Language Immersion Programs for Teens in the U.S. and Abroad
In the field of language education, you often hear a familiar story. People recall traveling and exploring early in life. They attended exciting study abroad programs in high school and college; the sites were amazing and the cultures rich with history and tradition. In retrospect, however, the experience was often times disappointing. There was so much time spent speaking English with other American students in the program that their language skills didn’t improve much at all.

Here is our advice. While you are young, make a commitment to be a traveler, not a tourist. The life benefits of language proficiency are extensive. In college applications, you can differentiate yourself as language-savvy and culturally versed. You can show colleges and universities, in the most real way possible, that you are dedicated to global citizenship and intercultural exchange.

And with true language proficiency, you can make a meaningful difference in the world. Whether working in international business or volunteering abroad, you will have the confidence and capability to cross cultural boundaries, meet people in the middle and understand other worldviews.

Friendships made. Trust built. Potential realized. The world is diverse and the problems are deep.

Make a difference. Immerse yourself.
Locations: U.S. & Study Abroad

The Academy aims to create lifelong language learners through encouraging the development of exceptional world language skills early in life. To this end, the Academy offers a rigorous four week language immersion experience for 8th-12th grade students who are passionate about language proficiency and cultural understanding. Speaking in their chosen language 24/7 while engaging in meaningful cultural exploration projects, students make unrivalled strides in language acquisition in four weeks. Through the Academy experience, students become linguistically proficient and culturally versed, gaining the language skills and global awareness to succeed in college and beyond.

ST. MICHAEL’S COLLEGE
COLCHESTER, VERMONT
Chinese, German, Arabic

St. Michael’s is located off the shores of Lake Champlain and is surrounded by Mount Mansfield and the peaks of the Adirondacks. The campus features a beautiful campus green, a new student center and 440 sprawling acres. St. Michael’s is located just 20 minutes from the Burlington International Airport, two hours from Montreal, and minutes to downtown Burlington. Travel & Leisure named Burlington the top college town in America in 2014.

GREEN MOUNTAIN COLLEGE
POULTNEY, VERMONT
French, Spanish

Located in Southern Vermont, the Green Mountain College campus is the longest running of the Academy’s sites. With a collection of classic New England college facilities and a commitment to environmental sustainability, the campus is the perfect place for students to build on their in-class lessons and enjoy a fun and engaging summer in Vermont.

STUDY ABROAD:
BEIJING, CHINA
Chinese

The Academy will return to Beijing, China, for its fifth year in the summer of 2018. Steeped in the richness of the past and at the center of modern-day China, Beijing is an ideal location for studying Chinese while living abroad. Accelerate your Chinese language skills against the backdrop of Beijing’s ancient history and visit well-known Chinese historical and architectural sites.

STUDY ABROAD:
NANTES FRANCE
French

Welcome to Nantes, a new study abroad location since 2017 and the largest city in Brittany, France, located on the Loire River. Named the “most livable city in Europe” by Time magazine, Nantes boasts a rich history that will immerse Academy students in French culture. Students will live on the campus of Blanche de Castile, a private boarding school in the heart of Nantes.
STUDY ABROAD: GRANADA, SPAIN
Spanish

Bienvenidos a Granada! The Language Academy will return to Spain for its fourth summer, where students will have the opportunity to live immersed in the Spanish language and culture of Granada. Students will enjoy the city’s rich history, architecture and charm during four weeks of language immersion and cultural exploration.

STUDY ABROAD: SALAMANCA, SPAIN—HOMESTAY
Spanish

Our only homestay option is located in Salamanca, Spain. Salamanca’s Old City was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1988 and is a metropolitan hub in the region of Castile and León. Students will take classes at Colegio Maestro Ávila, an international boarding school in the heart of Salamanca. Students will explore historical and cultural centers in Salamanca.

2018 Summer Academies Overview

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<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>LANGUAGES</th>
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We aren’t going to lie to you, immersion is no walk in the park – although our sites are really beautiful in the summer!

It’s challenging. Academy alumni will tell you that living in language 24/7, while making friends, eating meals and taking classes, is hard. But here’s the deal. It’s worth it. Not only will you make amazing strides in speaking your target language, but the Academy experience is personally transformative. We know because students and parents tell us, and we see it for ourselves. Here’s how one student described his living immersed in French for four weeks:

“If I were to recommend this camp to another person, I would not sugar coat it. This experience was very difficult for me. There were days when I just wanted to pack my bags and go home, but something kept me here and kept me speaking French and honoring the Language Pledge®. I am so lucky to have been able to be here, and now at the end, I think this is the most satisfied I’ve ever felt in my life. Although it was tough, it was worth it.”

Only you can decide if the challenge of the Academy is right for you. No matter your background or prior linguistic skills, every year we find that students who are passionate about languages and intrigued with cultural diversity are a great fit for this program. And just remember, the Academy experience is deeply social. Part of the fun is being surrounded by so many friends who are also grabbing their pocket dictionaries, throwing words together and getting a laugh.

“The people I made friends with this past month helped me get through my learning of Chinese. Respect and friendship are ever present. I was expecting not to make any friends at this camp, but I was extremely surprised by how much fun I had and how much I don’t want to leave.”

So give it some thought. We have no doubt that both college preparation and summer fun are on your mind. Camps, travel programs and sports leagues await. But here is the difference.

During the Academy, you gain a lifelong skill: language proficiency.
5 Reasons to Study at the Language Academy This Summer

1. Experience
Our Academy experience for 8th-12th grade students is the academic leader in world language instruction. We know that the best way to learn a language is through full immersion, and at the Academy, we take immersion seriously. Students and instructors take a Language Pledge®, developed by Middlebury College’s Language Schools, to only speak in the target language 24/7. We make every effort to minimize English language pollution. So leave your t-shirts with logos at home, and tell your friends you will be in touch (maybe in a new language!).

2. Results
Whether an absolute beginner or advanced speaker, you will dramatically improve your language skills. A majority of our students leave the Academy with an increase in their language comprehension and speaking by one level. Give us four weeks, and you will gain more proficiency and confidence than you can imagine!

3. Role Models
Live and learn from people you admire. Don’t be surprised if your teachers and residential advisors have lived abroad in language—and lived big. They know first-hand the struggles of becoming fluent and are dedicated to helping you learn in a fun and engaging way. When surveyed, our alumni often rave about the hands-on, enthusiastic and supportive mentorship at the Academy.

4. Cultural Exploration and Project-based Learning
We believe in learning language in a cultural context. This means that classroom language instruction in the morning is balanced with cultural activities in the afternoon that bring the language to life. Depending on your target language, you may be learning salsa or tai chi, following designated media outlets in language and producing a media clip, taking Chinese cooking classes or playing soccer against a rival language Academy.

5. Domestic and International Opportunities
At the Academy, you can decide where you learn best. Choose to focus on language learning on a Vermont college campus or in an international setting abroad. Contact us, and we can help you decide the best setting for you!

WHAT SUMMER LANGUAGE ACADEMY PARENTS SAY...

“Her confidence in the language increased immensely.”

“My daughter gained fluency and confidence, boldness to speak in French.”

“We couldn’t be happier! Best experience of my rising 9th grader’s life.”

“My daughter has had amazing experiences through the Academy both this year and last. Truly an amazing educational and life experience. Thank you!”

“The program confirmed the direction for her study in college and showed her that she could live in another language.”

“My child gained a sense of self. Independence. Confidence. Rising to a challenge. Thinking, thinking, thinking, with high level of focus and commitment. Laughing and making new friends. French!”
2018 Language Academy Details

The Academy has a rolling admissions process; applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Space is limited and our international locations fill up quickly, so we encourage you to apply early. Visit our website for more information on tuition, financial aid and our cancellation policies.

U.S. ACADEMY

- Green Mountain College
- St. Michael's College

Open to rising 8th - 12th grade students

STUDY ABROAD

- Granada, Spain
- Salamanca, Spain, homestay
- Nantes, France
- Beijing, China

Open to rising 9th - 12th grade students

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