



# 壮志计划

U.S.-China Dialogue  
Young Scholars Program

## Organizers:



## Strategic Partner:



## Summary

China's progress over the last two and a half decades has been marked not just by rapid economic development, but also by high-speed social change. Today's young Chinese are more mobile, more cosmopolitan, and more prosperous than their parents and grandparents could ever have imagined, and yet they are coming of age at a moment of complex and fast-moving challenges at home and globally. To meet these challenges and to continue refining the progress their parents' generation has made will require vision, flexibility, a strong sense of social mission, and a sophisticated understanding of how other societies work when they work best. Currently, higher education in China focuses on professional skills. Students are eager to learn, work, and cultivate their interests beyond the classroom, and they crave a higher degree of civic engagement, more opportunities of involvement in wider societal issues, and a deeper understanding of different cultures and people.

It is in response to this need that Asia Society's Center on U.S.-China Relations, together with Beijing Normal University's Institute of International and Comparative Education, launched the U.S.-China Dialogue Young Scholars Program. The program brings Chinese college students of outstanding academic and personal character to the U.S. for a month of immersion in the many spheres of American public life. In addition to participating in the work of Asia Society's Center on U.S.-China Relations, the scholars are intensively mentored by leaders in the fields of philanthropy, higher education, and journalism. In addition, they visit charities; philanthropic enterprises; cultural, religious, and educational institutions; and other non-profits. They also meet with social entrepreneurs; volunteer; and take part in hands-on workshops intended to help them cultivate their sense of public spirit and expose them to a wide range of models and tools for making meaningful contributions to the improvement of their communities, society, and the wider world.

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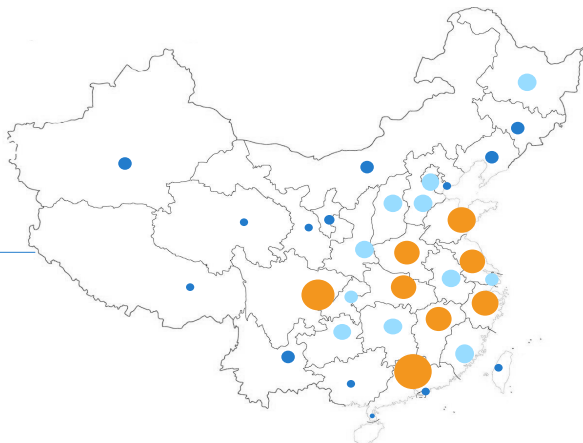
## Finding Our Ideal Candidate

The U.S.-China Dialogue Young Scholars Program seeks three core qualities in our candidates: a strong sense of social responsibility, open-mindedness, and creativity.

The outcome of our recruiting efforts for the inaugural 2015 U.S.-China Dialogue Young Scholars Program exceeded our expectations. Our program's website and social media outlets received **3 million** page views in the three months after the Program's launch. We received **1,625** applications, **33** of which we selected for in-person interviews in Beijing. From that group of finalists, we chose **five** applicants to participate in the program.

### Who are our applicants?

#### Birth Place



#### Ethnic Groups



#### Areas of Interest



## Our 2015 Scholars



Dang Weikun

Senior at Tsinghua University  
Major: Accounting & Journalism

- Co-Founder of a group that supports female university students and connects them with women across the world
- Co-Founder of the Tsinghua University "Lean in Circle," a peer support group inspired by Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg with the goal of helping women achieve professional and personal success
- **Areas of Interest:** Gender equality, education of women in contemporary society



Hong Xinyu

Junior at People's University of  
China  
Major: Sociology

- Supervisor to a program that provides educational support to children of migrant workers
- Volunteer for the United Nations "My World" Project and the 2014 APEC Summit
- **Areas of Interest:** Education, China's regulation of non-profit organizations



## Our 2015 Scholars



Liang Qiqi

Junior at Sun Yat-sen University  
Major: Marketing & English

- Founder & Executive Director of New Leaves, an organization that creates a communal space for migrant sanitation workers who are isolated from the communities they work in, to socialize and build a support network
- Conducted a research project on sanitation workers in Guangzhou, the findings of which led her to propose a revision of workers' labor contracts
- **Area of Interest:** Migrant workers in China



Pingcuo Zhuoma

Freshman at Fudan University  
Major: Clinical Medicine

- Co-Founder of Candela, an organization that offers free tutoring services to children from disadvantaged families in Tibet
- **Area of Interest:** China's healthcare system

## Our 2015 Scholars



Wang Xu

Senior at China University of Political Science and Law  
Major: International Politics

- Program Founder of Blossoming Magnolia, a series of support programs for migrant workers, focusing especially on supporting female migrant workers to establish their own businesses
- Office Assistant at the Beijing Changping District Red Cross Office
- **Areas of Interest:** Financially disadvantaged communities, China's migrant workers



## Program Overview

### **Week 1 Civic Duty in Different Shapes and Sizes**

**2015/7/20 - 2015/7/26 | New York**

**Day 1** Exploring New York

**Day 2** Orientation at the Asia Society, Introduction to Big Buddies\*

**Day 3** Credit Suisse, Innovation Hub\*\* Kick-off

**Day 4** Teach for All, Google's NY Office, New York City Council

**Day 5** Youth & Family Counseling Agency of Oyster Bay in Long Island

**Day 6-7** Exploring New York City

\*Each scholar is assigned to a "Big Buddy," generally a young professional in a field related to the scholar's interests, to act as a mentor throughout the duration of the program.

\*\*The scholars gather for regular weekly meetings called "Innovation Hub" to share their observations and synthesize what they have learned in order to devise a project proposal that can be implemented in China.





## Week 2 Reporting on Public and Private Interests

2015/7/27 - 2015/8/2 | New York & Washington D.C.

**Day 1** Innovation Hub

**Day 2** Selfhelp Community Services, Mostly Mozart Festival

**Day 3** Henry Luce Foundation

**Day 4** Departure to Washington D.C., Capitol Hill Tour, World Bank, International Monetary Fund

**Day 5** Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting, Foreign Policy Magazine

**Day 6** Private Tour of the White House West Wing

**Day 7** Return to New York City

## Week 3 The Role of Education in Social Responsibility and Innovation

2015/8/3 - 2015/8/9 | New York & Boston



**Day 1-2** Innovation Hub

**Day 3** Departure to Boston, Workshop at MIT D-Lab

**Day 4** Harvard Fung Library Tour, Harvard-Yenching Institute Tour

**Day 5** Visit to Mass Challenge Offices, Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard

**Day 6-7** Harvard "Leadership, Organizing, and Action" Workshop lead by Marshall Ganz



Week 4 What will you do?

2015/8/10 - 2015/8/16 | New York

- Day 1 China-U.S. Social Innovation Forum at Harvard University
- Day 2 Innovation Hub, Return to New York City
- Day 3 Brooklyn Cyclones Baseball Game, Preparation for Final Presentations
- Day 4 Innovation Hub: Final Presentations
- Day 5 Volunteering at the Central Synagogue Soup Kitchen, Farewell Party



## Scholars' Feedback



Wang  
Xu

I had originally thought that I had woven together a cohesive plan of exactly what I wanted to do. My plan resembling a beautiful woven brocade became accented and embellished when I came to the U.S-China Dialogue Young Scholars Program. I realized that my plan, this brocade had evolved and changed over this period of time. This short month in New York really has the potential to change your path forever.



Dang  
Weikun

To travel to another country by yourself in order to independently explore a different culture is an experience filled with both exciting opportunities and real challenges. The U.S.-China Dialogue Young Scholars Program gives you both guidance and the necessary space to engage in the sort of soul-searching that inevitably arises when one immerses oneself in a new world.



Hong  
Xinyu

Before I came here I really struggled to get a sense of this faraway place. Now that I feel like I have been flung across the ocean in order to see a whole new world up close. And, if something intrigues you then you can step even closer to get a really good look. This kind of experience allows you to see things in a way that you simply could not from China.



Liang  
Qiqi

The U.S.-China Dialogue Young Scholars Program allows you to see society from a completely different vantage point and gives you the opportunity to reflect on your own outlook on life. Here you have the chance to learn about all the moving pieces and how they are all connected. You can really dive into a problem; really pick it apart and figure out by yourself how everything fits together.



Pingcuo  
Zhuoma

The U.S.-China Dialogue Program is really different. To me, the most inspiring part of the program was the opportunity to speak with people from all walks of life. Listening to other people's stories can really open your eyes to different possibilities, even when you think the path ahead is not clear. The U.S.-China Dialogue Young Scholars Program will allow you to explore a whole new world filled with a whole new set of possibilities.

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Pu Xuan		



## Organizers

### Center on U.S.-China Relations at Asia Society



In the years to come, an open and collaborative relationship between the United States and China will be essential to global peace, security, balanced economic growth, and environmental sustainability.

To help forge a more constructive bilateral relationship, Asia Society established the Center on U.S.-China Relations with a generous gift from the late Arthur Ross.

In seeking new ways of building mutual understanding between the U.S. and China, the Center undertakes projects and events which explore areas of common interest and divergent views between the two countries, focusing on policy, culture, business, media, economics, energy, and the environment.

The Center is based at Asia Society's New York City headquarters and works closely with other Asia Society Centers around the world.

### Institute of International and Comparative Education at Beijing Normal University



The Institute of International and Comparative Education (IICE) at Beijing Normal University is one of the oldest and largest comparative education research organizations with significant influence in China. It is a leader in the field of comparative education and the only key national discipline approved by the Ministry of Education.

## Strategic Partner

### China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development



The China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development is a registered national 4A level public foundation approved by the Ministry of Civil Affairs of the People's Republic of China. It was founded and is overseen by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. The organization was officially established in Beijing on May 15, 1996.

## Contact Information

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