

2023 COHORT

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (IYLP)

Background

In recent years, the global climate and humanitarian crisis have seen record numbers of people displaced and fleeing from violence and persecution. Given the urgency of these challenges, there has never been a greater need for bold actions, partnership, and leadership globally.

With more than 1.8 billion young people around the world, youth today are the largest generation in history. Through technology and ease of travel, these young people are connected like never before. Given the resources and support, young people have the potential to be changemakers and to contribute to the development and resilience of their communities and beyond.

Tzu Chi's International Youth Leadership Program (IYLP) is a 6-month program for young people aged 20–35 years, aimed at fostering young leaders with an international outlook. IYLP develops and equips youth with skills, knowledge, resources, and practical experiences to become engaged citizens and transformative leaders. Sponsored by the Buddhist Tzu Chi Charity Foundation, and co-organized by the Tzu Chi International Youth Association (TIYA) and Tzu Chi USA Global Partnership Affairs Department, IYLP delegates will be given opportunities to network with peers across the globe, conduct community service activities, and participate in international and United Nations conferences such as UNFCCC COP28 held in Dubai in November 2023, 6th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) held in Nairobi in February 2024, among others. The program is running from March through September, 2023.

IYLP includes:

- Sustainable development courses
- Skills building workshops
- Support from mentors experienced on project topics
- Scholarships to attend conferences and community projects
- Resources to organize local and international projects and events
- Opportunities to participate in different working groups
- Upon completion, a Certificate of Completion and access to other exciting opportunities.

Objectives

- Equip young people with the knowledge and skills of sustainable development
- Empower young people to take actions and responsibilities on sustainability issues
- Engage young people in global platforms to voice their concerns and solutions for sustainable development

About Tzu Chi Foundation and TIYA

Buddhist Tzu Chi Charity Foundation, also known as Tzu Chi Foundation, is an international humanitarian and nongovernmental organization (NGO). For 56 years, Tzu Chi Foundation has worked in the missions of charity, medicine, education, and humanistic culture with offices in 67 countries. Providing disaster relief, medical aid, environmental protection projects across 128 countries, Tzu Chi Foundation was given Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) in 2010. In 2019, Tzu Chi Foundation was granted accreditation by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as an observer to sessions of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), and in 2022, Tzu Chi Foundation was appointed co-chair of the UN interagency Task Force on Religion and Sustainable Development's Multi-Faith Advisory Council.

Tzu Chi International Youth Association (TIYA) is a sub-organization of Tzu Chi Foundation. Established in 2020, TIYA is a platform that aims to provide opportunities and resources for young people to nurture young leaders to contribute positively to their communities and beyond through innovation and collaboration.

For more information, please refer to the 'Program Information' (page 2–4) and 'FAQs' (page 5–6). Alternatively, you are welcome to ask a question via iylp@tzuchi.org.tw or contact with your school.



PROGRAM INFORMATION



Eligibility

- **Age Requirements:** Applicants must be aged 20–35 years during 2023. (underaged applicants will be disqualified automatically).
- **Nationality Requirements:** All nationalities are welcome.
Note: Some United Nations-related activities may have nationality restrictions, thus several opportunities will be opened to qualified delegates only.
- **Other Requirements:**
 - Applicants must have an interest in sustainable development and agree with Tzu Chi's humanistic spirit and philosophy.
 - Applicants must be able to communicate fluently in English in both speech and writing.
 - For requirements upon the completion of the program, please refer to the 'Implementation' section (page 3).

Application Guide

Please the QR code to access the Application Form:

Link: <https://bit.ly/iylpedu23>

Please do not submit more than one application.

If more than one application is received, we will only use the first application submitted. If there are any problems with the online submission, please contact iylp@tzuchi.org.tw



You will need the following to complete the Application Form:

- **ID Photo:** Please provide a photo taken in the last six months that will be suitable for ID use.
- **Cover Letter (one A4 page, size 12, PDF):**
Please use the following questions to guide your Cover Letter:
 1. Tell us about yourself. What are your interests and involvement in community work?
 2. Why have you chosen to apply for IYLP and what do you wish to gain from this Program?
 3. What global issues are you passionate about and what works have you partaken to address these issues?
- **Curriculum Vitae (two A4 pages, size 12 font, PDF)**
- **2 Letters of Recommendations (PDF only):**
Please include the following details for your referee:
 - a. Name
 - b. Position and Organization
 - c. Contact Details
 - d. Relations to the Applicant

Application Deadline

Please check with your school.

For more information, please refer to the 'FAQs' (page 5–6).

Alternatively, you are welcome to ask a question via iylp@tzuchi.org.tw or contact with your school.



Implementation

• Selection of Participants

First selection

After careful review on the application documents, an email will be sent to applicants that are eligible to go into the interview process.

Interview

Interview will be conducted either individually or in groups.

Final Selection

Up to three successful applicants will be selected from each school (TCU and TCUST) to the final delegation, making a team of six.

• Program Content

The Program will include the following:

- **12-Week Online Courses:** 2.5- to 3-hour sessions are held every second Saturday. Sessions will be a mixture of lectures, discussions, and skills training. Invited speakers include sustainability experts, youth leaders, social entrepreneurs, NGO project specialists, academics, and more. There will be individual assignments and group projects throughout the courses. Please see below for the roadmap of the courses.
- **Action & Practice track:** During the program, delegates must host events related to sustainable development, either online or in-person. Guidance and resources may be provided.
- **Digital Marketing track (optional):** Delegates can join the Digital Marketing team to raise awareness on sustainability issues on social media, as well as showcase the activities and achievements of the 2023 Cohort throughout the program.
- **Research & Advocacy track (optional):** Delegates will have the opportunities to perform data and information research on sustainability issues, as a means to prepare for advocacy and engagement in international platforms.
- **Conference Engagement (optional):** Delegates will have the opportunity to attend and/or speak at various local, national, and international conferences related to sustainable development issues. Funding and scholarship opportunities are available.

• Completion of the Program

To receive a Certificate of Completion, delegates must

- complete the 12-Week Courses (early notice is required for absenteeism)
- complete the Action & Practice track

• Subsidies

For delegates who are admitted to the COP28 conference and UNEA-6, Buddhist Tzu Chi Charity Foundation will provide a subsidy covering transportation and accommodation. Also participation in other international conferences might be subsidized, to be determined on a case-by-case basis.

• Beyond IYLP 2023

In addition to COP28 and UNEA-6, delegates who have successfully completed the program will be eligible to apply for other conferences, forums, humanitarian work, leadership roles, among others. Opportunities will be announced to all delegates who are eligible and interested. The timeline for conference engagement opportunities open from July 2023 to July 2024.



12-Week Courses (Knowledge + Skills)

Join the Global Track



Digital Marketing

Optional



Action & Practice

Self-manage; Toolkit may be provided



Research & Advocacy

Optional



Conference Engagement Opportunities



• **Course Roadmap**

The courses including lectures, discussion, and case studies on various sustainable development issues, as well as skills building sessions. The programme is expected to start around mid of March to mid of September, 2023.



Terms and Conditions

- Acting reasonably, in the circumstances, Buddhist Tzu Chi Charity Foundation (also known as "Tzu Chi") reserves the right to cancel or change the Program and/or the Program activities at any time.
- Tzu Chi reserves the right to make any cancellations, changes and/or substitutions in cases of emergency or changed conditions or in the interest of each group as deemed necessary by Tzu Chi.
- Acting reasonably, in the circumstances, Tzu Chi reserves the right to refuse or revoke an application for participation in the Program.
- Tzu Chi will provide comprehensive support to Participants in obtaining visas and required documents associated with travel and attendance to events or conferences. However, it is ultimately the responsibility of the Participant to obtain such visas and required documents.
- In the event Participant cannot obtain the necessary visas and/or documents for participation in IYLP, Participants shall not hold Tzu Chi responsible.
- Tzu Chi reserves the right to use any photos or videos of Participant, or statements made by Participant, for print, verbal, internet, or other commercial use and shall not be held liable for such use.
- Requests to decline such use must be sent in writing to the Program Coordinator iylp@tzuchi.org.tw
- Buddhist Tzu Chi Charity Foundation shall not be liable for any loss, harm, injury, or damages sustained by Participant or caused to Participant's property howsoever caused.



FAQS

***TERMS AND CONDITIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO SAFETY CONCERNS AND TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS. CHANGES WILL BE ANNOUNCED THROUGH EMAIL TO SUCCESSFUL PARTICIPANTS.**

Applications and Eligibilities

How long will the "International Youth Leadership Program" be open for application?

Please check with your school for the deadline. You are encouraged to submit the application early, to give us more time to study your submission. Use the following QR code for the registration form, or you can access from <https://bit.ly/iylpedu23>.



Can I apply if I am not from TCU or TCUST?

Not through this application form. There will be another registration track for applicants who are not from TCU or TCUST, you can access from <https://bit.ly/iylp23>.

How do I know if I have been accepted for an admission interview? What preparation is needed for the interview?

Upon receipt of your application materials, we will review the material for eligibility. If the materials are complete and meet the application conditions, the organizer will issue an interview notice and determine a time for the interview that is suitable for you. In this interview notification letter, we will attach the interview instructions.

What language will be used for the admission interview?

The interviews, like the program as a whole, will be conducted completely in English.

English is not my native language, can I apply for this program?

All training courses in this program will be taught in English, so an ability to express oneself in spoken and written English is a basic condition for participation. Proficiency in a second language is also a benefit to your application.

Do I need a certificate to show my English ability?

No, it is not necessary to have a certificate to show your English abilities but do feel free to state any certificates you have. The English ability of applicants will primarily be assessed through the application material and interview.

Do I need to be proficient in Mandarin Chinese?

The only language requirement is English, but proficiency in a second language or any additional languages (such as Mandarin) might be of benefit for your application.

Is there a fee to apply for this program?

No. Tzu Chi International Youth Association is committed to cultivating the abilities of young leaders. Therefore, the program will provide free training. Moreover, if you are admitted to an in-person international humanitarian aid project or the COP27 conference, the organizer will provide you with a subsidy covering transportation and accommodation.

Is participation in this program restricted by nationality?

Participation in IYLP is not affected by national, religious, or ethnic identity. We aim for diversity and inclusiveness. Everyone is welcome to apply. However, some United Nations-related activities may have nationality status restrictions, so the organizer will open for students to participate in accordance with the conditions of the activities.

What are the selection criterias?

We are looking for youth with volunteer experience who are passionate about being a changemaker locally and globally. Fluency in English will also be taken into consideration.

For more information, please refer to the 'Program Information' (page 2-4).

Alternatively, you are welcome to ask a question via iylp.tzuchi.org.tw or contact with your school.



FAQS

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Program Information and Sessions

What is the program format?

The program, including lectures and presentations, small-group discussions, and interactive activities, is conducted as virtual sessions using video conferencing and interaction online software. After successfully concluding the program, participants will have the opportunity to apply to join in-person events such as COP28, UNEA-6, and other conferences.

What are the time and cost commitments for attending the program?

Attendees are expected to attend twelve 2.5- or 3-hour training sessions, to be held every other week, and to meet with their mentors between sessions (typically for 0.5-1 hours). They also need to complete the Action and Practice track. There will also be take-home assignments, reading, or group projects associated with certain sessions. Overall, the expected workload to participate in the program is 8-10 hours/fortnight.

There is no fee to participate in the program. However, you would need to ensure you have access to electronic devices (preferably a computer or tablet) and stable internet connection for the online course streaming. Additionally, if an attendee applies and is accepted to join an international in-person event, while Tzu Chi will provide a subsidy, there might be additional expenses (e.g. insurance, visa application fees, food and daily living costs, and/or partial travel or accommodation expenses) associated with the trip.

What time will the training sessions be held? If I am enrolled in the program and am unable to attend a training session, will I still be eligible to receive a completion certificate?

The training sessions for this program are expected to be arranged in the morning in Asia and Oceania/in the evening in the Americas.

To receive a Certificate of Completion, delegates must

- Complete the 12-Week Courses (early notice is required for absenteeism)
- Complete the Action & Practice track

*Missed sessions will need to be made up through watching the recording of the session, meeting with the mentor, and completing the assigned work.

Will the program include practical components?

The curriculum includes training in project planning, and attendees will also have opportunities to participate in planning and execution of events and activities.

If I am not accepted into the program, will I still be able to participate in any of the class sessions?

In order to ensure quality training, this project will only accept a maximum of 3 participants from each school.

For more information, please refer to the 'Program Information' (page 2-4).

Alternatively, you are welcome to ask a question via iylp@tzuchi.org.tw or contact with your school.

