

# Residential Life

AFTER SCHOOL & WEEKENDS AT WA



**WA** WASHINGTON ACADEMY

# At WA, we know the best place to learn English is often *outside the classroom*

Washington Academy's **After School Enrichment Program** keeps residential students happy, busy, and practicing the English skills they need for university.

*The best way to learn English is by living it.*



**A**t Washington Academy, we realize how important it is that our ESL students become comfortable with and proficient in English.

While WA offers excellent in-class ESL instruction (see back page), studies show that using English in real life settings is key to helping students master a second language. Studies also show that students learn best when they're taking part in an activity they enjoy.

## After School Enrichment

Washington Academy's After School Enrichment Program provides fun, structured activities between 3:00 and 5:30 p.m. for all residential students. Each quarter, students sign up for the programs that interest them the most.

Students often learn a new skill in these classes, such as Latin dancing or how to play the dulcimer. Some involve volunteering in the community or even cheering on the school's athletic teams. All provide a fun way to unwind after school, make new friends,



## WA Nurtures Self-Discovery

Our small town setting is a safe place where students can grow. As one student recently said, "I can really think here at WA."



## WA Treats Students Like Family

Many WA students are a long way from their families. Our residence life team works every day to make WA a caring "home away from home."



## WA Fosters Community

Much of life requires teamwork. At WA, all students are encouraged to contribute to the community through their talents and camaraderie.

**“When I got here, I only knew A to Z...In only two years, I’ve really, really learned a lot of English.”** —Yeong Jin, South Korea

and stay productive through the afternoon.

In addition to their participation in these classes, students document what they learned through their choice of a journal or presentation—giving them more opportunities to practice their all-important English skills.

### Community Exploration

Learning at WA doesn’t stop on the evenings or weekends. Residential students choose from a variety of community-based activities to participate in each quarter. Options might include visiting a local museum, attending a community supper, or cheering on the band and chorus at an all-school concert.

Our international students depend on us to introduce them to life in New England, and WA takes that job seriously! We offer a number of weekend excursions each month to places like fairs and cultural events, as well as movies and shopping.

### Family Style Dinners

Once a week, Washington Academy’s school cafeteria looks more like a restaurant—and students and faculty even dress the part! During Family Style Dinner, residential

students sit at round tables, complete with white tablecloths, and enjoy a formal, culturally-themed dinner with invited faculty and community members.

Community members tell us they thoroughly enjoy getting to know our wonderful students from around the world—and students love sharing their culture.

### Dorm Advisors

Students living away from home need and deserve someone who cares about how they’re doing. In addition to a student’s academy advisor, each residential student is assigned a dorm advisor to check on their progress academically and coach them in skills such as time management. These adult mentors also help students negotiate any challenges they might have with friends, teachers, or simply being homesick. Parents of quiet students like being able to call their child’s dorm advisor for a report on how he or she is doing!

**“It feels like home here... The school really takes care of us. My parents feel comfortable with the school, too.”** —Lilli, Germany

For more information on Washington Academy’s Residential Life Programs, contact Robin Moloff-Gautier at (207) 255-8301 x209 or [r.gautier@washingtonacademy.org](mailto:r.gautier@washingtonacademy.org).

## Enrichment Program Sampler

### MONDAY

Model United Nations  
Running Club  
Cooking Club  
Outdoor Adventure  
Dulcimer Club  
Chinese Writing

### TUESDAY

Team Survivor  
Pep Club  
Game Club  
Sequential Art Club  
The Voice Newspaper Club

### WEDNESDAY

Ultimate Frisbee  
Net Sports  
Animation Club  
Bowling Club  
Latin Dancing  
Outdoor Adventure

### THURSDAY

Raiders Reaching Out  
Book Club  
Kite Club  
Sequential Art Club  
The Voice Newspaper Club



### WA Encourages Creativity

One of the joys of life is self-expression. Each day WA students are given the opportunity to create in and out of the classroom.



### WA Gets Kids Outside

Washington Academy’s location on Maine’s rural coast brings countless recreational opportunities. We make sure students get lots of fresh air!



### WA Believes in Adventure

Weekend trips are an important part of the educational process, be it to a cultural center or a snowy mountaintop.

# ESL at WA

Washington Academy's four full-time ESL instructors give students individualized instruction at three levels. The goal is English mastery—as evidenced by those all-important TOEFL test scores.

## ESL PROGRAM LEVELS

### Individualized Immersion Program (basic)

Courses offered:

1. Basic English as a Second Language
2. American History with emphasis on Maine
3. Speaking and Listening
4. Literature and Language

Options: • ESL Lab—Guided Study Hall  
• ESL Science

### Integrated Transitional Language Program (intermediate)

Courses offered:

1. Intermediate English as a Second Language
2. American Society and Culture
3. Integrated Science
4. Grammar and Composition

Options: • College Campus Visits  
• College Counseling  
• SAT and PSAT Preparation

### University Preparation Program (advanced)

Courses offered:

1. Advanced English as a Second Language
2. TOEFL Preparation—Junior level
3. TOEFL Preparation—Senior level
4. College Essay Writing

Options: • Advanced College Essay Writing—Evening Class  
• University Campus Visits  
• University Counseling  
• SAT Preparation  
• On-site TOEFL Testing  
• Non-ESL English



Robin Moloff-Gautier, MMBA, MS, BA  
Director of Residential Life

## Progress takes practice

WA's residential life programs give **ESL students** countless opportunities to practice their English skills.

**"N**othing is more important to our international students than mastery of the English language. It is the key to their success at an American university, and will prove a highly valuable skill in their adult lives.

Over the years, Washington Academy has expanded its ESL curriculum to meet each student at his or her ability level. Three tiers of study—Individualized Immersion, Integrated Transitional, and University Prep—brings students through all the stages of proficiency, from beginning speaker to mastery.

In class and out, ESL at WA is taught in the most natural way possible—by real life interactions and problem-solving. We also strongly believe in asking students to demonstrate proficiency through reading, writing, speaking, and listening. This constant feedback is one of the secrets to our program's success.

**"It's really international here. You not only learn about America, you make friends from many different countries."** —Mia, Sweden

Our after school and weekend activities are another key factor in helping our ESL students advance in their skill level. Whether students are playing a sport or creating a piece of art,

ESL takes on a fun new twist after the school day is over. Together—through classwork and real life practice—WA's ESL students can expect to make great strides.

Each year, ESL students are amazed at the progress they make by being part of our friendly, nurturing community. Washington Academy's day students, I'm proud to say, do a great job helping their international friends gain English skills.

As Director of Residential Life, I see English proficiency as key to my mission. I continually work with our Residence Hall Directors and Dorm Parents to create fun ways to continue our students' education in the dorms. I've learned a few tricks in my years involved with WA's residence life program. One is that games and food are two wonderful "ambassadors!"

As you can see by the academic offerings to the left, we take ESL course work very seriously at Washington Academy. But I also think it's important for prospective students and parents to realize that our commitment goes beyond the classroom. If your English needs work, we're here to help. If it's already good, we'll help make it great. Either way, be prepared for progress!"

—Robin Moloff-Gautier  
Director of Residential Life