
China Volunteer Programme 2027

Terms and Conditions

2027 edition

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.

1. Who runs the programme

The programme is coordinated by Eastern Bridge Limited (“Eastern Bridge”, “we”). Eastern Bridge Limited is the party to these terms and is responsible to you for the programme. It is run 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, pastoral care and safeguarding lead: Simon Appleton, simon@easternbridge.co.nz. China coordinator: Fido Chen, Managing Director of Beijing New Bridge, Eastern Bridge’s sister company in China, who manages host institutions.

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 (you can apply before you turn 20, as long as you are 20 by the departure date);
- be a New Zealand citizen with fluent, native-level English;
- 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 10.

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 for both intakes open 1 December 2026 and close 25 December 2026. 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. Policy details are provided once you are accepted.
Accommodation and meals	Host schools are government public universities, high schools and primary schools, which are government-approved institutions. Your host school provides your accommodation, with your own bedroom and bathroom. Meals are mostly provided, usually through the school canteen.
Stipend	¥400 per week (about NZ\$90), paid fortnightly (¥800) into your WeChat wallet, intended to cover meals when canteens are closed and day-to-day costs.
Phone	A Chinese SIM card with data.
Training wānanga	Marae accommodation for the overnight wānanga during training.
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 your travel to and from training sessions, personal spending, optional travel, pharmacy items, routine dental and optical care, insurance excesses, any costs not covered by insurance, 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 (sessions in Ōpōtiki/Whakatāne and Napier).**

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 A participant who does not attend will be withdrawn from the programme.

8. 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.

9. 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, and avoid unsupervised one-on-one situations. You will never be alone with a student and never be the sole teacher; local staff remain responsible for supervision, assessment and discipline. Report any safeguarding concern immediately to your support teacher and to the programme's safeguarding lead, Simon Appleton (simon@easternbridge.co.nz). Safeguarding is covered in your preparation training. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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. You receive emergency contact details, including how to reach Eastern Bridge in an emergency, at your pre-departure briefing.

12. 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 leave the programme early by your own choice for any reason other than a medical emergency, you must pay Eastern Bridge's actual and reasonable costs caused by your early departure. These are limited to (a) the cost of your replacement or changed flight, and (b) the reasonable cost of arranging a replacement volunteer (for example their flight and visa).

Medical emergency means a medical emergency affecting you, confirmed by a doctor or our insurer, or the serious illness or death of a close family member. Leaving for these reasons does not create any liability under this section.

The same costs apply if your participation is ended because of your misconduct or a breach of these terms. You will not be charged these costs if we end your placement for safety or wellbeing reasons, at a host school's request, or because of a programme change under section 14.

If you withdraw before departure, tell us in writing as early as possible. There is no cost if you withdraw before your flights or visa have been booked. After that, you must pay only the non-refundable flight and visa costs already incurred. No costs are charged if you are withdrawn before departure for missing training, unless flights or visa have already been booked.

Where costs apply, we will give you an itemised invoice with supporting receipts, take reasonable steps to keep the costs down, and can agree a payment plan.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

You agree that we may share your name, contact details, passport and visa details, police check outcome and relevant health information with your host school, Beijing New Bridge, Chinese authorities (for your visa) and our insurer, only as needed for your visa, placement and safety. Information sent overseas may not be protected in the same way as it is in New Zealand.

You can ask to see and correct the personal information we hold about you. We keep your records for five years after your placement ends, except financial records, which we keep for seven years where the law requires it. We then securely delete them. If you have a privacy concern you can contact us, and you can also complain to the Office of the Privacy Commissioner.

Our Privacy Officer is Simon Appleton, simon@easternbridge.co.nz. You consent to us contacting your emergency contacts and sharing limited health or personal information in a genuine emergency or safeguarding situation.

16. Photos and stories

Photos and video taken during the programme may be used to promote and report on it. You may opt out, or withdraw your consent for future use, in writing at any time.

Photos or video of students need the host school’s consent, must follow programme guidance, and must not be posted on personal social media.

17. 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. Nothing in these terms limits any rights you have under the Consumer Guarantees Act 1993 or the Fair Trading Act 1986 that cannot be excluded by agreement. These terms are governed by New Zealand law.

18. Concerns and complaints

Raise concerns first with your support teacher, then with Simon Appleton at the address above. Matters relating to host institutions may also be raised with Fido Chen, the China coordinator. We will acknowledge your complaint and respond within 10 working days.

19. Acceptance

I have read, understood and agree to these Terms and Conditions.

Name	Signature
Date	Intake (March / September 2027)