

YOUNG LEADERS PROGRAM
Global Financial Services Institute
Cotsakos College of Business
William Paterson University of New Jersey

I. INTRODUCTION

“Read ten thousand books, travel ten thousand miles.” (Old Chinese saying)

Travelling to the U.S. for a college education is an important step towards professional and personal growth for Chinese high school graduates. Traveling abroad certainly helps broaden horizons and capability. Traveling (including learning and doing things) is even more important to your growth than reading books. However, there are significant challenges facing students who wish to go abroad. The transition from high school to college is difficult and to move from one culture to another will prove even more difficult for the unprepared. Our Young Leaders Program helps you meet this challenge and realize your full potential. It is an intensive, completely immersive training program aimed at preparing you for a foreign environment and improving your overall ability to succeed.

“Be It! Learn It! Say It! And Do It!”

The Young Leaders Program is a non-credit immersion training program designed to aid you in preparing to enroll into matriculated programs at William Paterson University. It seeks to educate, train and prepare students to gain the qualities, knowledge, skills and experience to be leaders in today’s dynamic global economy and society. The Young Leaders Program adopts a teaching philosophy of:

- Be It! (Be a leader)
- Learn It! (Learn knowledge and skills)
- Say It! (Communicate)
- Do It! (Gain real world experience)

The Program utilizes a modular approach to cover:

- Understanding America through a Global Business Lens
- Improving Personal Financial Literacy
- Developing Innovation and Leadership Skills
- Building Personal and Professional Skills
- Preparing for the TOEFL or IELTS

The Program combines classroom instruction, hands-on exercises, real world experience, service activities, and frequent interaction among students, leaders and professionals.

Imagine that you have just graduated from a Chinese high school and will go to the U.S., an entirely foreign environment, for your college education. You will want and need a period of time to adjust to this new environment. The Young Leaders Program aims to meet your need and also helps you grow professionally and personally into a leader in this new world.

II. TARGETED STUDENTS

The Young Leaders Program is for high school graduates interested in baccalaureate degree programs at William Paterson University, college transfer students, and college graduates interested in graduate programs at William Paterson University.

III. PROGRAM BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

- Students will develop valuable leadership qualities, skills and experience through hands-on training, regular instruction and immersive activities.
- By interacting with each other, faculty members, their peers, and business leaders and professionals, students can quickly expand their perspectives. They will gain a greater knowledge and understanding of foreign cultures, history and languages which will enable them to adjust to new environments.

IV. PROGRAM INFORMATION

A. *Program Description*

GFSI will offer the Young Leaders Training Program (Young Leaders Program) on a non-matriculated basis. Specifically, it seeks to educate, train and prepare students to gain the qualities, knowledge, skills and experience to be leaders in today's dynamic global business environment. The Young Leaders Program is a year-long program, which offers flexibility and can be tailored to the students' unique training needs. The Program helps the participants to enroll in the University's matriculated programs.

Young Leaders is an immersive training program with a hands-on teaching philosophy of Be It! (Leadership qualities) Learn It! (Knowledge and skills needed in global business) Say It! (Communication) Do It! (Real world experience). Using a multi-disciplinary approach, which combines classroom instruction, hands-on exercises, practical application, and frequent interaction with peer students, leaders and professionals, students experience the learning. The design of the program, which can be viewed as an expansion of the existing "Hands-on Training" program, is based on direct feedback from market participants in China.

B. *Program Objectives*

- *Prepare and inspire students to become leaders in the global economy and society:* Acquire leadership qualities such as character building, commitment, courage, creativity, charisma, and basic leadership knowledge and skills
- *Familiarize students with foreign environments:* Understand the basic social, cultural, political and economic systems and expose students to differences in customs, behavior, communications and systems

- *Develop student communication skills:* Expand listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills through frequent practice, communication, debates, etc., and improve language proficiency through instructor led, online and immersive training
- *Learn basic financial literacy skills:* Educate students on basic financial planning and budgeting, checking and savings accounts, credit, and tax reporting, and help them identify scholarship opportunities and work/study programs
- *Equip students with important health and wellness skills:* Students will acquire time management skills and identify types of stress and anxieties related to both academic and social pressures and how to deal with these pressures
- *Acquire learning and critical thinking skills:* Replace the existing “pour in, spit out” method of simply memorizing material, and instead prepare students to be able to learn independently and synthesize and process information to create innovative solutions to problems.

C. Program Courses

Students will take the equivalent of 18 to 22 credit hours per semester. The proposed course modules and activities include:

1. *Understanding America through a Global Business Lens*

- Cross cultural motivation
- Attitudes and interests
- Cross cultural communication
- Verbal and nonverbal communication
- Global environment and major trends

2. *Improving Personal Financial Literacy*

- Financial planning basics
- Money management for students
- Savings and credit
- Purchasing strategies

3. *Developing Innovation and Leadership Skills*

- Characteristics and attitudes of an effective leader
- Visions and views of leadership
- Leadership skills
- Being an ethical person
- Cross cultural management
- Technology and business innovation

4. *Building Personal and Professional Skills*

- Time management
- Effective learning
- Research methodology and applications
- Stress reduction
- Communication anxieties
- Peer pressure
- Sources of support
- Career planning and development

5. *Preparing TOEFL or IELTS*

- Intensive listening practice
- Speaking
- Reading comprehension
- Vocabulary building
- Advanced grammar
- Writing
- Test-taking strategies
- Practice tests

The Youth Leaders Program places an emphasis on hands-on activities and immersive experiences. Field trips are designed to help students appreciate cultural differences as well expand their knowledge of the political and social climate within the United States. Sample trips are listed below:

- New York City: The William Paterson University campus is located approximately 25 miles from New York City. Students will visit historical sites such as the Statue of Liberty, Central Park, museums as well as companies and other organizations.
- Nearby Cities: Students will have the opportunity to visit nearby cities including Boston, MA, Philadelphia, PA, Washington DC and others.
- Ben Shahn Galleries: Visit William Paterson University's art gallery with works from contemporary and classical artists from across the globe.

D. Program Requirements

Students must:

- Apply for the Young Leaders Program through the Global Financial Services Institute at William Paterson University by the application deadlines;

- Have graduated from high school with complete graduation documents including transcripts (transfer and graduate applicants should have their complete academic records);
- Have a “B” or better GPA in high school English courses, or a minimum TOEFL (IBT) score of 50 or IELTS score of 4.5;
- Meet New Jersey requirements of immunization if staying in on-campus dorm; and
- Acquire their requisite F-1 visa prior to formal acceptance in the program.

E. Program Schedule

The normal duration of the Young Leaders Program is one year.

F. Program Application Form and Dates

Application required documents are same as the regular admission, please go to <http://www.wpunj.edu/gfsi/chineseapp-ygbl.html>.

G. Program Evaluation

Students’ performance will be evaluated by how well they have achieved the above listed program objectives. Each course is graded by instructor on a “Pass” and “No Pass” basis. Students will be able to graduate if they pass 80% of the courses and pass the required standard tests for entrance to university.

H. Program Mentor

Students participating in the Youth Leaders will be assigned a mentor who can provide guidance on academic and social issues. The mentor will typically be an upper-classman in good academic standing.