
Listserv Summary: International High School Student Programs

March 2015

An inquiry was made about bringing in international high school students to institutions during summer for English language and culture classes and/or regular academic classes and/or internships (either for credit or not for credit). The poster asked if any AIEA members had been successful in these programs, what types of visas were used, about challenges or barriers to these programs, and any general advice.

Summary of responses:

There were four responses to this email; three of the four respondents were from institutions that had conducted programs that have brought high school students to campuses in the US.

For credit-bearing programs, respondents had students enter on F-1 or J-1 visas, depending on sponsorship. One respondent mentioned that non-credit bearing programs with general program content allowed for students to come in on tourist visas. Another mentioned that they looked into a program like this at his institution, which would have culminated in a certificate of completion, enabling students to use an F-1 visa. One respondent did not know what kind of visas were used for the program.

Challenges mentioned included the following:

- **Scheduling:** For one respondent, the high schools involved did not break for summer until rather late, and residence halls turn around for fall students in early August. This scheduling issue was problematic and necessitated a shortened program.
- **Age/Liability:** One university promulgated a Protection of Minors policy that requires background checks for all authorized adults working with minors on campus (under 18 and not enrolled in credit-bearing coursework), annual training for those authorized adults, and the presence of two authorized adults in context where the minors are present. International partners have often found it easier to partner with universities who do not have this policy because of the cost and resources necessary for compliance. Another respondent's university had concerns about the number of chaperones and liability issues around minors.

Only one respondent commented on success, saying that for their specific program, his impression is that they have been marginally successful, and some have lasted for several years, but that they are labor intensive.