

Universal Peace Academy: Cultivating The Future Cheon Il Guk Leaders

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1. Introduction Of The Universal Peace Academy

It has been ten years since the Universal Peace Academy (UPA) was established in March 2013 as a school to nurture future leaders who could lead Cheon Il Guk in alignment with True Parents' vision.

The first thing True Mother undertook after True Father's Seonghwa was to establish the master's course at the Universal Peace Academy (hereinafter referred to as Sunhak UPA, or Senior UPA) to nurture leaders who can become the axis of future generations. In 2020, True Mother appointed Sun Moon University as the National University of Cheon Il Guk. She renewed the Department of Theology as the undergraduate course of UPA (hereinafter referred to as Sun Moon UPA, or Junior UPA). This was how the 7-year nurturing course of Cheon Il Guk leaders consisting of the undergraduate course, master's course, and the intern course, was established.

At UPA, the cadets are trained and educated to become 'Cheon Il Guk leaders who resemble True Parents' with broad-based capabilities in ministry, missionary, academic studies, and liberal arts-based on Hyojeong. They establish their inner attitude through Hoon Dok Hae, physical training, close-order drills, departing ceremonies, roll call, prayer sessions, devotions, and other basic living practices through corporate life at the dorm. Moreover, UPA is committed to empowering the ability of each cadet through various education and training.





2. The Beginning Of Sun Moon UPA And Its Current Situation

In 2019, before starting the Sun Moon UPA undergraduate course, True Mother gathered second-generation high school senior students and told them to go to UPA. She then blessed their long journey by naming them 'Hyojeongrang.'

Engraving True Mother's words in their hearts, nearly 200 cadets in their first to third terms are now engaged in education and training to become Cheon Il Guk leaders at the Sun Moon UPA. Education and training are organized so the cadets can experience the link between regular curriculum and physical training courses. During the first two years, cadets will study fundamental theology and deepen their understanding of True Parents' words. They are also sent to youth ministry practice for a year. During the latter two years, cadets are sent overseas for language study, ministry practice, and internship in providential organizations such as IAYSP to understand the Heavenly Unification Movement.

Through the undergraduate education and training for four years, first-year students go through UPA cadets' basic training, language studies, Tongil Moo Do, Hyojeong art education, and other various courses as well as regular subjects.

The cadets of the first term, who are now juniors, are now in the Philippines for language study. After completing the language study, they will be sent to the world to build up their experience as global leaders.

Sophomores usually study regular subjects during the weekdays and are sent out for ministry practice as youth missionaries to over 30 churches in Heavenly Korea during the weekends.

Although different curriculums are provided by grade, missionary activity is carried out on various occasions so the cadets can have spiritual children during the training period. Through the Winter Pioneering Missionary, cadets have tried out different missionizing methods in their appointed posts in alignment with True Mother's sincere heart to restore at least one-third of humanity to Heavenly Parent's arms.

During the semester, cadets go out for missionary work with the members of Sun Moon University IAYSP. This summer, Sun Moon UPA plans to missionize Christians following True Mother's direction to 'bravely approach and educate the Christians.' Sun Moon UPA cadets are learning to sympathize with Heavenly Parent's heart through missionary practices. At the same time, they are building up their experience to be leaders who could fulfill their responsibility as Cheon Bo families.

3. The Sunhak UPA, Today And Its Future Plans

Sunhak UPA, founded in 2013, is now in its 10th year. Nearly 160 cadets have engaged in its courses, including the cadets of the first to seventh terms assigned as Special Youth Envoys and the cadets of the

eighth to tenth terms currently in training. The curriculum of Sunhak UPA used to be a two-year master's course and a year of internship.

However, this year's cadets of the ninth term have been assigned to serve for two years as youth ministers of youth churches established to prepare the environment for youth missionizing. Alongside their master's course studies, the youth ministers are building up their experiences and developing themselves as experienced leaders by working to restore new members and resting members and by preparing Seonghwa youth services like the Hyojeong Nuri and Heemang Nuri.

Cadets who have completed the three years of master's course and internship are assigned to work worldwide as 'Cheon Il Guk Youth Envoys' under True Mother's direct guidance.

Sunhak UPA will be operated as an internship course from 2024 when the first term cadets of Sun Moon UPA enter Sunhak UPA. From then on, the UPA cadets who have completed a total of seven years of education and training: four years of course in Sun Moon UPA, and three years of internship in Sunhak UPA, will be assigned as youth envoys through chirotony.

What is more important than developing the cadets' capabilities as leaders through the UPA educational courses is to prepare their attitude to understand True Mother's heart. All UPA cadets are offering devotion based on True Mother's words to prepare their Hyojeong attitude.

Furthermore, UPA cadets are given the roles of performing in front of True Parents on behalf of the future generation or holding the flags of various nations as color guards in providential events. As such, True Mother is giving UPA cadets opportunities to take part in main providential events. Through such experiences, UPA cadets are developing their heart of Hyojeong by feeling True Mother's heart closer to theirs.

All UPA educational curriculums are carried out with True Mother's utmost care, love, and direct guidance.

The cadets are always profoundly grateful for True Mother's direct guidance, love, and the International Headquarters' education and support.

They are doing their utmost to develop themselves as future leaders of Cheon Il Guk.