



# THE CHINA-AMERICA STUDENT CONFERENCE

*Promoting peace and empowering the next generation of U.S.-Asia leaders through international student interchange.*

## Overview

The China-America Student Conference (ChASC) is a 2-week academic and cultural interchange program that brings together an equal number of students representing the United States of America and China for off-the-record discussions on the future of the bilateral relationship. The program is student-run and student-led, allowing for full and frank conversations to occur between emerging young leaders from both countries. Over the course of this intensive and immersive exercise in people-to-people diplomacy, participants will form powerful friendships that will go on to serve as bridges across the Pacific for generations to come.

Inspired by and continuing the 88-year long legacy of the Japan-America Student Conference's 1934 founders, ChASC seeks to promote friendship, trust, and mutual understanding through international student interchange. By empowering and inspiring the next generation of US-Asia leaders to value cooperation and dialogue, ChASC aims to instill in participants a lifelong dedication to the pursuit of peace, openness, and regional stability.

ChASC brings together up to 30 American and Chinese students studying in the United States for roundtable discussions that examine various contemporary sociopolitical issues through the lens of the US-China relationship, engage with distinguished speakers, and participate in cultural field trips while working toward the overarching goal of building trust and fostering international peace during their lifetimes. By the end of this intensive program, “ChASCers” gain confidence, insights, and experiences that leave them prepared to join the ranks of the motivated problem-solvers and policy visionaries dedicated to realizing a bright future for the U.S.-China relationship in an increasingly globalized and interconnected society.

## Program Structure

ChASC distinguishes itself from other student exchange programs in that it is entirely student-run and student led in nature. At the conclusion of each Conference, delegates elect Executive Committee members (ECs) from amongst their peers to begin preparations for the next year's gathering. ECs are responsible for managing all aspects of the Conference, from determining the overarching Conference theme and sites to overseeing the micro-logistics of delegate lodging, dining, and transportation. The Executive Committee receives guidance and financial assistance from International Student Conferences (ISC), a non-profit organization located in Washington, D.C. that oversees preparations for ChASC.

ECs are responsible for determining the roundtable (RT) topics for the Conference. RTs are an indispensable component of ChASC. At the outset of Conference planning, ECs determine 4-5 topics for delegates to examine and collaboratively research. Each RT group consists of an equal number of American and Chinese delegates to promote a balanced exchange of cultural perspectives and views. Topics have historically addressed a variety of issues, ranging from international affairs and business to mental health and environmental sustainability. RTs foster a unique setting that encourages delegates to confront their own assumptions, welcome the input of their peers, and breach difficult topics with honesty and sincerity as a means of contributing to a greater academic enterprise. RTs expose delegates to new outlooks, build trust, and foster mutual understanding between RT members.

