

World Class Programs FAQ

ACADEMICS & ACTIVITIES

What will a typical day be like?

In brief, our weekday morning classes will begin at 9am and run until noon. In the afternoons you will attend either your elective class or choose from cultural and recreation activities. During evenings you will have many options to choose from: excursions to local sites and museums, concerts and performances, the beach, water sports or other athletics, shopping, outdoor cafés and restaurants, occasional dance parties, and others. For more specific information on each summer program please refer to the web page of the program you are interested in.

Will I have free time? Can I spend time in smaller groups?

In addition to planned activities with the World Class group, students will have free time each day to pursue personal interests, spend time with friends and explore the host community in groups of 2 or more. This will usually consist of around 2-4 hours of free time each day. We strive to maintain a perfect balance between structured activities and free time. While we give our students this privilege, we expect them to adhere to World Class's summer program rules and safety guidelines, especially the policies on alcohol and curfew, and to uphold our standards of responsibility, maturity, and respect.

What about the weekends?

In most programs, the students go on regional day trips and excursions. Day trips are a fun, but mandatory part of the program for all students. No student may elect to stay behind in the residence while the rest of the students enjoy the day trip and its planned activities. For specific information on each summer program and its weekend excursions, please refer to the web page of the program you are interested in.

Will I go out every night?

On most evenings, you may go out with your friends and World Class students, often for part of the allotted free time. Once a week, the group will have a residence night to take advantage of cultural offerings such as group cooking workshops, foreign films, games, and more. Remember that you are expected to strictly abide by the program safety rules at all times.

Is there a curfew?

The curfew varies by program and by the day of the week. A typical weekday curfew is 11 pm whereas a weekend curfew may be 12 am. This curfew does not necessarily reflect the time spent out

exploring, but rather the official “lights out and check-in” time established at the residence. It is worth noting that countries in Europe often observe different traditional dinner times than in the U.S.A. as well as other cultural norms that may require the curfews to extend. Please be advised that World Class reserves the right to change the curfew times at its discretion as deemed necessary for safety, activity, and organizational purposes. Face-to-face visual curfew check-ins are done on a nightly basis with no exceptions.

How are meals handled?

World Class's meal program is unique and a point of distinction worth noting. Meals are not had in the typical cafeteria settings. Rather, meals are eaten in apartment settings, prepared by staff and students, using fresh ingredients, or in cafés and restaurants using language skills -- in both cases, offering the best of local cuisine and variety. All costs associated with meals are included with the tuition/fees. Students need not be concerned about having extra money for meals.

CLASSES & ACTIVITIES

What size are the groups and classes, and what is the staff to student ratio?

We pride ourselves in keeping our summer programs large enough for fun and friendships, yet small enough to have flexibility and promote learning. Most summer programs have between 30 and 40 students in total, and we keep our language classes capped at 12-14. We have a staff to student ratio of 1:8. We believe this is one of our greatest strengths because it allows us to provide authentic and rewarding cultural and academic experiences that are also safe and fun!

Who will be teaching the classes?

Classes will be taught by World Class Programs faculty and in some cases by local instructors at our partner institutions. Our foreign and American faculty come from the best American and European schools, speak the host language fluently, and in all cases have extensive professional and academic experience in the subject matter they are teaching in addition to experience working with high school aged students.

If I am traveling for Language Immersion, will my language proficiency improve?

Our programs provide the perfect opportunity to improve your proficiency in that destination’s language. According to our students, each summer they make significant progress in these languages. Furthermore, many of the most motivated students "skip" a level in their language course after returning home. An effective immersion experience will allow you to build on what you have learned in your schooling during the year, developing active usage and communication skills. However, the crucial factor for your success in studying a foreign language is your own motivation and dedication. If you make an effort to speak the language, interact with locals, take your classes seriously, accept

mistakes, and participate in the cultural activities and other summer program offerings, you will make great progress.

How will my class placement be determined?

There will usually be a placement assessment conducted on the first day of class to determine your placement level. Placements can be changed should a student and/or teacher feel that a different level would be more advantageous to the learning process. What about other subjects? Many of our programs offer other academic subjects from studio art to environmental studies. The curriculum for each summer program varies. Please refer to the web page of the program you are interested in.

Are the classes mandatory? What is the typical workload?

In short, yes, they are. Students are expected to be on time and prepared for each class. The typical workload (for the “major” subject classes) is 3-4 class hours a day, five days a week, for 3-4 weeks, i.e. 45-80 hours in total. The workload for other academic courses varies. Optional elective courses run from 2-2.5 hours three days a week. For more specific information on each summer program please refer to the web page of the program you are interested in.

Is there homework? Are there tests and grades?

The amount of homework varies for each class, and for each summer program. For most courses, there is some homework, although it is not burdensome. In designing our courses, we maximize the use of local communities and resources, making home assignments both fun and educational. Most classes have a final exam or assessment. You will receive a grade for each of your courses. You will also receive a grade for the program. A typical homework assignment in World Class Programs is not like one you would find in a standard classroom however. We always attempt to implement genuine experiences into all of our coursework (i.e. our Experiential Method of learning). For example, a homework assignment for our Italian language class on the Florence trip may be to “Go order breakfast/lunch with a partner from a café in the city, ensure that you and your partner use no English, and then write a paragraph reflection to be shared in class tomorrow.” This is a typical “Experience” that may be assigned as homework and other classes will have similar applications of skill for their assignments. Your participation in program workshops and events as well as your desire to get as much out of the program as possible is an important part of any study abroad experience.

Will I receive an academic transcript or credit?

Students will receive a World Class Programs Transcript upon request indicating the course load, hours completed in his/her course and in their summer program. Credit is awarded on an individual basis through the student’s home institution and the amount of credit varies depending on the policies of the “recipient” U.S. school. Please contact us for more information. We highly recommend that you discuss the issue of academic credit with your school before participating in our programs.

Regardless of credit transfer, it is important to note that universities and colleges look very highly upon the fact that a student chooses to complete an academic program abroad, as it shows academic dedication and rigor, as well as provides valuable cultural experiences. Students will benefit from World Class Programs not only in their college applications but in their overall education.

Eligibility

Who is eligible for admission to our summer programs? What is the age range of the students? Where are the students from?

Our summer programs are open to American and international students who have a genuine interest in exploring foreign languages, cultures and other academic subjects such as studio art, art history, literature, dance, environmental studies, and more. We are looking for open-minded young people who want to experience a new way of life, and who are mature enough to do it in a safe and responsible manner. Our students are academically motivated, and they have a broad range of interests in the arts, athletics, social activities, and travel. Students ages 14-18 are eligible, from mature eighth graders to graduating high school seniors.

Do I need a strong language background?

In short, no language background other than English proficiency is required. On our programs, we do however offer a broad range of classes, for beginners to advanced students, to help those interested in learning the local language grow and develop their skills. Placement assessments help determine the class level appropriate for each student. In addition to official language classes, we also offer tutoring and small group workshops (e.g. conversation and culture workshops) for those students who are interested in additional learning opportunities. Please also refer to the description of the specific summer program of interest for more details.

Health Issues

Should I get vaccinations before I go?

To make a well-informed decision, we recommend that you consult the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. You can call the CDC hotline for international travelers at 1-877-FYI-TRIP (1-877-394-8747); send a fax to 1-888-CDC-FAXX (1-888-232-3299), or view CDC's Internet home page at www.cdc.gov.

What if I have a medical problem while on the trip?

Our staff will immediately arrange for a doctor's visit, take you to a hospital, help you fill your prescription and otherwise assist you in accessing qualified medical help. You are required to

purchase medical insurance prior to coming on our programs. Be sure to get detailed information about your insurance policy, coverage terms and limits, the claim procedure and other details.

What if I am regularly taking medication or have other medical needs?

Be sure to bring an adequate supply of the medication with you, along with a copy of the original prescription and your doctor's contact information. It is also essential that you accurately fill out the medical form and otherwise keep our staff well-informed about your needs to help us better provide for your health and safety.

Residence Housing

What are the residences like?

Usually, these are private apartments or college style dormitories. Please note that housing standards in foreign countries, especially college style dormitories, may significantly vary from those in the United States and fall short of American standards. Laundry, cooking, and bathing facilities will always be available, but air conditioning will usually not be. We will make every effort to select centrally located residences, but in all cases students should expect to walk for at least 20-25 minutes at a time to get around the host community (bear in mind that most historical European cities are oriented toward pedestrians and that on average Europeans walk much more than Americans). If you have rigid requirements as to housing conditions and standards of comfort, or if you have difficulty walking 20-25 minutes at a time, a student summer program in a foreign country may not be the best option for you. For more details, please refer to the web page of the specific Study Abroad program you are interested in.

How are the roommates chosen?

The World Class Program's office makes roommate placements by evaluating student applications. We consider student interests and personalities, as well as student requests. Students will only be placed with roommates and/or apartment-mates of the same gender and approximately the same grade level. Our Study Abroad programs attract students with a very diverse set of backgrounds and interests. An important component of any pre-college residential experience is to meet new people, learn from each other's differences, and hopefully to make many new friends. Almost every student enrolling in our programs indicates an interest in meeting new people and making new friends. It will be up to you to keep an open mind and a positive attitude in order to benefit from this type of experience.

Roommate requests?

Generally, about 80% of our students participate in the Study Abroad program without knowing anyone else prior to the trip. For those students who do participate with a friend or a sibling, you can

request to room with a specific person (or persons). However, we cannot guarantee that all requests will be fulfilled. Most of the time, roommate requests can be fulfilled, but sometimes there are special circumstances that do not allow this. Specifically, we cannot promise to put two (or more) students together as roommates unless they each request, in writing, to room with each other -- these requests are made on each student's program application. All students should remember that one of the greatest benefits with World Class Programs is the opportunity to make new friends. While all of your preferences may not be fulfilled, you will definitely be among a group of peers all of whom are excited and eager to make new friends. We have seen over many years that the students who have the best experience are those who come with an open mind and an intention to meet new people!

Insurance

Do I need to provide proof of insurance for my summer program?

Yes, you must be able to provide proof of medical and accident insurance before starting your program with World Class. You may use your own insurance or we can refer you to several insurance providers. Please contact us for more information if necessary.

Summer Program Dates & Fees

What are the dates for your summer programs?

Typically, our summer programs run for 2-4 weeks, starting in late June and ending in late July to early August. Each trip has its own specific travel itinerary and scheduled course length. For specific dates and itineraries, please refer to the program page itself.

Is this a "Party Program?" What is the World Class policy on alcohol/drugs?

While our students always have great fun, with many opportunities for activities and recreation as well as 2-4 hours of free time daily, this is not a "party program." In the case of any use of drugs or alcohol, the program reserves the right to immediately expel and send a student home. Our alcohol policies, safety rules, and academic priorities are taken very seriously.

What are the summer program fees and what do they include?

Specifically, the fees include:

- Supervision (On-site staff to student ratio is approximately 1:8)
- Academics (Tuition, primary subject course, one elective course, materials and transcript)
- Lodging (residence, and hotel housing)
- 3 full meals a day, every day.

- Pre-planned day trips (including transport, tickets, meals, activities, and supervision)
- Cultural and recreational activities

The fees do not include:

- Airfare
- Optional Travel Extension
- Student Insurance

For specific study abroad summer program fees, please refer to the Application and Fees section of this web site. Please note that dramatic changes in currency exchange rates may force us to introduce a currency correction fee at any point prior to the beginning of your summer program.

Do you offer any scholarships, financial aid or special discounts?

Yes! We are currently offering a variety of scholarship and fellowship opportunities.

Do I have to submit a deposit with the application?

Yes, in order to apply, please submit a \$500 application deposit with your online application. Your application will not be reviewed until we have received the \$500 application deposit and a copy of your transcript. The application deposit is refundable less a \$100 processing fee. Upon acceptance, you must submit an additional \$1,000 enrollment deposit in order to secure your spot on your summer program. Both deposits are credited towards your summer program fee.

What if I decide to withdraw from my summer program? Is the fee refundable?

If a student withdraws from a summer program for any reason prior to departure, a refund will be calculated by the following schedule:

Before February 1, all but \$100 is refundable

Before March 1, all but \$250 is refundable

Before April 1, all but \$750 is refundable

Before May 1, all but \$1,500 is refundable

On or after May 1, the fee is 100% non-refundable

Withdrawal from a summer program is effective on the date that written notification is received by World Class Programs. The cancellation and refund policy is in effect from the initial receipt of a student's application and deposit, even before he or she is formally accepted and enrolled. If a student is asked to leave the program for a violation of program rules, he or she is not eligible for any

refunds or reimbursements, and parents are responsible for the cost of dismissed students' travel home.

Do I have to pay the entire fee at one? Is there a payment plan option?

As described above, the \$500 application deposit and \$1,000 payment are both credited toward the summer program fee. The remaining balance of the program fee is due by May 1; final invoices will be sent by April 1. For students enrolling after April 1, full payment is due within 15 days of acceptance to their summer program. If you would like to request a special payment plan, please contact us via phone or email to discuss options.

What payment methods are acceptable?

We gladly accept checks or money orders. To send us a wire transfer, please contact us for more information. We also accept and encourage PayPal.

Supervision

How safe are the World Class summer programs?

This is by far the most important question for us. We have developed a very clear set of Safety Rules and Guidelines that will be meticulously enforced and which are detailed in the Program Application and Enrollment Contract. Abiding by these rules and guidelines will greatly enhance your safety and protect you from many dangers. Our staff will provide supervision during most activities and will be available to assist you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. All you have to do is call the staff cell phone number at any time, day or night. They can walk or drive you home when necessary, arrange for a doctor's visit, or help you communicate with your host community - the staff will always do their best to resolve any problems you might have. However, all of the above will not matter if you do not give your support in ensuring your own safety. The staff will not be able to supervise every student around-the-clock, and it will ultimately be up to you to respect the rules and exercise caution and good judgment in order to stay out of trouble.

What happens if I break the safety rules?

It means that you have put yourself in a dangerous situation in which we can no longer ensure your safety. In the event in which you have broken a cardinal safety rule, we reserve the right to expel you from the program and send you home without refund.

Will I be supervised at all times? What about free time?

The staff will supervise you during most group activities and excursions, but not during time with your friends or free time. However, the staff will be reachable at any time, day or night, at the staff mobile phone number.

Travel Details

Is there a group flight? May I travel on different dates (arrive or leave earlier or later) or on a different itinerary? May I make my own travel arrangements?

Students and staff always are encouraged to travel together on group flights from MSP and JFK. If you prefer to travel on dates or itineraries that are different from the group ones (i.e. meet the group abroad, fly from a different airport or a different country, or stay behind after your summer program ends, etc.) you will need to make your own travel arrangements and purchase your own tickets. If you travel independently, we will be glad to assist you to the extent possible and refer you to several travel agencies with which we work. In general, however, we discourage independent travel on account of many possible risks and complications (delays, missed connections, getting stranded alone at airports or train stations without supervision or accommodation, etc.). It is highly recommended by World Class that each student plan their travels to arrive on the day the program begins, and leave the day the program ends. If this cannot be arranged, World Class Programs will do what we can to accommodate you, but we will not be responsible for student safety before they have meet the program, any delays, cancelation, or rerouted travel plans, or for loss of program time. For specific itineraries and dates of each program please refer to the web page of the program you are interested in. If travel plans are a concern, please feel free to contact us.

What about the optional travel extensions? What are we going to see? Where are we going to stay?

Those choosing to participate will travel to a major city in their host country (Rome, Venice, Edinburgh etc.). The optional travel extension is not included in the summer program tuition. All transport, meals, lodging (three-star hotels), supervision, activities, excursions, and entrance fees are included for an additional fee. For specific information on each summer program and its travel extension, please refer to the web page of the program you are interested in.