

Be an Ambassador for Christchurch

In 2006, in order to further develop and promote exchanges, understanding and co-operation in various fields between Gansu Province and Christchurch City, the Gansu Provincial Government launched what will become an annual project, the **Gansu International Sister City Exchange Programme**. The Christchurch-Gansu Friendly Relations Committee is now calling for applications from Christchurch residents for this year's programme. Gansu Province has 33 sister city relationships.

In brief, the programme involves two local people, 45 years of age and under and fluent in either English or Mandarin, being chosen to spend the period 1 September to 20 December 2007 in Lanzhou, the capital city of Gansu Province. Lanzhou has a population of over 2 million, and is on the Yellow River. During this time they will attend university, learning Mandarin and being immersed in the culture and history of China, spend time in the Gansu Provincial Foreign Affairs Office, and visit various sites of cultural and historical interest in the Province. Flights and all on ground costs will be borne by the Gansu Provincial Government. Insurance (health and possessions) and doctor's costs will be borne by the successful applicants. Applicants will need to negotiate leave of absence arrangements with their employers.

This is an incredible opportunity for someone with an interest in discovering the real China at first hand. The attendees will have the opportunity to learn basic Mandarin, be introduced to amazing Chinese history, eat some of the best food in the world and tour sites of interest within Gansu Province. One of last year's participants said "*...it really was a once in a lifetime experience, which has given me a much deeper and broader knowledge of China and its people*".

Applications close Tuesday 31 July 2007.

For further details of this exciting programme, please contact Dave Adamson, who is co-ordinating expressions of interest on behalf of the Christchurch-Gansu Friendly Relations Committee.

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