index/sort/1008>

Best Practices?

- ♦ Michigan State University – Students encouraged to get transfer credit approval before going abroad, through the Education Abroad, RO, OISS offices and academic units/advisors. Our transfer credit website provides a warning about these programs. Reminders to involved staff around campus – thru email and OISS newsletter. List of unapproved programs circulated.
- ♦ University of New Mexico – Students encouraged to have academic department/advisor review courses ahead of time. In advisor trainings, review recognition of institutions and international transfer credit policies.
- ♦ Indiana University – Students encouraged to submit a Credit Transfer Agreement through the Office of International Services (OIS) before attending any non-approved program abroad. OIS will only make final determinations once an official transcript from a recognized institution is received.

Questions for Discussion

Have your institutions encountered international summer programs in East Asia?

What policies/processes/approaches do you have towards them?

Who decides such approaches? Can they be adjusted?

If you haven't encountered these, what are your concerns?

Best Practices? Institution Policies/Processes

◆ MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

- MSU has the right to deny transfer credit as noted on our Transfer MSU website <https://transfer.msu.edu/>
- No transfer credit for programs run by third party businesses
- Sheet that is regularly updated includes non-acceptable international summer programs, as well as ones we MAY accept credit from, but will monitor
 - Sheet distributed to campus partners, including RO and Advisors.
- Transcript must be official and be issued by appropriate university office
- Prospective students and campus units encouraged to determine if transfer credit is possible prior to students studying overseas, in which I work directly on these cases to do the research (research is key)
- Reminders to campus units (such as academic advisors, international student office, etc.) to be mindful of international summer programs, particularly in East Asia, and to NOT give approval unless sure a program MAY be okay
- Students and units encouraged to contact the RO or myself to determine if a program may be transfer credit-worthy

Institutional Policies/Processes

◆ UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

- Reserves the right to accept/ deny transfer credit
- Transcript must be issued by Registrar's Office of university (Third-party program courses not accepted if transcript not issued by appropriate university record-keeping office.)
- Syllabus is requested and reviewed
- Courses are reviewed by faculty for equivalence and degree applicability with form from Registrar's Office
- Preliminary course review is highly encouraged, but not required
- Outreach to advisors and academic departments for training in int'l transfer policies
- Department/Faculty encouraged to contact International Admissions/Registrar's Office

Institutional Policies/Processes

◆ INDIANA UNIVERSITY

- Credit Transfer Agreement strongly encouraged before any study in non-approved programs abroad
- All non-US credit transfer falls under the same policy, regardless of country/system:
 - <https://cts.admissions.indiana.edu/policy.cfm>
- No international credit will be awarded until approved by OIS
- Transcript must be issued by the registrar/equivalent office at a recognized institution
- Credit must be undergraduate-level and applicable to a degree program at the issuing institution
- Number of credits awarded is determined by OIS
- Articulation of credit/applicability to a degree program at IU is determined by the respective department faculty via direct interaction with the student
 - Students may also request OIS submits a memo on their behalf to the department
- Students with any questions regarding transferability of credit are directed to OIS by campus partners

Real Cases with Sample Documents

- ◆ 1. Transfer Credit Granted
- ◆ 2. Transfer Credit Denied

University of International Business and Economics (university-run program)

- General Information Concerning Program
 - http://www.uibesummer.org/web/english/aboutnews_text.php?id=12
- Course List with Course Syllabi
 - <http://www.uibesummer.org/web/english/courses.php?type=1>
- Transfer of Credit from Program
 - http://www.uibesummer.org/web/english/admission_trans.php
 - (Notice CDGDC verification steps - outdated)

Global Summer School (third-party program)

- General Information Concerning Program with Course List and Syllabi
 - <http://www.gsseducation.org/en/beijing>
- Academic and Transcript Policies
 - <http://www.gsseducation.org/en/beijing/academic>
 - Transcript issued by relevant department with seal of university
 - CHESSIC certification language on this page
- Transfer of Credit from Program
 - <http://www.gsseducation.org/en/beijing/academic>

Thank You!

谢谢

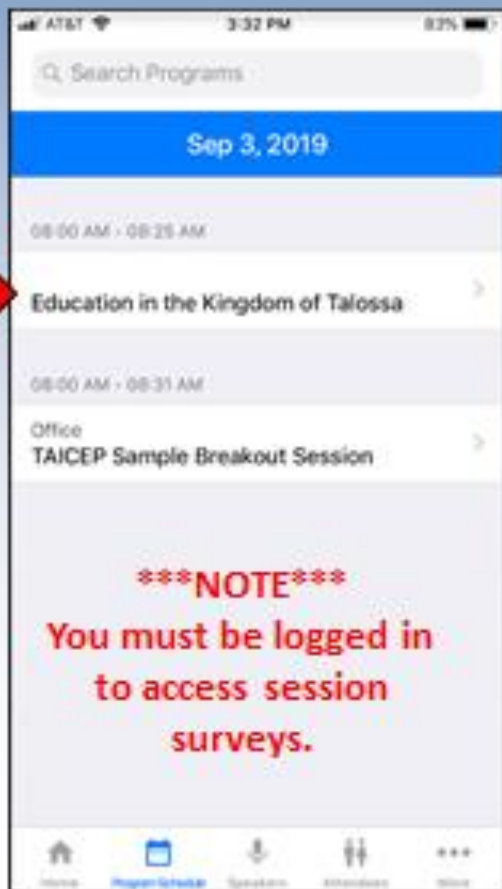
Please Complete a Session Survey

Open Session Details in the Website or Mobile App Schedule

"Take Survey" Button Available 10 Minutes Before Session Ends

"Submit" (Then... go find coffee!)

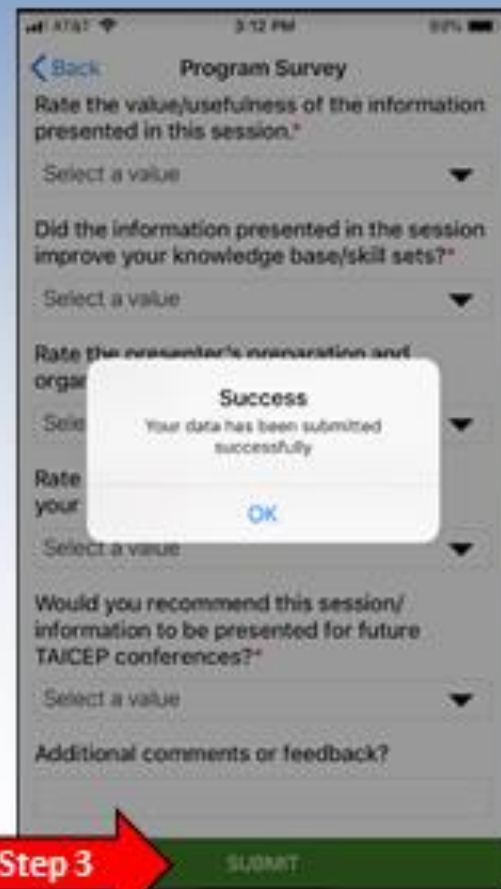
Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Contact

- ◆ Patrick Leahy - Michigan State University - leahypat@msu.edu
- ◆ Janine Pacheco - University of New Mexico - jpachec3@unm.edu
- ◆ Chris Adams - Indiana University - adamschr@iu.edu