

Subject: Re: Thomas Schools | 2025 summer program

From: Evan Glazer <[REDACTED]@imsa.edu>

Date: 6/18/24, 11:26 AM

To: [REDACTED]@imsa.edu>

CC: [REDACTED]@imsa.edu>, [REDACTED]@imsa.edu>, [REDACTED]@imsa.edu>

Hi [REDACTED],

Thanks for the update on your conversation with Dr. [REDACTED]. When I spoke with him in the spring, he mentioned they did not want a separate program, but rather be integrated with other students from IMSA (and elsewhere). As an alternative, I suggest a three week research program, similar to the one [REDACTED] is offering, but with three different sections/topics. That way we could encourage up to 60–70 students to participate, some for SRELO, some from the Thomas schools, and some from elsewhere (for example, right now we are trying to build capacity in Carbondale, so maybe students from their area could earn a research credential at IMSA next summer).

Regarding the English language learning opportunities, I think we can provide evening seminars that focus on conversational English...and that can be led by someone with experience in ELL (don't know if we have someone on staff, but we could certainly hire summer staff with this purpose in mind.

I agree the next step is to recruit colleagues for summer teaching. However, we probably need to align on the instructional approach. I'm sure we can talk more in July, and certainly the principal's office should make the final call.

Evan

On Tue, Jun 18, 2024 at 9:40AM [REDACTED]@imsa.edu> wrote:

Good morning Evan,

Earlier today I had a Zoom call with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] from The Thomas Schools in China.

We discussed the possibility of launching a three-week, residential summer program, to be held at IMSA in July 2025. They are picturing opportunities for research and language immersion for 20–30 of their high school students. (More on the language immersion portion in a moment.) Regarding the research, their preferred topics are math and physics, followed by the life sciences.

The process of acquiring US visitor visas is long and arduous for Chinese students. As a general rule, it's worth allowing at least four months for it to unfold. Which means, to deliver this program successfully, we would need to have everything (the faculty, the curriculum, the residence arrangements, etc.) in place by February 2025 at the latest.

My idea would be to build a program with three or more of IMSA's faculty delivering one week each (six hours of teaching or co-teaching a day, Monday–through–Friday). This way, the Chinese students would experience a variety of topics with a variety of teachers during their time with us. And, in the evenings and on weekends, we could set up guest talks, cultural field trips in Chicago, and/or campus visits to local universities and colleges for them.

Having built US–Chinese exchange programs like this in the past, my biggest concern is probably the "language immersion" portion. As is often the case, the Thomas Schools want their students to improve their English cultural and speaking skills by studying alongside American kids. The problem is convincing American kids to give up a chunk of their summer holidays to come back to school.

There are a number of solutions available here, though. We could work with the World Languages Department to create some kind of academic credit (or credential!) in Mandarin, for example; or we could offer small stipends or salaries to IMSA students to participate in the role of "cultural ambassadors"; and so on.

The best next step, I think, would be to identify the three or more faculty who would like to teach on such a program. To do that, I assume that we would first need to coordinate with HR and/or the Union to determine the compensation, how the roles would be advertised, and mitigations in the event that the program doesn't come to fruition for any reason. Then, once the faculty have been selected, I would work with them to create brief program blurbs / curriculum outlines, which the Thomas Schools could use as recruitment tools in the fall.

The Thomas Schools have asked to reconvene with me around the end of July or the beginning of August, so it would be great to have some updates for them by then. I look forward to working in collaboration with teams across IMSA to bring this program to fruition!

With best wishes,



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Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy



he/him/his

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Evan Glazer

President

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Subject: Re: greeting
From: Evan Glazer <[REDACTED]@imsa.edu>
Date: 9/6/24, 8:36 AM
To: [REDACTED]@ambrightgroup.com>

Hi [REDACTED]!

It's so great to hear from you. I'm sorry it's been so long, and I'm glad you reached out. I hope your family is doing well.

I'm now at the STEM school near Chicago, Illinois, which is a good place for me to raise my family. Do you still have offices in Washington, DC? Do you have an office in Chicago?

[REDACTED] and I talked about sending students from the Thomas schools to a research program at IMSA for Summer 2025. I think that's very much possible. I have connected him with one of my colleagues ([REDACTED]) to make initial plans. We are a residential school, so we will be able to host students as long as an adult chaperone is with them.

I appreciate our collaboration and look forward to connecting again.

My best,
Evan

On Thu, Sep 5, 2024 at 11:50PM [REDACTED]@ambrightgroup.com> wrote:
Hallo Evan,

It has been long time no see, once again!

How are you? Does everything go well with you? We here, in China, often mention about you, you are my long time friend!

Please, when it is possible, visit you, or, when it comes the opportunity, we will visit you as well, and have meal or drinking together.

All the best!

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]



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Subject: Re: The Thomas Schools – update

From: Evan Glazer <[REDACTED]@imsa.edu>

Date: 9/10/24, 4:36 PM

To: [REDACTED]@imsa.edu>

CC: [REDACTED]@imsa.edu>, [REDACTED]@imsa.edu>, [REDACTED]@imsa.edu>

Hi [REDACTED],

I think our focus should be to create multiple summer SIRs (like [REDACTED]'s class), and then invite students from all over: China, Turkey, Mexico, as well as Chicago and near our Hub partnerships. I would love for you to plan that now so we can advertise by late Fall/early winter.

If the Thomas schools do not like this approach anymore, we can advise them to try something else. Examples include:

- 1) Intercession at IMSA (in January this year, but maybe in May in 2026...to be determined by January)
- 2) A semester at IMSA
- 3) A program at another boarding schools. For example, Lake Forest Academy runs international programs

Just some ideas...

Evan

On Tue, Sep 10, 2024 at 3:26PM [REDACTED]@imsa.edu> wrote:

Hi Evan,

I hope that you've been having a good week!

I have an update, and a question, about The Thomas Schools in China.

As I understand it, [REDACTED]'s original vision was to create a three-week SIR-style program, in which students would come to IMSA from The Thomas Schools and do intensive research under the supervision of our Faculty.

However, in recent conversations, The Thomas Schools' priorities seem to have shifted. Their representatives are now saying that they'd prefer something that sounds more like a run-of-the-mill summer camp: one or two weeks at IMSA with some academic study, but also with college visits, sight-seeing trips, etc.

No doubt we could put such a program together. The question, I suppose, is whether IMSA's primary goal is to get The Thomas Schools' students through the doors and generate some dollars – or to create a true research exchange program.

If you could offer your advice on this, then I can get back to [REDACTED] with some possible next steps.

With best wishes,

[REDACTED]

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