VISITING STUDENTS PROGRAM:
LANGUAGE & CULTURAL IMMERSION CAMP

BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY
Bemidji State University’s summer Language & Cultural Immersion Camp is a two to three week program with an equal focus on intensive English language instruction and cultural immersion. The program is designed for college students wishing to improve their English language proficiency and to gain a deeper understanding of U.S. culture while experiencing life on an American campus.

Camp participants attend 15 hours of classes each week. Mornings focus on language instruction based on a student’s English proficiency, while afternoons are filled with educational, cultural, natural, and historical outings.

**TEAM ACTIVITIES**

Camp students are divided into teams that are led by a BSU student mentor. Teams compete in friendly competitions and a winning team is announced at the end of the program. One such activity is a scavenger hunt that helps students familiarize themselves with the campus and the city of Bemidji. The team mentors serve as effective and informative guides, and as conversation partners and cultural mentors to the participants.

**OFF-CAMPUS TRIPS**

After a morning of classes, students explore Bemidji and its beautiful environment. Northern Minnesota is a paradise for nature lovers. Students can get outside, be active, connect with nature and immerse themselves in the culture while fine-tuning their newly acquired English skills and cultural knowledge from the classroom. No two days are the same. Activities are diverse and may include visits to a family-run organic farm, art museums, musical and theatrical performances, exploration of historical landmarks, hiking trails at state parks, and other recreational and cultural sites — including the famous Mississippi River headwaters, Lake Itasca, St. Paul Cathedral, Split Rock lighthouse and a sunset cruise on Lake Superior. In the evenings, students participate in social activities with Bemidji State University students and faculty, which include a welcome bonfire, outdoor barbeque, rock-climbing, yoga in the park, outdoor concerts, and a formal farewell dinner.
NorthStar Visiting Scholars Academy will accommodate the visiting student ambassadors for a program fee (please contact Jo Li for more details) and provide the following:

- Transportation to and from Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport (MSP)
- BSU support staff and student team leaders
- Access to BSU facilities and resources (e.g. BSU library, WiFi, and the Wellness Center)
- 15 hours of English language lessons per week and related course materials
- 3 meals a day for the duration of the program
- Transportation and admission for field trips to places of interest within the state of Minnesota
- Housing in a double-occupancy room (shared another student of the same sex)
- Equipment rental for water activities
- Off-campus activities (e.g. Mall of America, musical performance, the Mississippi Headwaters at Itasca State Park, St. Paul Cathedral, Split Rock Historic Light House)
- On-campus activities (e.g. bonfire picnic, outdoor barbecue, rock climbing, yoga, farewell reception)

The following costs are not included in the program fee:

- Round-trip travel costs to MSP
- Visa fees, where applicable
- Personal expenses, such as shopping and souvenirs
- Health and other accident insurance
- Expenses for travelling to other parts of the U.S.

ABOUT BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

- Bemidji State University is located on a beautiful, safe and welcoming lakeside campus in north-central Minnesota, in the small city of Bemidji.
- Bemidji and the surrounding region have a population of around 65,000.
- There are 400 lakes within a 40-km radius of Bemidji.
- The name “Bemidji” is taken from the Ojibwe (American Indian) word Bay-may-ji-ga-maug, which means “a lake with crossing waters,” referring to the way the Mississippi River flows through Lake Bemidji.
- Bemidji’s warmest month is July, with an average high of 26° C.

Outdoor Recreation
The Bemidji region is known for world-class hunting and fishing, and its clear lakes and deep forests offer endless opportunities for year-round recreation. Popular activities include bicycling, boating, hiking, camping, downhill and cross-country skiing.

- Bemidji is 113 kilometers south of Canada.
- By car, Bemidji is four hours north of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area.
## SAMPLE ITINERARY (2-3 WEEKS TOTAL)

### 2019 VISITING STUDENTS PROGRAM: LANGUAGE & CULTURAL IMMERSION CAMP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK 1</th>
<th>MORNING</th>
<th>AFTERNOON</th>
<th>EVENING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
<td>Arrive in MSP &amp; Bus to Bemidji</td>
<td>Program Orientation: Campus Tour, Expectations, What is Immersion Learning</td>
<td>Welcome Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
<td>International Day at Concordia Language Villages;</td>
<td>Team Building Activities</td>
<td>Dinner at Chinese Buffet and First Friday Art Walk</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday</strong></td>
<td>Day trip to Itasca State Park with Picnic Lunch: Visiting the Headwater of the Mississippi river</td>
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<td>Dinner at BSU community member's house</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday</strong></td>
<td>Pizza Social in the Penthouse</td>
<td>Music Under the Pine</td>
<td>Dinner at Park House with University Officials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
<td>ESL Class, and Lunch at Wally's</td>
<td>Supplies shopping run</td>
<td>Dinner at Wally's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
<td>ESL Class, and Lunch at Wally's</td>
<td>Water Mark Art Center</td>
<td>Dinner at Wally's and Yoga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td>ESL Class, and Lunch at Wally's</td>
<td>Musical: Little Shop of horror</td>
<td>Dinner at Wally's and Mississippi River front Music concert</td>
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### WEEK 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>MORNING</th>
<th>AFTERNOON</th>
<th>EVENING</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
<td>ESL Class, and Lunch at Wally's</td>
<td>Lake Bemidji Mississippi river Pontoon Tour</td>
<td>Dinner at Wally's and Dream Catcher Making</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
<td>ESL Class, and Lunch at Wally's</td>
<td>Outdoor Program Center water activities</td>
<td>Dinner at Wally's and Bonfire Gathering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday</strong></td>
<td>Loop around the Lake on Bike (snacks, picnic at the park), Bog walk</td>
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<td>Dinner at Wally's and Rock climbing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday</strong></td>
<td>Native American Pow Wow or other cultural activities</td>
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<td>Dinner at Wally's and American Film Festival</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday</strong></td>
<td>Trip to Split Rock Light house, Gooseberry Falls State Park</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sunset Cruise on Lake Superior in Duluth</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
<td>Trip to Minneapolis, Mall of America- the largest mall in the U.S. and Eagan Outlet</td>
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<td>Dinner by the Outlet</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
<td>State Capital of Minnesota Tour, Cathedral of St. Paul, Depart MSP</td>
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**PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION FROM BEMIDJI STATE UNIVERSITY SIGNED BY THE PROVOST AND THE PRESIDENT**

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[www.bemidjistate.edu/services/international/northstar-visiting-scholars/summer-winter-language-and-cultural-immersion-camp/](http://www.bemidjistate.edu/services/international/northstar-visiting-scholars/summer-winter-language-and-cultural-immersion-camp/)