



## International Dual Enrollment Academy 2024 Program Overview

### **International Dual Enrollment Academy.**

The International Dual Enrollment Academy (IDEA) is an innovative global studies program launched by Birmingham Sister Cities in partnership with Miles College and Birmingham City Schools. Blending dual enrollment coursework, extensive cultural enrichment, and immersive travel, IDEA aims to equip students with the relationships, skills, and experiences needed to meaningfully engage with our globally interconnected world. Stipends of at least \$500 will also be awarded to each student upon their successful completion of the IDEA.

### **The vision: International Opportunity for All.**

International exposure and international opportunity are critically important factors that contribute to students' college/career readiness level and propensity toward academic/professional advancement. IDEA exists to equip Birmingham students with the tools they need to compete on the world stage and provides them with the opportunity to put their global mindsets to use through immersive cultural and academic experiences– opportunities that ultimately shape them into world leaders and global ambassadors for Birmingham.

### **Program Goals.**

1. Equip students with cultural intelligence, global perspectives, language skills and experiences that help them participate effectively in an interconnected world.
2. Provide dual enrollment credit opportunities that are connected to enriching, international cultural experiences.
3. Increase recruitment, enrollment and retention at Miles College.
4. Increase talent retention in Birmingham.
5. Foster connections between institutional partners and peer communities worldwide to drive future collaborations.
6. Cultivate meaningful intercultural connections and relationships that promote cultural insight and personal growth among participants.

### **Key Perks for Students.**

- Scholarships will be provided to IDEA students to cover program costs, including tuition fees related to the dual enrollment courses
- IDEA participants receive college credit–nine credit hours in total

- IDEA students may also be eligible for scholarships to attend the Sister Cities International Youth Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. from August 5-9, 2024.
- IDEA students will participate in an immersive travel abroad experience–this year, to Japan in October (exact dates to be confirmed)
- Upon successful completion of the Academy, participants will receive a minimum \$500 stipend

### **2024 Program Calendar.**

- **March 15:** Applications open
- **April 19:** Applications close
- **April 22-24:** Review applications
- **April 24-April 26:** Selection period; conduct interviews
- **April 29:** Announce inaugural cohort of IDEA participants
- **April 30-May 3:** Miles summer session registration
- **May 6-September 27:** Cultural enrichment programming, exact dates/activities TBD
- **June 3-July 11:** Summer session at Miles
- **July 22-31:** Miles fall registration
- **August 5-9:** Sister Cities International Youth Leadership Summit (Washington DC)
- **August 12-November 22:** Fall semester at Miles
- **October 4-18\*:** Travel to Japan (*\*Tentative, exact dates to be confirmed*)
- **December 5:** Student presentations
- **December 11:** Academy graduation

### **Enrichment Elements.**

- Coursework with Miles College faculty–students will take three classes (two in the Summer semester, one in the Fall semester) accounting for a total of nine dual enrollment credit hours
- “Birmingham 101” – Equipping youth to represent their community
- “Japan 101” – Language, history, culture, current affairs crash-course
- General world readiness training – passport & visas, packing tips, etiquette
- Access to cultural events and opportunities to connect with cultural organizations
- Fundraising experience

### **Eligibility and Requirements.**

- Students must currently attend a school within the Birmingham City Schools system and must plan to attend a Birmingham City School in the Fall semester as well.

- Students must be Juniors in the Spring of 2024 and planning to enter their Senior year in the Fall semester of 2024. Some exceptions will be made for current Sophomores planning to enter their Junior year in the Fall semester of 2024.
- Students must meet all eligibility requirements established by Miles College for dual enrollment registration.
- Students must have a 3.0 GPA. Some exceptions will be made for lower GPAs if students show significant potential in non-academic areas.
- Students must be available to attend all sessions outlined in the program calendar, including the uninterrupted 4-6 week courses, which for the summer session, will have students on campus Monday through Thursday from about 9am-1pm from June 3-July 11.

### **Application.**

Complete the application form online here: <https://forms.gle/YUGdv51fow6FtoYCA>

Applications close on Friday, April 19, 2024.

Contact [bhm.sistercities@gmail.com](mailto:bhm.sistercities@gmail.com) with questions about the application.

### **Parental/Guardian Consent.**

A parental/guardian consent form will be required upon students' acceptance into the Academy.

### **Selection.**

- Up to 15 students will be selected for the inaugural IDEA cohort
- Applications will be reviewed by a panel of community stakeholders, which may include representatives from partnering organizations

### **Additional Information.**

#### **More about the dual enrollment component.**

- **Transportation.** Students will have the option to use BCS transportation. Students who opt for transportation will be picked up and dropped off Monday - Thursday at places and times to be determined after final student selection.
- **Campus.** Students will be on campus from Monday - Thursday from 9am until 1pm
- **Coursework\*.** Students will enroll in two courses during the summer session to prepare for the travel abroad experience and one course in the fall semester to prepare for their presentations. The courses include:
  - HI 101 - World Civilizations
  - RE 211 - Survey of World Religions
  - SPE 111 - Fundamentals of Speech, including student presentations

*\* If an IDEA student has already taken one or more of the courses above, alternate courses or dual enrollment opportunities will be presented*

- **Lunch.** Students will be gifted a daily \$10 lunch allowance for dining at the cafeteria on campus.

### **About the stipend.**

- Students will receive a stipend of \$500 or more upon the successful completion of the Academy.
- Ultimate stipend amount to be determined by the Birmingham Sister Cities Education Committee after the students have been selected.
- The stipend may be increased if additional funds are raised.

### **IDEA Program Partnership and Sponsorship Opportunities.**

- Cover the tuition costs (about \$2000) for one or more students to participate in the Academy.
- Cover the costs for one or more students to attend the Sister Cities International Youth Leadership Summit in Washington, DC. Each student's registration fee is \$1,795. This price covers lodging, cultural activities, and transportation within Washington, DC during the event. Flights from Birmingham to D.C. are estimated at \$500 per student/chaperone
- Host a Birmingham 101, Japan 101 or Travel 101 session for the participating students.
- Provide a stipend for one or more students.

### **2024 IDEA Program Partners and Sponsors.**

- *Birmingham City Schools (for student and faculty engagement and support)*
- *Miles College (for the dual enrollment credits and college experience)*
- *The Birmingham Chapter of The Links, Inc. (for in-kind and financial support)*
- *City of Birmingham (for in-kind and financial support)*

### **What does it mean to be a global ambassador for Birmingham?**

As a global ambassador for Birmingham, you will:

1. Share your IDEA experience with your school, community, and personal networks through presentations, social media, or other outreach methods to promote the value of global education and cultural exchange.
2. Actively participate in future Birmingham Sister Cities events and initiatives to foster ongoing international connections and understanding.
3. Seek out opportunities to engage with international students, visitors, or delegations in Birmingham, utilizing the cross-cultural skills and knowledge gained through IDEA.
4. Serve as a role model and mentor for future IDEA participants, offering guidance and support based on your own experience in the program.
5. Continue to develop your global competencies and stay informed about international issues, maintaining your commitment to being a globally engaged citizen of Birmingham.

### **About the Youth Leadership Summit.**

The 2024 Youth Leadership Summit, held in Washington, D.C., from August 4-10, includes sessions and activities for youth, ages 14-18, from across the globe. The Summit is designed to engage future leaders and expose them to important global challenges inspiring a new generation of

citizen diplomats and volunteers who become instrumental in promoting peace, mutual respect, and prosperity. The main goal of this summit is to prepare students with leadership and professional development skills to enable their successes and growth in the global community.

- [Application](#) Deadline: May 15, 2024
- There is no cost to attend YLS for those students in the Academy who are selected. Birmingham Sister Cities will work with each student to submit their YLS application before May 15th.
- Other, non-IDEA students from any school in any district may also apply to attend YLS.

### **Who we are.**

The IDEA represents an innovative coalition between the following entities:

Birmingham Sister Cities - the lead coordinating organization leveraging its 40+ years expertise in facilitating cultural exchanges, its deep connectivity abroad via 17 sister city relationships spanning 4 continents, and its educational exchange programming experience with local schools. Through IDEA, Birmingham Sister Cities contributes enrichment programming, trip logistics, and draws connections between students and diverse global communities. Birmingham Sister Cities is also responsible for raising and allocating funds for this program.

Miles College - the higher education partner handling dual enrollment course credits, related instruction, advising support, and assisting qualified graduates with ongoing scholarships and opportunities to study abroad.

Birmingham City Schools - the K-12 system providing student/family access along with space and reasonable support to enable students to fully participate in the enrichment activities tied to the Academy.

Together with other community groups and non-profit institutions, this motivated, multidisciplinary coalition powers the enriching academic opportunities of IDEA linking talented Birmingham students to life-changing personal growth experiences and relationships around the world.

### **More About Birmingham Sister Cities.**

Birmingham Sister Cities is a nonprofit that exists to connect Birmingham with the world in pursuit of international opportunity for all. Since 1982, the organization has established, maintained and expanded the City of Birmingham's official relationships and formal engagements with 17 international communities as part of a broader global effort to promote peace and cultural understanding through people-to-people citizen diplomacy. Birmingham Sister Cities is a member of Sister Cities International ([www.sistercities.org](http://www.sistercities.org)).

The IDEA utilizes Sister Cities' core strategic pillars of *Engage, Enrich and Exchange* as a model for a) connecting with students, b) equipping them for international success, and c) sending them out onto the world stage ready to make a difference and to make a good name for Birmingham.

The three key components and pipeline stages of the Academy are:

1. **Engagement**—Sister Cities formally engages schools, students and educators and selects participants through a strategic, competitive process.
2. **Enrichment**—Sister Cities equips participants with a global mindset and exposes them to other cultures, ethnic groups, languages, food, music, art, history etc. through organizing new or supporting existing international programs, activities, and events that increase global consciousness and cultural awareness.
3. **Exchange**—Sister Cities uses its international relationships to organize immersive travel abroad experiences where participants get to hone their cultural IQs, use their new diplomatic skills, broaden their perspectives, and make lasting international connections with citizens from our Sister Cities.

### **Program Contact Information:**

#### *Birmingham Sister Cities*

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- Blair Minyard, Board Chair, [blair.minyard@gmail.com](mailto:blair.minyard@gmail.com)
- Sonja Smith, Board Member, [ssmith5@bhm.k12.al.us](mailto:ssmith5@bhm.k12.al.us)

#### *Birmingham City Schools*

- Dr. Clarissa Reese, Director of Post-Secondary Readiness, [creese@bhm.k12.al.us](mailto:creese@bhm.k12.al.us)

#### *Miles College*

- Dr. Tonya Perry, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, [tperry@miles.edu](mailto:tperry@miles.edu)