

China Volunteer Programme 2027

Terms and Conditions

These terms apply to everyone who applies for, or takes part in, the 2027 China Volunteer Programme. By applying, and by accepting a place, you confirm you have read, understood and agree to them.

DRAFT for Simon's review. This document has not been reviewed by a lawyer. Sections marked **■** contain legal terms (liability, indemnity, cost recovery, privacy) that should be checked before publication.

1. Who runs the programme

The programme is coordinated by Eastern Bridge Limited ("Eastern Bridge", "we") as part of the Bay of Plenty–Jiangxi sister-province relationship. It is supported in New Zealand by the Ōpōtiki, Whakatāne, Kawerau and South Waikato District Councils, and in China by the Jiangxi Provincial Government and the Xinyu, Yingtan, Fuzhou, Jiujiang, Nanchang, Jingdezhen and Ganzhou city governments.

Eastern Bridge coordinates selection, placement, welfare oversight and liaison with host schools. Mandatory preparation training is delivered by Eastern Bridge Education, a separate company.

Programme contact: Simon Appleton, simon@easternbridge.co.nz

2. Nature of the programme

This is a not-for-profit cultural and educational exchange. Taking part is voluntary. It is not employment, and you are not an employee, contractor or agent of Eastern Bridge, the supporting councils or your host school.

3. Eligibility

To apply you must:

- be aged 20 or over at departure, unless Eastern Bridge has agreed otherwise in writing before you apply;
- be a New Zealand citizen and a native English speaker;
- have completed NCEA Level 3 or an equivalent qualification;
- pass a police check;
- live in the Whakatāne, Ōpōtiki, Kawerau or South Waikato districts, or be affiliated to Whakatōhea, Te Whānau-ā-Apanui, Ngāti Awa, Tūhoe or Ngāti Kahungunu (Heretaunga); and
- meet the health, character and suitability requirements in section 9.

If you live outside these areas, please ask your local council or iwi to contact Eastern Bridge about joining the programme. Selection is competitive and considers motivation, suitability, regional balance and host-school needs. Applying does not guarantee a place.

4. Dates and placement

The 2027 intakes are 14 March – 13 June 2027 and 15 September – 11 December 2027. Dates may vary slightly. Applications close three months before departure: about 14 December 2026 for the March intake and about 15 June 2027 for the September intake. You must commit to the full intake. Host schools and cities are confirmed before departure. We will consider your preference but cannot guarantee a location.

5. What the programme provides

Provided	Detail
Programme fee	None. The programme is free to volunteers.
Flights and visa	Return international flights and your visa, arranged by the programme.
Insurance	Travel insurance with Taiping Insurance for the placement period.
Accommodation and meals	Accommodation provided by your host school, with your own bedroom and bathroom. Meals are mostly provided, usually through the school canteen.
Stipend	400 RMB per week, intended to cover meals when canteens are closed and day-to-day costs.
Training	180 hours of preparation training with Eastern Bridge Education: basic Chinese (HSK 1), TESOL certification and a China readiness workshop.

You are responsible for personal spending, optional travel and any costs that result from your own choices or a breach of these terms.

6. Your role and hours

- Up to 15 hours of classroom time per week, on weekdays.
- No more than 20 hours per week in total, including school events and activities you may be asked to attend.
- Weekends are free unless you agree otherwise beforehand.
- You support English learning and cultural exchange under the guidance of your host school.

7. Mandatory preparation training

Every participant must complete **180 hours of preparation training**, delivered by Eastern Bridge Education, covering basic Chinese (HSK 1), TESOL certification and a China readiness workshop. **80 of those hours are in person in Ōpōtiki.**

Attendance is mandatory. A participant who does not attend will be withdrawn from the programme.

7A. Following the coordinator’s directions

You must follow the directions of the programme coordinator. This includes replying to emails promptly and providing information and documents when asked. Not doing so may lead to withdrawal from the programme.

8. Professional conduct and safeguarding

You hold a professional role in a school, and must act professionally at all times. This includes dressing appropriately for a school role, being punctual, being respectful to staff, students and the host community, and meeting similar expectations set by Eastern Bridge or your host school.

You must act with respect, responsibility and integrity, follow reasonable instructions from Eastern Bridge and your host school, and comply with local laws, visa conditions and school rules. There is zero tolerance for harassment, bullying, discrimination, abuse, exploitation or intimidation.

You will work with children and young people. You must keep professional boundaries, avoid unsupervised one-on-one situations, and report any safeguarding concern to your support teacher and Eastern Bridge immediately. A breach of safeguarding expectations will lead to immediate removal from the programme.

You must not make public statements on behalf of Eastern Bridge or the programme without approval, and should avoid political commentary while representing the programme.

9. Fitness to take part

You must be physically and mentally fit to complete the programme, and must disclose any medical or mental health condition that could affect your participation or safety. We may ask for more information or medical clearance, and may withdraw a volunteer before departure or during the placement if there is a risk to them or others.

10. Support, travel and emergencies

Your host school's support teacher is your first point of contact. Eastern Bridge staff in China and returning volunteer leaders also provide support. You must join programme communication channels (email and WeChat) and stay reasonably responsive.

Tell your host school and Eastern Bridge about any independent travel. You need approval before leaving your placement region or crossing a border. High-risk activities may not be covered by insurance and are at your own risk.

In an emergency, Eastern Bridge may make decisions needed to protect your safety, including relocating or bringing you home, and may liaise with your emergency contacts, insurers, host institutions, New Zealand consular staff and emergency services. You agree to follow emergency instructions.

11. Early return and cost recovery

Commitment matters. Host schools plan their year around you, and the programme pays for your flights, visa and insurance in advance.

If you break your agreement and leave the programme early for any reason other than a medical emergency, you will be liable for losses to the programme. These may include the cost of a new flight and the costs of bringing in a replacement volunteer.

If you withdraw before departure, tell us in writing as early as possible. Where costs have already been incurred (for example visas or flights), Eastern Bridge may recover reasonable costs. If your participation is ended because of misconduct, you may be liable for costs incurred, including the cost of returning home.

12. Ending participation

Eastern Bridge may end your participation for not attending mandatory training, not following the coordinator's directions, serious misconduct, repeated breaches after a warning, a breach of law or safeguarding obligations, safety or wellbeing concerns, or at a host school's request.

13. Programme changes

We may make reasonable changes, including changing host schools, schedules or duties. We may cancel or change the programme because of events outside our control, such as natural disasters, health emergencies or government decisions. These changes are not a breach of these terms.

14. Privacy 🇳🇿

We collect and use personal information only for programme administration, safety and logistics, in line with the Privacy Act 2020. Your information is stored securely in New Zealand and is shared with host schools, insurers and partners only where needed. You consent to us contacting your emergency contacts and sharing limited health or personal information in a genuine emergency or safeguarding situation.

15. Photos and stories

Photos and video taken during the programme may be used to promote and report on it. You may opt out in writing before departure.

16. Liability 🇳🇿

International travel carries some risk that cannot be removed entirely. To the extent permitted by law, Eastern Bridge is not liable for injury, loss or costs beyond what the programme provides, for loss of personal property, or for activities outside the programme. These terms are governed by New Zealand law.

17. Concerns and complaints

Raise concerns first with your support teacher, then with Simon Appleton at the address above.

18. Acceptance

Name

Signature

Date

Intake (March / September 2027)