WorldCHAT.us
University Partner Program

Program Description

The WorldCHAT Program will provide a platform for international participants to listen, speak and interact directly with Sonoma State University (SSU) students and faculty. Using a live, online platform, participants will hear from SSU faculty and students about a variety of higher education topics and be able to ask questions and engage with the SSU student throughout the session.

Duration and Content

This program lasts 10 weeks, but the length can be customizable based on content and class size. The session will last one hour and will include an interactive presentation with small group discussions followed by a Question and Answer period. The final session may include presentations by the participants and the awarding of a badge or certification to those that attend all sessions.

Audience

The participants that will benefit from the program will be international students or people that want to study about or in the U.S. There are multiple benefits from participating in this program, such as increased listening and speaking skills, expanded knowledge of U.S. history and current issues, elevated vocabulary, among others.

Location of Sessions

Sessions can occur as part of an existing course in the Partner university that focuses on English language learning and U.S. culture and/or history. Additionally, sessions can be made into a standalone course for students who are interested in expanding their language skills and learning more about U.S. culture and issues.

Session Topics

Welcome and Introductions
1. USA > Northern California Part I
   ● San Francisco Bay Area & Sacramento
   ● Geography & Landforms
   ● People & Food
   ● Landmarks
   ● Group Chat example questions: Where have you traveled? What is your favorite kind of food?

2. USA > Northern California Part II
   ● Natural Resources
   ● Industry
   ● Wildlife
   ● Sports
   ● Group Chat example questions: Why is recycling important? What is your favorite sport?

WorldCHAT.us
University Partner Program

3. Higher Education System in California
    - University of California System
    - California State University System
    - Community Colleges
    - Private Universities
    - Group Chat example questions: How do students get to and from school in your city? Are there public and private universities in your country like in the U.S.? Is it difficult to enter a public or private university?

4. Sonoma State University
    - School Facts
    - Campus Life
    - Studying and Working @ SSU
    - Group Chat example questions: What kind of clubs are you interested in and why? What kind of activities would you like to participate in if you were a student at SSU?

5. U.S. Government
    - Federal Government structure
    - Electing the U.S. President
    - State Government structure
    - Group Chat example questions: Who leads your country? How is your government elected to office?

6. Hunger in the U.S.
    - Definition of hunger
    - Who is hungry and Why
    - Solutions
    - Group Chat example questions: Who do you think suffers from hunger in your country? Which are the best solutions to this problem and why?

7. Civil Rights and Minorities in the U.S. #1
    - Who are the minority groups in the U.S.
    - Black Lives Matter Movement
    - History of Inequalities in the U.S.
    - Group Chat example questions: What have you heard about the Black Lives Matter Movement? What do people who support BLM want?

8. Civil Rights and Minorities in the U.S. #2
    - Human Rights
    - Civil Rights cases in the U.S.
    - Nationality and Identity
    - Group Chat example questions: What is the human right you consider most important? What does it mean to be American or Japanese?

WorldCHAT.us
University Partner Program

9. Civil Rights and Minorities in the U.S. #3
    ● Segregation in the South of the U.S.
    ● Voting Rights
    ● Group Chat example questions: Can separate but equal really be equal? Why or why not? Does your vote matter? Why or why not?

10. Review and Student Presentations
    ● All topics are reviewed
    ● Students share a reflection writing from one of the topics and/or discuss the most interesting topics.
    ● Group Chat example questions: Which topic would you like to learn more about and how can you learn more?