

# GAUC Climate x Immersive Summer Program

## Overview

Dates: July 1 – July 10, 2026

Location: Guizhou Province, China

Application Deadline: April 24, 2026

## Program Background

In the face of accelerating climate change, equipping young people with the knowledge and practical skills for climate action is increasingly important. Immersive, practice-based learning combined with cross-cultural exchange offers an effective way to connect global climate challenges with locally grounded solutions.

This program is jointly organized by the Institute of Climate Change and Sustainable Development at Tsinghua University and the Secretariat of the Global Alliance of Universities on Climate (GAUC). It brings together outstanding students from GAUC member universities to participate in a structured, field-based learning experience. The program combines academic lectures, expert-led discussions, site visits, and team-based projects, providing participants with both interdisciplinary knowledge and hands-on exposure to climate action in real-world contexts.

## Why Guizhou? The Transformative Potential of Climate Action

The program is hosted in Guizhou Province, which offers a distinctive context for understanding climate action in practice. In recent years, Guizhou has undergone significant socioeconomic transformation, including the elimination of extreme poverty by 2020 following a period of considerable development challenges. It is also one of China's most ethnically diverse provinces, with ethnic minorities accounting for 36% of its population and 17 long-established ethnic groups preserving diverse cultural traditions and ecological knowledge.

What makes Guizhou particularly noteworthy is how these characteristics have been transformed into drivers of change. In terms of energy transition, the province has

moved from a coal-dependent economy toward a more diversified energy system, promoting the clean and efficient use of coal while expanding hydropower, wind, and solar energy. In industrial development, it is advancing a green economy by integrating traditional ecological practices—such as the rice–fish–duck system in Qiandongnan Prefecture—with contemporary approaches to sustainable development.

At the governance level, Guizhou has explored pathways toward more collaborative models of ecological governance, with traditional villages in regions such as Zhaoxing Dong Village serving as sites for community-based climate adaptation. These experiences illustrate how climate action can be embedded in local contexts and linked with broader goals of social inclusion and cultural continuity.

Recognizing this context, GAUC launched a Climate x Practice Base in Guizhou in 2025. The site provides opportunities for field-based learning and comparative research, allowing participants to examine how a region with complex development conditions can reframe constraints as opportunities, and how climate action can contribute to energy resilience, cultural preservation, and inclusive development.

## **Program Highlights**

- **Multi-dimensional Learning Experience**

Engage in lectures and interactive sessions led by leading academics and industry experts, covering key topics such as energy transition, global climate governance, climate adaptation, and sustainable development.

- **Industry Exploration**

Visit leading enterprises, including big data centers and energy companies, to explore real-world applications of renewable energy, carbon neutrality, and green technology innovation.

- **Field-Based Learning**

Conduct field visits to nature reserves, ecological agriculture sites, and local communities, gaining first-hand insights into biodiversity conservation, rural development, and community-based climate adaptation.

- **Team-Based Project Learning & Outcome Showcase**

Work in teams to develop applied project outputs based on field observations, with guidance from faculty and experts. Projects will be presented in the program closing session. Final reports will be compiled into a collection and shared across GAUC member universities, with opportunities for further presentation at future activities.

- **Global Network Building**

Connect with a diverse cohort of international peers and experts, building a lasting network for continued collaboration on climate action.

## Participation Details

- Participant Composition: 15 students from Tsinghua and 15 students from GAUC member universities
- Scholarship: The program covers tuition, local accommodation, meals, and insurance. A travel subsidy of up to USD 1,500 will be provided for international flights (up to USD 2,500 for participants traveling from Brazil or South Africa).
- Notice: Applications are only open to non-Chinese students due to funding requirements.

## Eligibility

- Currently enrolled as a Master's or PhD student at a GAUC member university
- Have academic, research, or internship experience related to climate change or sustainability and demonstrate strong commitment to sustainability
- Proficient in English with strong verbal communication skills

## Application Materials

- Completed [application form](#) by **Apr. 24, 2026**

## Contact Information

For further details or any queries, please contact:

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