



## Application for Long Beach Digital Pen Pal Program

### ***Our Goal and Mission***

In an increasingly globalized world, it is important now more than ever to stay connected to one another and build long-lasting relationships. That is why the Long Beach Digital Pen Pal Program is carrying out the mission to build relationships with our friends in our sister cities. We are happy to announce our 5th annual Digital Pen Pal Program between students of the greater Long Beach area of California and students of our multi-international sister cities community. Not only will this cultural exchange program be 100% digital, students will have the opportunity to compete and win scholarships!

### ***When***

The program will take place from October 2024 to March 2025. Though it is a pen pal program, it is not limited to just writing: if you are an artist, we will try to match you up with artists! If you like to take pictures, make videos, write, or more, then we will try to pair you with others who reflect similar interests. That's the beauty of this program — we encourage accepted participants to incorporate whatever creative medium they prefer into their project!

### ***Scholarship Opportunities***

A total of \$5,000 in scholarships will be awarded to up to 9 participants who submit the best "end of the program" project that reflects their time during the program. Scholarship amounts may range from \$300 to \$1,000. The scholarships will be awarded at a celebration in March 2025 to honor all participants as well as give them the space to showcase their projects. There is no cost to participate in this program.

### ***To Qualify***

To qualify for the program, participants should be current students or recent graduates. Space is limited and acceptance is highly competitive, so only those who exhibit a strong resonance with this program in this application will be considered.

**To apply, please submit this completed application to the Program Manager: Isis Nolasco Ramirez at [isisnolascoramirez@gmail.com](mailto:isisnolascoramirez@gmail.com)**

**Name:**

**Email:**

**Phone number (with country code):**

**City and Country:**

**Birth Month/Year:**

**Tell us about yourself! Hobbies, interests, passions, etc. in addition to your year, major, and educational institution.**

**What do you hope to get out of this program?**

**What form of communication do you prefer? (Including but not limited to: WeChat, WhatsApp, Skype, Email, Zoom, Line, Telegram, or other social media applications). Please provide your username, phone number, or other relevant contact details for your preferred platform.**

## ***Guidelines***

- 1.** The purpose of the program is for cultural exchange of information in order to build relationships and friendships.
- 2.** There must be no inappropriate communication and behavior in all correspondence, including but not limited to: swearing; politics; insulting behavior; overly-excessive personal behavior; sexual content; racial behavior; hostility.
- 3.** Mandatory consistent communication between students throughout the entire length of the program. Should a participant not fulfill this requirement they will be disqualified from receiving a scholarship.

## ***Background***

The Digital Pen Pal Program was established in 2020 by the Long Beach-Qingdao Committee, in collaboration with the Qingdao University of Technology, with generous support from the Port of Long Beach and Qingdao Port. The Long Beach-Qingdao Association is part of the Sister Cities of Long Beach, an organization dedicated to promoting social, cultural, economic, educational, and diplomatic ties between the cities. In 2023, the program was expanded to all of Long Beach's sister cities. We now also welcome applications from cities beyond our sister cities. This program aims to create citizen ambassadors who appreciate the need for cross-cultural understanding and enduring friendship.

**I, \_\_\_\_\_, having read and understood the guidelines below and what is expected of me should I be accepted, release my application to be considered.**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_.**