Bringing together classroom learning, real-world applications

Innovative model uses internships to apply knowledge in the workplace

BY RYAN BENGHAO

For higher education experts, teaching students how to apply classroom knowledge in the real world has been an ongoing challenge. The four-year exploration of a new cooperative education model at the University of Cincinnati could provide an answer. The program is designed to bring Chinese students to Cincinnati and vice versa to learn through a joint program with UC.

The cooperative education model merges internships with academic study. Students gain hands-on experience in their field while receiving a little of their knowledge of theory in the classroom. In this way, students will benefit from two different environments.

Unlike traditional study programs, students in the cooperative education program will graduate with both a bachelor’s and graduate degree. Students are required to take two one-year courses in the United States and two one-year courses in China. To accomplish this, they will spend four weeks in Cincinnati, four weeks in China and two months in each country.

The students also have the opportunity to live and work in the same place. Many students will spend four years on campus, while others will live with families in their home country. All students will complete an internship with a company in either location.

The program also offers students the opportunity to travel and live abroad. Students can choose to travel to different countries to complete their cooperative education degrees. To accomplish this, students will spend four weeks in a different country and work with a Cooperative Education family.

University of Cincinnati Joint Co-op Institute

The University of Cincinnati Joint Co-op Institute is a joint program with UC in the United States and China. The program is the first of its kind to offer students the opportunity to study in both countries. The program is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the cooperative education model.

By YIYI CAO

The internship is a very important part of the cooperative education program. The cooperative education model is designed to provide students with real-world experience as they work through their academic studies.

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