AY17-18 Cultural Consultants for Center for Academic Planning and Exploration (CAPE)

The Center for Academic Planning and Exploration (CAPE) is seeking two international student interns (one Mandarin speaker and one Korean speaker).

According to the pre-orientation survey, 72% of incoming international students are at some level of major exploration which is similar to that of overall incoming students (77%). However, only 6% of students who visited CAPE for services were international students. This indicates that there is a huge gap between international students who need support with their major exploration and international students who actually receive the support. It is important to reach out international students who might not be aware of the CAPE services, as well as to provide services that meet international students’ needs.

An international student who is aware of cultural barriers in seeking help as well as understands international students’ experiences and challenges in choosing majors would be a great candidate for this position. Therefore, the intern positions are only open to international students who can articulate their lived in experiences and provide critical advice to CAPE on how to improve their services to international students.

This position will help the CAPE develop marketing materials and resources for international students by providing feedback and international students’ perspectives, as well as translating the contents.

Intern position description

- Two positions are available for Fall 2017. One for an undergraduate international student who speaks Mandarin and is familiar with Chinese culture and another for an undergraduate international student who speaks Korean and is familiar with South Korean culture. The position can be extended to the spring semester based on needs and funding availability.
- The interns will be eligible to apply for a $700 student award at the end of the fall semester upon successful fulfillment of agreed upon responsibilities.
- CAPE coach with international focus will supervise the interns.
- Interns will have occasional meetings and spend time in the office (Bruininks and/or ISSS). At other times, work can be done independently. Workload may vary from week to week, but not to exceed the total of 70 hours for the semester.
- The main responsibilities of the interns are the followings:
  - Work closely with CAPE coach to develop contents for resources serving exploring international students and their parents
  - Provide feedback and own international perspectives on how to best communicate with international student population
  - Research best practice working with exploring international students career/major exploration
  - Translate CAPE’s marketing materials and some of the resource contents

Required qualifications

- Undergraduate international student who can speak, read, and write in Mandarin or Korean language fluently
- Understanding of Chinese culture or South Korean culture and how the culture is similar and different from American culture
- Junior or Senior year student
- Interest in supporting other international students who are exploring their majors
• Good communication and critical thinking skills to provide constructive feedback and brainstorm ideas
• Able to share their own international student experience to improve international students’ experiences with CAPE
• Professionalism such as timeliness and reliability
• Strong writing skills in Mandarin or Korean language
• Able to work both independently and as a team member
• Flexibility and willingness to work with changing schedule
• Culture Corps eligibility requirements:
  • Be on an F1 or J1 student visa
  • Share your culture with your peers
  • Maintain a credit load during the duration of your position
  • Complete an intake meeting with the Culture Corps team after offer is received
  • Complete a Culture Corps awards application at the end of your project in order to receive award

Preferred qualifications

• Attended high school in China or Korea
• Experience exploring and/or changing majors as an international student
• Experience translating written materials

Application Instructions:

To apply for these positions, please apply by submitting the following to Aya Maruyama (ayam@umn.edu)

• a current resume
• a brief cover letter in English, stating your interest in and qualifications for the position

Any offers of acceptance will be contingent upon verification of the qualifications specified above.

Being fluent in the language does not automatically qualify you for this position. Preference will be given to applicants who understand and can communicate details of Mandarin and Korean grammar, structure, and use in a social context.

About the Culture Corps Program

The vision of the International Student and Scholar Services Office (ISSS) is to have an inclusive and engaged international learning community. One of the ways ISSS helps international students become more active on campus is through the Culture Corps Program. International students can provide unique perspectives and new insights to enrich cross-cultural understanding at the University of Minnesota. With this partnership, students who share their language and culture with CAPE then become eligible to apply and receive a Culture Corps award.