

FACT SHEET

U.S. Department of State Public Diplomacy Programs for Mongolia

The U.S. Department of State is committed to supporting a wide variety of people-to-people exchanges and programs that enhance mutual understanding between the United States and Mongolia. Through partnerships between the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the United States and Mongolia have strengthened their diplomatic relationship through educational, cultural, citizen, alumni, and cultural preservation exchanges.

Academic Programs

EducationUSA in Mongolia is available at the Educational Advising and Resource Center (EARC) in Ulaanbaatar and at satellite centers in Darkhan, Dornod, Erdenet, and Khovd. The centers provide students comprehensive, unbiased information on educational opportunities in the United States. The centers also provide the public with free access to educational information and Mongolia-relevant scholarship programs. They also offer services designed to help improve communication, research, language ability skills as well as the general knowledge of Mongolian students. According to the annual *Open Doors Report*, which serves as a census of students by country who participate in international study, there were 1,258 Mongolian students in the United States in 2009-2010 (1,522 in 2008-2009); 72 U.S. students studied in Mongolia in 2008-2009 (85 in 2007-2008).

The **English Access Microscholarship Program** provides a foundation of English language skills to bright, economically disadvantaged, 14- to 18-year-olds through after-school classes and intensive summer learning activities. Access students also gain an appreciation for U.S. culture and democratic values through cultural enhancement activities. There are currently 190 first and second year Access students in Mongolia.

English Language Fellow Program fosters mutual understanding between the people of the United States and those of other countries by sending talented, highly qualified U.S. educators in the field of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) on 10-month fellowships to overseas academic institutions in all regions of the world. The Program promotes English language learning and enhances English teaching capacity abroad. For the Academic Year 2010-11, one Fellow is currently placed in Mongolia, hosted by the Mongolian University of Science and Technology. For the Academic Year 2011-12 one Fellow will be placed in Mongolia hosted by Khovd University.

In 2010 the Office of English Language Program sponsored the **English Language Fellow Program Foreign EFL Educators Professional Development Workshop**. One teacher from Mongolia participated. This program consists of a one week professional development workshop planned around the annual International Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Convention.

Fulbright Program:

The Fulbright Program in Mongolia, which is managed by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and the Public Affairs Section of the Embassy in Ulaanbaatar, began in 1993 and is supporting the exchange of 20 U.S. and Mongolian students and scholars this year. In January 2010, the Minister of Education, Culture & Science Otgonbayar Yondon and Under

Secretary of State Judith McHale signed a Joint Statement announcing a new financial commitment by the Government of Mongolia to the Fulbright program, as well as increased funding from the United States. In December 2010, the Mongolia made its first contribution, which will support Mongolian graduate students beginning their U.S. degree programs in the fall of 2011.

The Bureau's funding will also support the Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Program, which places U.S. students as English teaching assistants in schools or universities overseas, thus improving foreign students' English Language abilities and knowledge of the United States. This effort also enhances their language skills and knowledge of their host country. The English Teaching Assistants will be placed at Mongolian universities.

International Fulbright Science and Technology Award

There are currently four Mongolian students enrolled in doctoral programs in the United States under the highly competitive Fulbright Science and Technology.

Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program

Two Mongolian university graduates assist in teaching Mongolians at U.S. colleges and universities under the Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program. While in the United States, the Foreign Language Teaching Assistants enroll in university courses that improve their own ability as English teachers.

Fulbright Specialists Program

Five U.S. scholars receive Fulbright Specialists grants to Mongolia annually. The Fulbright Specialists Program awards short-term grants of two to six weeks to U.S. scholars and professionals to collaborate with institutions of higher education in over 100 countries worldwide. Specialists in a variety of fields are available to conduct workshops or seminars, assist with curriculum development, engage in lecture tours, and work with graduate students or faculty on specific research projects.

Global Undergraduate Exchange Program

Five Mongolian students are participating in the Global Undergraduate Exchange Program for the 2009-10 academic year. The program provides outstanding students from underrepresented groups with one semester or one year of undergraduate, non-degree study at U.S. universities and colleges. Participants undertake U.S. studies courses, academic skills training and classes in their field of study, as well as community service activities and internships.

The **Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program** brings professionals from countries in transition to the United States for a year of non-degree, graduate-level work and professional development. This year there are four Humphrey Fellows from Mongolia who are women.

Undergraduate English Language Study Program

Twelve Mongolian students participated in the eight-week Undergraduate Intensive English Language Study Program in 2009. The Undergraduate English Language Study Program enrolls undergraduate students from underserved disadvantaged groups who demonstrate the potential to become student leaders.

Study of the U.S. Institutes for Scholars

Two Mongolian participants were selected to take part in last year's Study of the U.S. Institutes for Scholars. The scholars and educators participated in the Institute on Contemporary American Literature at the University of Louisville and the Institute for Secondary Educators at the University of Illinois at Chicago. 'Study of the United States Institutes for Scholars' are six-week academic programs for multinational groups of foreign university educators. Each institute focuses on a theme or topic in American Studies with the goal of improving curricula and the quality of teaching about the U.S. abroad.

Citizen Exchanges

American Documentary Showcase

The American Documentary Showcase's, which will send 18 American documentary films this year to more than 20 countries, cultivate greater understanding among people around the world. While in Mongolia last October 3 – 14, 2010, filmmaker James Chressanthis and film expert Betsy McLane introduced screenings of American documentaries and provided training and advice to local filmmakers and film students during an intensive two-week program. They also participated in the first-ever "East Meets West Film Festival," organized by the Arts Council of Mongolia with support from the Asia-Europe Foundation.

Cultural Envoys – Barry Steele and Luke Kehrwald

Cultural Envoys and theater technicians, Barry Steele and Luke Kehrwald, conducted a workshop from May 3 – 19, 2010 for 30 Mongolians currently working in studios and performance venues as part of the 2010 *Sound and Light Project*. The workshop introduced new technical stage craft techniques and new equipment to Mongolian performance venues, and laid the foundation for digital upgrades. The Cultural Envoys, Mongolian theater staff, and the Arts Council of Mongolia worked together to develop a curriculum for sound and light.

Cultural Envoy- James Chressanthis

As a follow on to the American Documentary Showcase, James Chressanthis will conduct an eight day cinematography workshop in September 2011 for 250 young professionals and students. The workshop will cover production planning based on locally available equipment and facilities with the goal of improving cinematography concepts. An integral part of the project will be creating a compilation film, "*My Mongolia*," in which advanced students and young professionals will collaborate to produce mini-documentaries representing their own personal portraits of contemporary Mongolia.

Rhythm Road – American Music Abroad

The Kate McGarry Quartet, a jazz ensemble, will travel to Mongolia as part of the Bureau's Rhythm Road initiative in December 2011 to conduct performances, workshops, master classes, jam sessions, and media outreach with youth and local artists. The 21st Century iteration of the Jazz Ambassadors program, Rhythm Road – American Music Abroad sends American bands overseas to more than 40 countries during a month-long tour, where they conduct public concerts, master classes, lecture demonstrations, workshops, jam sessions; and collaborate with local musicians.

Sports Programs

Partnering with USA Wrestling, the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs' SportsUnited Office will host 25 members of the men's and women's Mongolian free style wrestling team November 6 – 20, 2011. The two-week program includes 10 days of training with American male and female wrestlers at the Olympic Training facility in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The program will conclude with the Mongolian and U.S. wrestlers traveling to New York City to compete in the New York Athletic tournament on Nov 19 – 20, 2011. SportsUnited Office leads the U.S. Department of State's international exchange efforts to bring the global community together through sports. Athletes and coaches from a range of sports are chosen to conduct clinics, visit schools, and engage with youth overseas in a dialogue on the importance of an education, positive health practices, and respect for diversity.

Youth Programs

American Youth Leadership Program

Thirty-four high school students and teachers from the United States will travel to Mongolia for an exchange on leadership from June 15 – July 15, 2011. They will apply their knowledge through interactions with students in local high schools, encounters with civic, youth, and governmental organizations and through participation in community service activities and leadership workshops. The students and teachers will participate in home-stays with local families during their exchange.

International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP)

In 2010, the Bureau's International Visitor Leadership Program brought eight International Visitors from Mongolia who examined themes ranging from anti-corruption, international adoption, state and local government, volunteerism, to U.S. foreign policy and energy security. Two notable participants from Mongolia for 2010 include:

- Mr. Bold Sanduijav, Head of the International Cooperation Section of the Mongolian Immigration Agency, met with Dr. Robert Scalapino, an East Asia scholar at the University of California, Berkeley. As a result of the conversation, Mr. Sanduijav hopes to start a think tank in Mongolia to foster regional security and cooperation.
- Mr. Mandakh Dashdorj, Chairman of the Authority for Fair Competition and Consumer Protection in Mongolia, took advantage of meetings with his U.S. counterparts at the State Department, Securities and Exchange Commission, U.S. Trade and Development Agency, and the Federal Trade Commission to secure future training visits to Mongolia.

This year, 22 Mongolians are scheduled will participate in International Visitor programs. These initiatives will focus on healthcare administration, coal mining, library management, banking policy, the role of women in civic life, disability awareness, lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender rights, and building codes for safe construction.

Upcoming project themes include economic competitiveness, water resource management, public interest litigation, biohazard laboratory management, and sustainable cities.

Office of Alumni Affairs

There are an estimated 748 alumni of U.S. Department of State exchange programs in Mongolia. Altantsetseg Sodnomtseren, a Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship alumna (2005) and Executive Director of the Mongolian Association of State Alumni (MASA), was selected as the U.S. Department of State's Alumni Member of the Month in August 2008.

Recent Activity

A MASA alumni team was a finalist in the Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund competition and will receive \$29,000 to implement its project "Empowering Physically Challenged Mongolians in the Workplace." This project will raise public awareness of human rights, motivate private and public organizations to employ persons with disabilities, and support businesses of the disabled.

Past Activity

Since 2005, ECA funded seven Ulaanbaatar alumni engagement projects worth over \$52,000. In 2008, funding for the "Disadvantaged Community Support" project provided people with physical disabilities and financial hardships with English Language Training. Under this program, five Mongolian professional teachers, ten U.S. Fulbright scholars, one Peace Corps volunteer, and two high school students from the International School of Ulaanbaatar conducted 1,929 man-hours of English teaching, 66 percent of which were volunteered time.

Alumni Coordinator

Supported by the Bureau, Uyanga Erdenebold is the current alumni coordinator base at the embassy in Ulaanbaatar.

Prominent Alumni

- Nambaryn Enkhbayar, President from 2005 to 2009, Prime Minister from 2000 to 2004, IVLP alumnus 1994.
- Several members of parliament are International Visitor Leadership Program alumni, including former Speaker Nyamdorj, who participated in the International Visitor program in 2002.

U.S. Ambassadors Fund For Cultural Preservation

Since its creation by the U.S. Congress in 2001, the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation has provided direct grant support for more than 550 cultural preservation projects in more than 100 countries. This accomplishment, now 10 years in the making, represents a contribution of more than \$20 million towards the preservation of cultural heritage worldwide. More importantly, it shows the depth of our nation's respect for the cultural heritage of other countries.

Since 2001, AFCP has supported 10 projects in **Mongolia**—an investment of nearly U.S. \$880,000 in the preservation of Mongolia's cultural heritage.

Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation 2010

Preservation and Protection of the Early 18th-Century Amarbayasgalant Monastery

Once the most important center for Buddhist learning and culture in Mongolia, and a rare survivor of the Soviet-controlled government-ordered destruction of Buddhist monasteries in the 1930s, the early 18th-Century Amarbayasgalant Monastery is the country's most intact historical architectural complex. The wooden monastery, reopened after the country's peaceful transition to democracy in 1992, is very popular among pilgrims and tourists and highly vulnerable to damage and theft. This project, which builds upon a previous project supported in 2009, includes several preservation and protection measures to reduce the risk of fire and theft at this premier cultural site.

Conservation of 7th-Century Tureg-Era Burial Objects

To support the conservation of artifacts uncovered during the recent excavation of a 7th-Century tomb. This rare intact tomb of the Tureg era contained a variety of clay figurines, clothing, flags, and inscribed megaliths. Rapidly deteriorating after exposure, the objects are in urgent need of conservation and proper storage.

Preventive Conservation of the Collections of the Mongolian National Modern Art Gallery

This project supports the preventive conservation of a collection of 20th-Century handicrafts at the Mongolian National Modern Art Gallery. Their dedicated exhibition space destroyed by arson, the objects require a secure and suitable display area. This project involves the reinstallation of the 60 most important and irreplaceable objects in the collection.

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