

2020-2021 ESL & TOEFL PREPARATION CAMP FAQs

1. When are the three camp sessions?

June Session: June 12, 2021 to July 3, 2021

July Session: July 10, 2021 to July 31, 2021

August Session: July 31, 2021 to August 21, 2021

2. When is the registration deadline?

30 days before the start of each session

June Session: May 12, 2021

July Session: June 10, 2021

August Session: June 30, 2021

3. What is the cancellation policy?

Students that cancel before their session registration deadlines receive a 100% refund minus a \$100 cancellation fee. Students that cancel on or after their session registration deadlines, lose 100% of their payment.

4. When is the payment in full due?

Payment in full of \$2,425 is due on the session registration deadlines along with the Application & Medical information. An invoice with payment instructions will be sent.

5. How many participants do you expect to attend the program?

30 participants per session.

6. What are the ages of the participants in the program?

14-18

7. What level of English is required to attend?

Minimum English proficiency: TOEFL (PB) 450, TOEFL (iBT) 40, IELTS 4.0

8. Can students without English test scores join the camp?

This is not a class for beginners. It is a TOEFL preparation class and the textbook they use is college level English. The students must be able to cope with that. It is for intermediate to advanced English language learners. If you send students with low English, they will not benefit from the course program. This is the main reason we request the English score. If you don't have an official test, we will leave it at your discretion. However, make sure the parents understand this is for a TOEFL preparation and the students will only benefit if they are able to follow with the class and textbook.

9. May the students arrive late or depart early from the camp?

Students are expected to arrive at Harrisburg International Airport on the session start date and depart from Harrisburg International Airport on the session end date. Students must be present for all of the camp session. Students who wish to fly in or out on different dates will be responsible to make their own flight, transportation, accommodation and meal arrangements.

10. What does a typical host home look like?

It could be an individual free-standing home, a duplex, a townhouse, or an apartment. It will be clean, safe, and comfortable.

11. Do the students have a private room?

Individuals participating in the ESL & TOEFL preparation camp will have a bedroom with a bed, study desk and internet access. It will be a private bedroom, unless agreed upon differently.

12. How many students are placed in a home?

Typically, the host family has one student. If they are hosting more than one, we will make sure that they don't speak the same language so all the communication will be in English.

13. Do families normally have children of a similar age?

Due to the difficulty of recruiting families that meet our high-quality standards, we are not able to turn down families based on type and age of their household members. Our director will make every effort to focus on recruiting as many families with children as possible. It is not guaranteed that your student will be placed with a same-aged child. Each host will do their best to provide a positive and varied experience during the student's stay.

14. Is there always an adult at home? What if the family members work all day?

We would prioritize families that have at least one parent not employed outside of the home, so for most of the time they would have an adult at home.

15. What details do we receive on the family?

You will receive a "homestay profile" with all basic information about the family including names of family members, address, e-mail, phone, their hobbies, if they have pets, etc. The profile will also include a family picture, a picture of the exterior of the house and picture of the student bedroom.

16. What does a typical host family look like?

The host families provided by AHLI are typical American households who come from a variety of racial, socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. Homestays may include families or singles. AHLI does not make any guarantee about the race, wealth, age, marital status or education level of our hosts. All AHLI homestays are with Christian hosts who will provide a safe, caring environment that will support the student personally and academically where applicable.

17. Are the students expected to attend church with the family?

The students will be included in the family activity schedule each weekend. Because the host family treats their students as a family member, they include them in activities, excursions, household chores, church, etc. We encourage the students to participate in and follow the family's schedule.

18. If the student is unhappy with their family, can they request a change? How long would this change take?

A full assessment of the situation / reasons will be conducted by our group director and, if AHLI determines a replacement family is warranted, the director will relocate the student in a timely manner which minimizes the impact on the student and the hosts.

19. Do students have a local coordinator they can contact if they have a problem?

Yes, they will have a designated group leader from AHLI.

20. Who will be teaching the classes? Are they certified?

The instructors will be certified ESL & TOEFL preparation teachers

21. Do the students receive books?

All materials for the projects and activities will be provided to the student and are included in the cost of the program.

22. Where is the Study Center located?

The Study Center is located in downtown Lancaster, PA. The students will attend class in the educational facility of a church in Downtown Lancaster.

23. Is transportation provided to and from the Study Center?

No. The students are required to take public transportation and pay for it themselves. The host parent(s) will assist in setting this up.

24. What is the cost of daily transportation to and from the study center?

It all depends on how far the students will live from the study center. We can only select host families after we have the application with all information about the student to ensure proper matching. Last summer, some students lived downtown and could walk to classes. On average, a pass for 10 bus trips costs from \$12 to \$21.50 depending on what zone the students live in. This pass would last one week (2 rides a day), so the student would need 3 of these passes.

25. Is the TOEFL test taken and included in the program?

No. This is a preparation class only. There are test centers in the Lancaster area that the student can research and register for, but this is not included in the program and transportation to and from testing locations is not provided.

26. Are excursions included?

Each session includes one full day trip and several half-day trips (see brochure for specifics), but you can contact us for more information if you are interested in additional excursions.

27. What is the average cost of the optional trip to another city?

It varies based on where the student is interested in visiting and the distance to that location from their homestay location. As an example, if a student whose homestay is in PA is interested in going to NYC for a day the cost could vary from \$150 to \$250 depending on the proximity or level of entertainment the student is interested in.

28. If a participant chooses to ask for an optional day trip, is this with the family or part of a group?

Everything is within the family unit.

29. What would be the maximum distance the participants should consider before asking for one of these optional full day trips?

Since we are talking about one day, it would need to be a reasonable distance one would want to travel while making the purpose of the trip worthwhile. Perhaps the participant should present the trip idea when applying and then an interested family could be found, and the price determined.

30. Can you give us some idea of the destinations for these trips?

The main cities of Washington DC, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and the beaches would be accessible from many locations within each of these states. New York City could be visited in a 14-hour day, except from Virginia. Each of these states has a list of their own historical and cultural attractions.

31. What type of activities do the families normally involve the participants in?

The students will be included in the family activity schedule for that time and it could include picnics, sports, parks, shopping, chores, church, etc.

32. Are students allowed to go out alone?

Typically, the younger students must have adult supervision. With older teens and adults, it's more flexible, as long as the host family is notified and agrees in advance of the outing. We try to encourage the students to do activities with their host families/children to get the most out of the experience while they are here.

33. What do the students need to do to apply for the program?

Complete the Application and the Medical Release on or before the registration deadline.

34. If the student wants to participate in the June and July session is there a charge for the gap week between the sessions?

Yes, an additional fee of \$140 will be charged to cover the homestay expenses.

35. Can a chaperone accompany a group of students and if so at what cost?

Yes, a visiting chaperone may attend. They will be provided the same host home services as the student. They will be allowed to attend the first day of classes and then only check in before class starts throughout the session. The cost per chaperone is \$950. One free chaperone will be granted with a group of 15 or more registered and paid-in-full students.

36. Do the students receive any type of report at the end of the program?

Yes. They will receive a certificate of participation. The agent and student will also be sent a summary of their performance.