



VIRTUAL EXPLORING SOCIAL INNOVATION

August 10-18 (Asia Time) | August 9-17 (US Time)



COURSE OVERVIEW

The Exploring Social Innovation (ESI) virtual course convenes a diverse cohort of 12-20 university students and young professionals from across Asia and the US for an intensive 9-day exploration of social challenges and innovative solutions. Through virtual discussions, presentations, workshops, group projects, individual reflection and exploration assignments, and an engaging online platform, participants will build connections across cultures and explore their own potential as leaders and social innovators.

PARTICIPANT LEARNING OBJECTIVES



Explore the social innovation field and paths to becoming an innovator



Gain hands-on experience with innovation tools, including design-thinking



Enhance intercultural communication, collaboration, and presentation skills



Accelerate personal and professional growth through peer and expert mentorship



Join a community of young changemakers in the US and Asia

Leveraging over 57 years of experience in transformative intercultural experiential learning, VIA inspires and empowers emerging leaders seeking to create positive social impact.



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COST & PARTICIPATION DETAILS

Participation Benefits

The \$900 USD program fee includes:

- 40+ hours of live online presentations, discussions, and interactive workshops
- Access to an online learning platform with additional information and resources
- Mentorship from peers, social entrepreneurs, and innovators
- Discussions on social challenges, current events, and innovation
- Opportunities to build friendships across cultures
- Formal and informal English practice

Participation Requirements

To have a successful program experience, we ask that participants:

- Have reliable access to the internet
- Are able to use a computer or mobile device with a camera and microphone, or headphones with a microphone
- Actively participate in all online sessions and contribute to group project activities
- Complete all required activities on the online platform

Participants who join and complete all activities will receive a Certificate of Completion

APPLICATION PROCESS & TIMELINE

How to Apply

- **Start application:** viaprograms.org/esi
- **In application:** Applicants are invited to share about themselves, their interest in the program, and their personal and professional goals
- **Complete Interview:** 10-15 min Zoom interview with the Program Director
- **Receive Results**

Application Timeline

- **Round 1 Deadline:** April 25 (US) | April 26 (Asia)
 - Interviews: April 26 – May 13
 - Results: May 14 (US) | May 15 (Asia)
- **Round 2 Deadline:** May 23 (US) | May 24 (Asia)
 - Interviews: May 25 – June 3
 - Results: June 4 (US) | June 5 (Asia)
- **Round 3 Deadline:** June 20 (US) | June 21 (Asia)
 - Interviews: June 22 – June 27
 - Results: June 28 (US) | June 29 (Asia)

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE! LEARN MORE & APPLY @ [VIAPROGRAMS.ORG/ESI](https://viaprograms.org/esi)

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PROGRAM SCHEDULE

The following schedule is tentative. All-cohort online sessions will be held in the morning Asia time, evening US time. Sessions will be limited to 4 hours per day (with breaks) and are inclusive of guest speaker presentations and panel discussions, workshops, group work, and individual work.

Pre-Program Orientation

This 2-hour session will be held a few weeks before the program and will include an overview of the course, an introduction to group projects, and to the online platform.

Day 1: A Deeper Look at Social Innovation

- Group Norms and Program Expectations
- Intro to Social Innovation
- Project Topic Selection & Research

Day 2: Introduction to Design-Thinking

- Research Session
- World Cafe
- Introduction to Design-Thinking, Part 1

Day 3: Change Starts with Empathy

- Change Starts with Empathy Workshop
- Empathy Exercises
- V-Talk Overview

Day 4: Creative Space

- Guest Speaker
- Team Office Hours
- V-Talk Preparation & Research

Day 5: Design-Thinking, Part 2

- Guest Speaker
- V-Talks
- Introduction to Design Thinking, Part 2

Day 6: Innovation in Action

- Iceberg Activity
- Mid-Program Reflection
- Problem Statements

Day 7: Innovation Tools

- Guest Speaker
- Introduction to Ideation
- Activity: Worst / Best Ideas
- Introduction to Prototyping

Day 8: Creative Space

- Action Planning & Sustainability
- Prototyping
- Office Hours for Prototyping

Day 9: Innovation Tools

- Test: Share & Feedback
- Program Evaluation
- Reflection & Celebration