**LIASE**

**Call for Application**

Environmental issues are global and requires a global vision. Luce Initiative on Asian Studies and Environment (LIASE) aims to cultivate this vision by supporting scientists and undergraduate students to study environmental issues in Asia. We have successfully run this program for the past two years. Now it is your chance to join the adventure!

For the 2019-2020 academic year, we are looking for four students with interests and background in environmental studies and China to join a multidisciplinary learning and research team composed of Vassar environmental studies faculty members. The LIASE grant covers the travel and lodging expenses of the entire trip.

**Theme:** Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Development

**Activities**: We team up with researchers and students from Central China Normal University (CCNU) and conduct various research projects in Wuhan, China. This region is nourished by the mighty Yangtze River and known as one of the major “granaries” of China. We place our environmental investigations in the large context of rural development. As industrialization and urbanization transform these traditionally farming communities, how do they cope with these challenges? What are the impacts on air, water, soil, and food? Are these developments environmentally sustainable? We have identified a few sites for closer examinations, including a private agribusiness, a crayfish farm, a tea factory and a nature reserve. Students will be paired with faculty mentors with similar academic interests. Together they visit the site, conduct research, and collect data during the trip, and analyze the materials upon return to campus. Students should continue to work with faculty mentors to improve the research projects in the following academic year. In addition, we are expected exchange research ideas and teaching practices with CCNU faculty and students.

**Time Frame**: The travel and field work portion of the project will take place around May 25-June 7, 2020. The exact date may be finetuned to fit the calendars of both institutions.

**Eligibility**:    Students need to be Vassar students during the summer of 2020. So current seniors are not eligible.  We look for students with background and interests in environmental studies and China. Students with prior environmental science courses/lab work are preferred. Willingness to learn new techniques and skills is a plus. Ideal candidates should be enthusiastic, hardworking, creative, flexible, and collegial. For students without Chinese language background, commitment to one-year Chinese language learning is necessary. LIASE has a few fellowships to assist language acquisition during the summer and the following semester.

If you have no interest in Chinese language but nevertheless want to study environmental issues in China, you should apply as well. We have collaborated with *Vassar Environmental Research Institute* to support a few non-language students on the trip.

**To apply**: Please email all the following to Fubing Su (fusu@vassar.edu) by Dec. 15. If you want to learn more about the program and about your eligibility, please feel free to contact Fubing Su before the official deadline.

* One-page (250 words) statement of your interests, career goals, and background in Environment studies and China
* Resume
* Unofficial transcript
* Names of two professors for reference