Chinese Guest Teachers Program in North Carolina

Go Global NC has welcomed a team of guest teachers from China every year since 2010 in partnership with the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, the College Board, and Hanban, the office of Chinese Language Council International. The Chinese Guest Teachers of North Carolina provide authentic Chinese language instruction in North Carolina schools, and ten school districts have participated in this program. Chinese guest teachers can stay in North Carolina schools for up to three years with a possible extension to a total of five years. Go Global NC sponsors and coordinates North Carolina teacher certification applications and renewals of these guest teachers. Each guest teacher receives professional and cultural support from Go Global NC via classroom observations and regional group meetings.

Led by the Chinese Language and Culture Initiatives of The College Board, the nationwide Chinese Guest Teachers Program is not-for-profit and partially subsidizes guest teachers’ salaries. The Chinese guest teachers accepted in this program are qualified, experienced teachers from China, who have completed a rigorous selection and training process to serve as full-time Chinese language instructors in U.S. schools. When the teachers complete their work in U.S. schools, they return to teaching positions held for them in their home schools in China.
Go Global NC provides incoming Chinese guest teachers with a warm welcome to the state and a comprehensive orientation to prepare them to teach in their North Carolina classrooms. The teachers complete required NC certification exams, learn about the North Carolina school system, hear from experts in education, and interact with North Carolina students. Additionally, during their first days in North Carolina, Chinese guest teachers are exposed to U.S. cultural activities, educational institutions, and group dinners where they have an opportunity to network with each other. At the end of approximately five days, the guest teachers are ready to share their knowledge in North Carolina classrooms.

Hosting Chinese guest teachers is a great way to foster cross-cultural exchange and people-to-people engagement in North Carolina. Chinese guest teachers’ expertise is in language teaching, so their students have the opportunity to learn authentic language and culture from a native Chinese instructor. The teachers organize and host cultural activities to share Chinese traditional culture in communities and may also serve as cultural resources to facilitate other subjects at school, such as social studies, art, music, international studies, etc.

Chinese guest teachers complete a rigorous interview process and only the best of the best are selected for the Chinese Guest Teachers program. The teachers must possess the following minimum qualifications: a bachelor’s degree in education, Chinese, English, international studies, or a related field; two or more years of teaching experience; and a North Carolina teacher certification.

Accredited, full-time, North Carolina public K–12 school districts or independent schools are eligible to apply for the opportunity to host a Chinese guest teacher. Schools interested in hosting teachers should obtain district-level approval to make an application. For more information, please contact Dr. June Chen at Go Global NC for more information (Email: jchen@northcarolina.edu; Tel: 919-237-7958).
“This is my third year to be one of the Chinese Guest Teachers. I truly appreciate Go Global NC giving me such a wonderful opportunity and experience to teach at a public school. Every school year, Go Global NC provides professional instructions for teaching and living in the U.S. through conferences, workshops, and class visits. Sometimes all the guest teachers get together and celebrate Chinese festival which makes us feel at home, like we are one big family. Dr. Chen and her great team keep in touch with me and give a lot of support and encouragement. We learn how to be a professional teacher together step by step.”

------ Yanyan Yin, Chinese Teacher at Northwood Elementary School

“The Chinese Guest Teacher Program is an invaluable asset to our school and community. First, it gives students who want to study Chinese language and culture the ability to do so in a real, authentic way. Every teacher we’ve hosted at Carson High School has been exceptionally passionate about teaching students about their language and culture, which has greatly enriched our students’ lives. Second, the program has allowed all students in the school, teachers, and community members the opportunity to interact with our guest teachers and to learn, firsthand, about their culture. Given our distance from China, very few teachers or students have been there – so the program provides an outstanding opportunity for them to learn about China and its people. Finally, through this program, we’ve been able to assemble five trips for students and teachers to travel to China and to learn about their culture. Moreover, we are happy to have two sister schools in China that we can visit when the opportunity arises. Truly, this program is one of the very best we have!”

------ Angelo DelliSanti, Principal of Jesse C. Carson High School

“From learning about the vast culture to delving deep into the language, Chinese left a remarkable impact on my learning and my life, one character at a time. One of the first striking things I remember learning about Chinese was the character for home and family are the same: 家 (pronounced jiā). That is just what I found in the Chinese language - not only a family with my fellow students but also a second home. My experience learning Chinese has been immensely satisfying and life changing, my gateway to the world. Though the language’s birthplace is half-way across the globe, it will always have a piece of my North Carolina heart.”

------ Excerpts from an essay written by Sadie Allen, Polk County High School student

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