

Eligibility

- First time to China
- Capability of shooting, editing and producing short video individually
- Respect Chinese culture
- Working proficiency in English
- Answering annual theme ***Creativity, Curiosity, Creation***
- Senior students, Alumni in Film Studies or relevant majors preferred
- Candidates with basic shooting and editing facilities preferred



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CALL FOR APPLICATIONS



China through international
young filmmaker's lenses at
their first glances at the culture



AICCC PROVIDES:



- Round trip from participant's home institute to the destination cities in China, economy class
- Accommodation in destination cities, student dormitory
- One-day tour to know local culture
- Local volunteers, acting as both interpreter and assistant producer
- Basic facilities of shooting and editing
- Daily expenses in destination cities, averagely 100 RMB per day
- Mobile phone chip with number, for local communication
- Program T-shirt
- Accident body insurance



Task

- A ten-minute short documentary about the culture in the destination, with English&Chinese subtitles
- A poster
- A synopsis
- A photo of the film maker
- 10 still captures from the film
- 5 behind-the-scenes photos during this project
- Promote your Looking China film and your

THEME: Creativity, Curiosity, Creation

Looking China Youth Film Project has chosen “Creativity, Curiosity, Creation” as the theme for 2025, inviting young filmmakers from around the world to immerse themselves in China’s unique cultural landscape.

Creativity

Creativity is the spark of human imagination, a first glimpse into beauty and possibility. In China, ancient traditions coexist with modern expressions, each landscape and each community offering a wealth of inspiration. For the young filmmakers joining the *Looking China* project, we invite you to uncover these unique moments, capturing the elegance, humor, and warmth of Chinese life. From folk performances to bustling city scenes, every glimpse holds a creative spark, ready to be framed into unforgettable stories.

Curiosity

Curiosity is the exploration of the unknown, the attempt to see things from new perspectives and transcend boundaries. China's diverse landscapes and cultures offer boundless space for creative thought. Each unique cultural detail, each local custom, becomes a source of imaginative inspiration. For the young filmmakers in the *Looking China* project, this is a chance to capture the richness of these untold stories and share their own creative interpretations of China with the world. This is not just an exploration, but a dialogue with their inner world.

Creation

Creation is the transformation of ideas into form, the journey from inspiration to tangible expression. In the *Looking China* project, young filmmakers are not only observers but participants, capturing the heartbeat of China through their lenses. Their films become bridges of understanding, carrying the spirit of China to the world. Through collaboration and immersion, they will shape stories that reflect both local life and their own creative vision. Each film becomes a lasting imprint, *a shared creation that will resonate with audiences far and wide.*

AWARDS: Golden Lenses

Since 2014, *Looking China* started the **Golden Lenses** awards for all the short films produced during the project, judged by three marking criterions : **Best Cultural Discovery**, **Best Artistic Presentation** and **Best Internet Reach**. Every year, AICCC will select and sponsor one to three winners to go back China to make another short film as reward.

Project Timeline

- **December, 2024 to 2025**, Call for applications open
- **Ten weeks before**, Candidate's applications sent to AICCC
- **Eight weeks before**, Participants, including teachers and students, confirmed by AICCC
- **Two weeks before**, Confirmation of travel details
- **Day 1, Arrival**, Meeting with Local Partners
- **Day 2**, Opening ceremony
- **Day 3**, Cultural tour, including the most important tourist attractions or cultural highlights in the destination cities
- **Day 4**, Topic finalized, shooting test
- **Day 5 - 9**, Shooting
- **Day 10 - 14**, Post Production
- **Day 15**, Internal Screening and modification
- **Day 16**, Final Screening
- **Day 17**, Departure
- **After the project in China**, Screenings, Awards, festival entering and online promotion...



TESTIMONY



Looking China confined to a fortnight, and resulting in 10-minute documentaries from script to screen, made by first time visitors to China, is indeed a tall order. The miracle is that some very good films manage to come out of this high-pressured and multi-national environment.

——Professor Arun Gupta, NID, Ahmedabad, India



Cooperation between the faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade, Serbia, on the *Looking China* project has been lasting for a full five years. And it is becoming increasingly dynamic. We started with two students who joined a group and, today, we are at the head of a group from Southeast Europe comprising students from six countries. This cooperation is sincere and open, based on mutual respect and is more than just formal cooperation. It is now already an expression of friendship and support.

——Professor Predrag Velinovic, Faculty of Dramatic Art in Belgrade, Serbia



I used to think of China as a really exotic place that I couldn't really understand. But living here for just a short period of time, I have really seen that there are more similarities than differences that divide us. Because the people I have met here, the experiences I have had here, and the challenges I have encountered will bring changes to my life in the future.

——Janeli Pelska, student from Tallinn University, Estonia



My key word is Family. During the five days of filming, Mo Zi is the character of my film. He and his family have all been so welcoming, and I almost feel like a Chinese, and my Chinese family like me pretty much. Everyone I've met in China has been completely welcoming and very happy to meet me.

——Steven Taylor, student from Oxford Brookes University, UK