ACMS Mongolia Field School 2020
Letter of Reference Information

The American Center for Mongolian Studies (ACMS) is hosting an interdisciplinary Field School program in Mongolia during the summer of 2020. The Field School program is being led by experienced North American and Mongolian faculty members and will introduce students to field research techniques while exploring the culture, history and environment of Mongolia.

Student applicants are required to submit one Letter of Reference from an academic referee, such as a faculty member. It is preferred that Letter of Reference is provided to the applicant as a document on institutional letterhead for submission with other application materials. If desired, the referee may email the Letter of Reference as an attachment to: mfs@mongoliacenter.org.

The Priority Application deadline is March 1, 2020, and final deadline is April 30, 2020. Letters of reference must be received before the application will be considered for program acceptance or fellowships.

In the Letter of Reference, please address as many of the following topics as possible about the student:

1. The student's maturity and self-reliance
2. In-class participation; ability to articulate ideas orally and in writing
3. Ability to work well with others in a team and interactive class setting
4. Motivation to participate in the Mongolia Field School and chosen program focus area
5. Field research experience and ability
6. Resilience necessary to participate in a field school held in rural areas of a developing country

About the program:
The American Center for Mongolian Studies will host an interdisciplinary summer field school program in Mongolia in summer 2020. Participants will gather in Ulaanbaatar for an orientation, and then engage in a series of lectures and site visits in one of the six focus areas outlined below. All field school participants will have the opportunity to visit Ulaanbaatar and other field sites in Mongolia.
The field school is open to undergraduate and graduate students, professionals, faculty and life-long learners interested in learning field research techniques and participating in research and activities that highlight the culture, history and environment of Mongolia. Previous experience in Mongolia or with field study topics is not required.

Students who are seeking academic credit for the program can work with program organizers and their home institution to ensure the program meets credit requirements. Full course syllabi, including learning objectives, course content and readings, and assessment criteria are available upon request.

A substantial number of fellowships are available for program participants with funding support from the Henry Luce Foundation and other donors. The program is open to participation by individuals 18 and over of all nationalities and at all academic levels.

The six program focus areas include:

**Session 1, June 15-July 3, 2020**
*Word and Sound in Mongolian Culture* will focus on the study of Mongolian literary and musical forms and styles in the context of both the rural lives of nomadic herders and of the urban literary and musical scene.

*Climate Change and Herding in Three Mongolian Eco-zones: Incontrovertible Warning Signs and Local Responses* will focus on research into climate change in mountain, steppe, and desert eco-zones of central Mongolia, with herders’ observations and responses to climate stress.

**Session 2, July 27-August 14, 2020**
*Climate Change and Public Health: Heat, Fire, Flood and Drought on the Steppe (Public Health and Climate Change)* will focus on the backdrop of the Mongolian landscape, explore firsthand how climate change is impacting public health in urban environments and rural communities.

*Mongolian Buddhism, Nature, and Conservation* will focus on the intersect between Mongolian Buddhism, Shamanism, nature ethics and environmental conservation and the history and philosophy of Mongolian Buddhism, tracing its flow from the Silk Route to the twentieth century religious purges to its modern-day renaissance.

*Gobi Futures: Navigating and Anticipating Change in a Transforming Desert* will focus on transformations unfolding in the Gobi Desert which has recently emerged as the epicenter of Mongolia’s mining boom.

*Environment, Humans, and Mining in Northern Mongolia* will focus on intersections of “modern” (scientific and engineering) as well as “traditional” (including Buddhist and shamanic) knowledge and knowledge practices on human environment relations, especially with the emphasis of mining activities in the Northern Mongolian regions.

More information on the program is available at:
[https://www.mongoliacenter.org/fellowships/mongolia-field-school-2020/](https://www.mongoliacenter.org/fellowships/mongolia-field-school-2020/)