Provision of a British Philosophy and Culture Summer School for Students of Beijing Normal University

A proposal

The outstanding city of York and the beautiful lake-side university campus provide an ideal learning environment and location for study.

The Centre for Global Programmes has over twenty-years’ experience providing successful educational programmes in conjunction with York’s world class academics to fulfil the specific needs of partner universities.

Our understanding of your requirements

It is our understanding that Beijing Normal University already commissions two philosophy summer schools each year with partners in Italy and the U.S. Following a visit to BNU this March, staff from the Centre for Global Programmes at York, together with senior members of the philosophy department, outlined the form which a British Philosophy and Culture Summer School at York might take. This proposal provides further details together with a breakdown of costs.
The University of York

- Just minutes from the historic centre of York, the University presently has over 15,000 students with over 30 academic departments and research centres.

- Highly rated amongst UK Universities, it was named University of the Year at The Times Higher Education Awards in December 2010.

- In 2012 York was ranked eighth in the world and number one in UK in the world rankings for universities under 50 years old.

- In 2014, York was ranked 14th overall and 10th for the impact of our research in the Research Excellence Framework

- In 2017 our university was ranked 28th in a list of the world’s most international universities.

- In 2018 York was awarded Gold standard in the Teaching Excellence Framework

[https://www.york.ac.uk/about/awards/]
The Centre for Global Programmes (CGP)
Situated within Global Engagement, CGP oversees summer schools and short courses both in York for partner universities, and at locations around the world for York students. The Centre also co-ordinates all York's study abroad and exchange programmes. All these programmes are designed to increase the participation of university communities in international activity, and connect York globally with partners around the world, many of which are also research partners.

CGP is a small and friendly centre. We get to know our participants and they get to know us.
PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Outline objectives
The key objectives are:
• To provide an opportunity to experience philosophical debate in English
• To enhance students’ international outlook
• To enhance students’ academic communication skills in English with an emphasis on seminar participation

Programme content
We can offer the following components:

Introduction to British Philosophy
• Key note lectures
• Post-lecture discussions
• Trips

Issues in culture and society
• Discussion and exploration of current affairs and global issues

Project
• Reflections on ideas and outcomes of discussions
• Poster presentation

Academic communication skills
• Seminar skills
• Critical thinking
PROGRAMME DETAIL

The following outline can be considered a basis for discussion and we are more than happy to respond to requirements from BNU. On receipt of your expression of further interest, we will develop this descriptive account into detailed aims and syllabi.

Introduction to British Philosophy
Forming the backbone of the programme, keynote lectures will be given by established and leading academics from the philosophy department at York. The general theme of these lectures will be ‘British Philosophy’, with weekly sub-themes devoted to Empiricism, Political Philosophy and Aesthetics. The following constitutes a summary of the each week’s focus:

Week 1: The Problem of Perception
- Arguments from illusion
  - Their logical structure and presuppositions
- The primary-secondary quality distinction
  - Perceptual relativity
  - Physicalism
- Naïve Realism
  - Rejecting the argument from illusion
  - The inseparability of primary and secondary qualities

Week 2: The Social Contract
- The State of Nature
  - Human nature and the need for a social order
- Problems with natural law theory
  - Cultural relativity
  - Epistemological issues
- Contractarianism
  - What would we all agree to?
  - The problem of free-riders

Week 3: State, Faith and Toleration
- Locke on toleration
  - The political value of toleration
  - The limits of toleration
- Passive obedience
  - The source of sovereignty
  - Obedience to the powers that be
- Mill’s Harm Principle
  - The limits of state power
  - Freedom of thought and freedom of speech

Lectures will be followed by Q and As with the speaker. Follow up discussion sessions with CGP tutors will allow the participants to explore the topics in further depth.
**Themed trips to places of cultural and philosophical interest**
Each themed week of input from staff of the philosophy department will be complemented with a full-day trip to a location of cultural and philosophical interest. For example, during week one when the focus is on Empiricism, we would suggest a visit to Bolsover Castle with a mini-lecture on Margaret Cavendish. This could be combined with a visit to the grave of Thomas Hobbes.

**Issues in Culture and Society**
This component comprises the presentation and discussion of contemporary sociocultural issues both in the UK and globally. The aim is to concurrently develop the participants’ vocabulary range, provide opportunities for lively discussion, and through engagement with the topics, broaden students’ cultural horizons and global view. Sample topics for sessions could include:

- The environment
- The rise of populism
- ‘Brexit’
- The migration crisis

**Project**
In this component, the students will reflect upon, synthesise and apply new learning gained. Given that the programme would be only three weeks in length, and not formally assessed, we would recommend that the final week culminates in a brief student presentation. One possible means of organising this would be to ask the students to submit a series of reflections throughout the programme, describing how their thoughts are evolving. Following feedback from tutors, each student could then select the most significant aspects of their intellectual journey, and present these in the form of a poster. The subsequent poster presentation could then be attended by members of the teaching staff, who could circulate, ask questions, and gain a sense of how the programme has been influencing the intellectual life of the students.

**Academic Communication Skills**
The aim of these sessions is to help students fully participate in post-lecture small group discussions. Students will be able to produce the appropriate functional language items to give and politely challenge opinions, interrupt, build on previous speakers ideas, summarise, etc.

In order to achieve these aims, there will be an emphasis early on in the programme on functional language for seminars, as well as tools for critically evaluating arguments.
Timetable
Contact time is usually 21.5 hours per week (Monday – Friday) with classes starting at 09.30 and finishing at 15:45. Full-day, mid-week trips would usually take place between 09.00 and 17.00.

Our Approach to Training
We aim to provide active and experiential learning with participants involved and engaged intellectually and affectively. Teachers will be responsive to participant needs and our programmes are designed to flexibly allow participants opportunity to pursue their own personal and professional interests. We encourage and facilitate participants to use the university, their host families (where relevant) and the city of York as resources in order to stimulate their use of English in practical situations.

Final evaluation
An on-line end-of-course written evaluation will inform us of revisions and adjustments to be made for future groups. A post-programme tutors’ meeting will assess the effectiveness of the course structure, materials and activities, and generate action points to guide programme development. These will be followed up in a pre-course planning meeting for any further cohort. A programme report and evaluation will be sent to after the programme along with participant grades and reports, as appropriate.

End of Programme Report
A full, detailed evaluative report will be prepared within a reasonable time after the end of the programme, which will summarise and assess the main components. Weekly e-mail updates will be supplied by the designated Programme Manager.

Certificate
On successful completion of the programme, participants will receive a University of York certificate of attendance.

College Life and York University Student Union
All students will become members of Derwent College and be able to participate in Student Union sporting and social events.

In order to further facilitate interaction with other international and home students, CGP will run weekly ‘Conversation Afternoons’ to which all university students are invited. These will take place in the Kitchen@Alcuin café and have proved extremely popular.

In addition, during the summer months the students will be able to participate in the social programme organised by our dedicated team of student interns, and open to all summer-residential students on campus. On this programme the students can expect to enjoy free events such as games, quizzes, karaoke and movie nights, paid and facilitated excursions to the local cinemas and restaurants, as well as weekend coach trips to places of interest around the country.
PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

A Programme Manager will be appointed to oversee all aspects of programme design, delivery and evaluation, and will be the main point of contact. A Programme Administrator will handle all aspects of travel, accommodation and participant welfare and will be the participants’ main point of contact while they are at York.

Accommodation and catering.

Campus accommodation in student bedrooms in Derwent College can be provided in the summer months. Participants will have access to kitchens and kitchen equipment.

Weekday lunches can be bought at one of the many cafes and restaurants on campus. Lunches are also available at the campus Market Square which houses a supermarket and other shops.

Travel
We recommend arrival at either Manchester or Leeds-Bradford airport to minimise travel time after a long flight.

Independent travel
We can assist participants who wish to travel during or after the programme. The timetable will be arranged to allow two long weekends for independent trips. If required, we can also arrange weekend visits to London, Edinburgh or Stratford or other places of interest.

Agreement
We will draft an agreement in advance of the proposed start of the programme. This will set out liabilities, responsibilities and payment terms. This will be negotiated and signed by both parties.

Invoicing
An invoice will be issued two months before the start of the programme for payment one month in advance.
**Staffing**

Keynote lectures will be delivered by established and leading academics in the philosophy department at York. Follow up seminars, and components such as academic communication skills and intercultural studies, will be led by qualified and experienced CGP tutors. All teachers have specialist qualifications in English Language Teaching. Senior staff involved in this programme would include the following:

Matt Smelt-Webb (Head of York Courses, Centre for Global Programmes) studied Economics at the University of Manchester, holds a post-graduate certificate and diploma in English Language Teaching and has a Masters in Management from the University of Durham Business School. He has 20 years’ experience of teaching English for General, Specific and Academic Purposes and he has taught and developed courses in professional communication skills to managers and diplomats in the UK and overseas. After training in Oman, he worked in Turkey, The Czech Republic and Portugal and became a Director of Studies at International House, Lodz, Poland and trained teachers in the Baltic States before returning to the UK to work as a Business English and Communication Skills trainer for York Associates. He managed and developed bespoke specialist programmes at the Centre for English Language Teaching for fourteen years before he and his team joined with the Study Abroad Office to form the new Centre for Global Programmes. His publications include a business grammar pack and teacher’s books for business English course books.

Dr. Andrew Kerrigan (Associate Lecturer) has been researching and teaching English language, linguistics and culture for over 17 years and has worked in a range of universities and language schools in the UK and in continental Europe. As an independent scholar he holds a doctorate in English Studies from the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow specialising in critical discourse analysis and cognitive theory of metaphor. As an educator, he specialises in creating and delivering tailor-made professional development courses in creativity, critical thinking and intercultural competency for international students and academics. He is also responsible for the integration of CGP students with the York student body.

Nick Milner (Associate Lecturer) has over 25 years of experience working in ELT as a teacher, teacher trainer and manager. He worked in Spain for 10 years teaching both General and Business English, including work as a Cambridge Examiner. He then worked in Cambridge and York as a Director of Studies before spending 6 years working as Head of the International Department at a private secondary school. As well as a BA in English and a postgraduate certificate in teaching, Nick holds a diploma in ELT Management and specialises in professional development and teacher training.

Helena Kang (Associate Lecturer) has been teaching and developing curriculum in the field of ELT and methodology for over 10 years. As an educator, she has taught English language in a range of educational contexts and as a teacher trainer, she has trained international in-service teachers of English from countries across Asia and Europe. Helena specialises in developing and delivering bespoke courses for international students, government institutions and education professionals.
PROGRAMME COSTS

Guideline costs for the programme in 2019 are as follows:

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<th>Per student costs</th>
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<tr>
<td>All-inclusive fee:</td>
<td>£2,400.00</td>
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The fees include:
- Lectures, seminars, etc.
- Airport pick up and drop offs
- Accommodation on campus (slight increase for host family accommodation)
- All teaching materials (including classroom materials, journals)
- Homework and marking
- Welcome and farewell parties
- Orientation
- Welfare support (excluding visits to the doctor/hospital)
- Timetabled trips including buses and entry fees
- Welcome pack (timetable, handbook, campus map, city map, What’s On guide, username and password, host family details, emergency numbers, taxi card, Bus App information sheet, York Sport Village VIP card)
- End of course photo and certificate
- Access to pre-course website
- Access to Wi-Fi, computer rooms, email and library
- Access to university emergency and security services (emergency number, advice, SafeZone app)
- Access to student interns (access to weekly lunches, surgery hours, help independent travel, requested social events)
- Access to social programme (CGP interns, York University Student Union, Derwent College)