



# **ELS Houston Houston, Texas affiliated with University of St. Thomas – Houston**

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**ELS COUNSELING MANUAL**

UPDATED :2024-11-06

## ELS Houston

affiliation to the University of St. Thomas

YouTube Video: <https://youtu.be/sZiVhd-WBP0>



### About This Center

ELS/Houston is situated close to the University of St. Thomas – Houston. While not located on the campus, ELS students obtain a student ID card that allows them to enjoy access to campus facilities, including athletic, library, dining facilities and discounts at museums, restaurants and retail establishments.

Get a real glimpse of Southern hospitality when you learn in America's fourth largest city. Houston is a cosmopolitan melting pot that is known for its cultural diversity. It is filled with world-class dining – plus art, shopping, a museum district, and much more. Enjoy weekend visits to NASA: Space Center Houston, the Gulf of Mexico beaches, and more. When you're not practicing your English while shopping, dining or enjoying outdoor festivals, there's plenty more in Houston for you to experience!

- Total number of ELS students per 4-week session: Average 100 (Maximum 135)
- Number of students per class: Average:10 (Maximum:15)

### Why Choose ELS Houston

- Warm weather all year round
- Located in the Upper Kirby/River Oaks/Greenway Plaza District for convenient shopping, dining, and leisure activities.
- Weekend access to NASA Space Center and Gulf of Mexico beaches.
- Although not located on campus, the University of St. Thomas – Houston facility available.

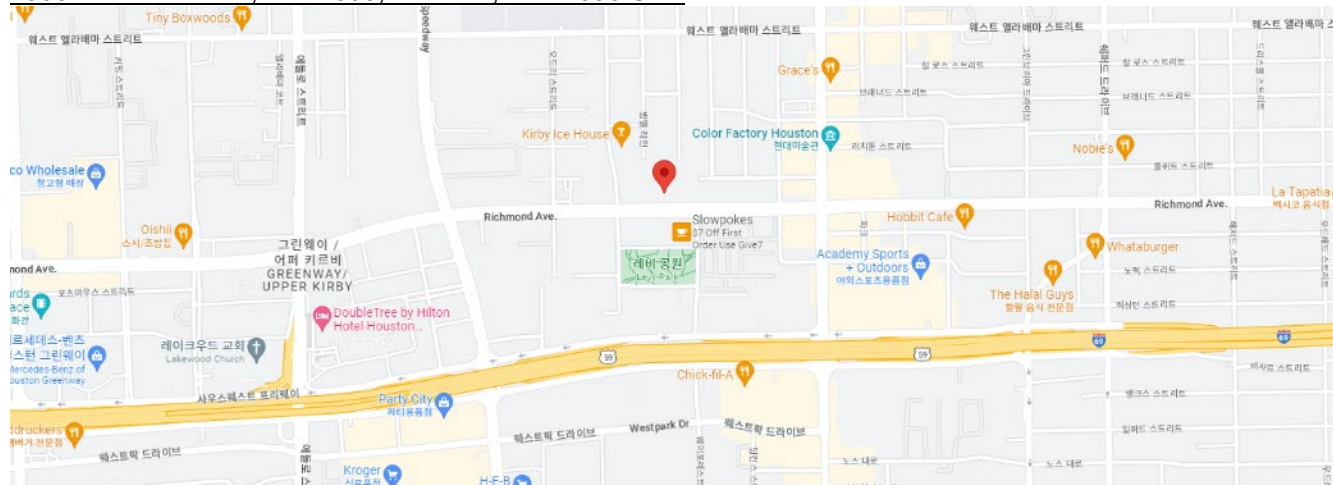


### **Programs at ELS Houston**

- Intensive English (30 lessons/week)
- Semi-Intensive English (20 lessons/week)
- American Explorer (15 lessons/week)

## Physical Address of ELS Houston

2990 Richmond Ave, Suite 600, Houston, TX 77098 USA



## 2023-24 Start Dates – Schedule A Center

(2023) 1/2, 1/30, 2/27, 3/27, 4/24, 5/22, 6/19, 7/17, 8/14, 9/11, 10/9, 11/6, 12/4

(2024) 1/2, 1/29, 2/26, 3/25, 4/22, 5/20, 6/17, 7/15, 8/12, 9/9, 10/7, 11/4, 12/2

\* Students may start on any Monday. (Starting on the 4th week of the session is not recommended.)

\* Centres with the same start schedule: Cincinnati, Cleveland, Melbourne, Nashville, New York Manhattan, Philadelphia, St. Petersburg

## About the Host University



### University of St. Thomas – Houston, UST

University of St. Thomas – Houston (UST) is a private Catholic university located in Houston, Texas. Established in 1947, it is located near the Museum District - Houston's heart of history and art. UST is a small university with about 3,500 students. Although ELS/Houston is not located on the UST campus, ELS students receive a UST student ID card and have full access to university facilities. ELS/Houston is located 10-15 minutes by bus from the UST campus.



**Conditional admission available through ELS UAS: Yes**

**ELS Level Accepted: Level 112**

**University Rankings** based on 2022-23 US News Ranking

#250 in National Universities



## Popular Majors

Business/MBA

## Campus Facilities

Basketball court

Cafeteria

Computer lab

Fitness center

Free parking at Center

Gymnasium

Library

Music practice rooms

Racquetball/Squash court

Swimming pool (outdoor)

Tennis court

Wi-Fi



## About the City and Region – Houston, TX



Houston, located in southeastern Texas, is a port city with the largest population and the most developed energy industry in Texas. The city itself is dynamic with a population of about 2.3 million and a population of 7 million when combined with the metropolitan area. It is the fourth most populous city in the United States after New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago. You can enjoy weekend visits to the National Air and Space Administration (NASA) Space Center Houston, Gulf of Mexico beaches and much more.

### Distances to Nearby Cities

- Dallas, TX: 6 hours 30 minute by car
- Galveston, TX: 1 hour by car

### Area Attractions

- (NASA) Space Center Houston, Gulf of Mexico beaches
- Possible weekend trips to San Antonio, New Orleans, or Mexico

### Local Transportation

- Buses and a light rail service (<https://www.ridemetro.org/>) to Downtown, which is adequate for students' needs. Cost is \$1.25 one direction (50% off with UST student ID Card and Q card).
- Many of our students rent cars or share taxis or Uber and divide the expense.
- International students can obtain a Texas Driver's License by going to the appropriate state office and passing a written and a driving test.



## Distances to Key Locations (from ELS Center)

Local Places:	Away	Mode of Transportation
Airport	45/35	Bus/Car
Bank	5/5/5	Walk/Bike/Car
Downtown Houston	35/20/15	Bike/Bus/Car
Post Office	35/20/15/10	Walk/Bike/Bus/Car
Restaurants	5/5/5/5	Walk/Bike/Bus/Car
Shopping Mall/Outlet	35/20/15	Bike/Bus/Car
Supermarket	10/5/5	Walk/Bike/Bus/Car
Sports Stadium	35/20/1	Bike/Bus/Car
Pharmacy	10/5/5/5	Walk/Bike/Car
Public Transportation	3/3	Walk/Bike





## Housing

### Homestay



- Room Type: Single occupancy
- Meals: 14 meals per week (Breakfast and Dinner)
- Distance from homestay to ELS Center: Average 45minutes (Maximum 1 hour 30 minutes)
- Minimum Age: 16
  - \* Students younger than stated minimum might be considered upon request. Approval must first be obtained from the Center Director before confirming.

Students are placed in single occupancy rooms and may share a bathroom with other family members or students. Travel time to/from homestays vary but generally take anywhere from 45 - 60 minutes via Houston's Metro bus system. Homestay students are responsible for their own transportation to/from ELS/Houston.

#### Check-in Time

8:00am - 10:00pm Sunday before session start date.

Homestay students should notify their homestay hosts or ELS of their arrival times so that the hosts will know to be home when the students arrive.

#### Check-out Time

8:00am - 1:00pm Saturday after session end date

Students will arrange their check out with their homestay host and the homestay coordinator. Rooms should be left clean and tidy.

## ELS Houston Residence - Kimpton Apartments (Off-campus)

7500 Kirby Drive Houston, TX 77030



- Room Type: Double occupancy
- Meals: No meals included
- Distance to ELS Center: About 10-15 minutes by Metro Bus
- Minimum Age: 18
- An apartment style accommodation with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and living space. The room is shared by 2 students.
- Common spaces include an outdoor swimming pool, fitness center, and common lounge.
- Males and females may not live in the same apartment.
- Washers and dryers are located in each apartment with no charge.
- Free Wi-Fi access is available for all students

### More information about Kimpton Apartments > [Click Here](#)

#### Check-in Time

12:00pm - 5:00pm Sunday before session start date

Students with confirmed housing at Kimpton Apartments must provide the Center with a time of arrival in order to have a guarantee check-in. Students must contact Burak Irez, Resident Assistant, at 1-713-360-9190 in order to schedule a check-in time.

#### Check-out Time

8:00am - 1:00pm Saturday after session end date



## ELS Levels

### MASTERS

#### Upon completion of master's levels, students can:

- Level 112 Speak and understand English with ease.
  - Level 111 Read and write with sufficient proficiency to satisfy professional and university requirements.
  - Level 110 Conduct business competently in English
- Equivalent to CEFR: B2+/C1 upon completion of ELS Level 112

**Education option upon completion: Begin an undergraduate or graduate degree program.**

### ADVANCED

#### Upon completion of Advanced levels, students can:

- Level 109 Communicate effectively in most social situations.
  - Level 108 Understand and can use a wide range of idioms.
  - Level 107 Participate fully in most conversations.
- Equivalent to CEFR: B2 upon completion of ELS Level 109

**Education option upon completion: Enter a two-year college.**

### INTERMEDIATE

#### Upon completion of Intermediate levels, students can:

- Level 106 Communicate facts and opinions.
  - Level 105 Understand most questions and statements at normal speaking speed.
  - Level 104 Carry on conversations with native speakers
- Equivalent to CEFR: B1 upon completion of ELS Level 106

### BEGINNER

#### Upon completion of Beginner levels, students can:

- Level 103 Communicate at a basic level in everyday situations.
  - Level 102 Understand English when spoken slowly and clearly.
  - Level 101 Respond to simple questions and directions.
- Equivalent to CEFR: A2+ upon completion of ELS Level 103

ELS Levels	101	102	103	104	105	106	107-108	109	110-111	112
IELTS				4.0	4.5	5.0	5.5	6.0	6.5	7.0





## ELS Core Classes

### Structure and Speaking Practice (SSP)

SSP classes focus on speaking, listening and structure (grammar). Every student in Levels 101-109 takes SSP.

### Language Technology Center (LTC)

In the LTC, students study on computers at their own pace with the help of the LTC instructor. LTC supports what students are learning in other classes and can be especially helpful in improving listening, comprehension, grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation.

### Skills Enhancement

These classes focus on a variety of language skills and cover a range of topics to help students improve specific areas of language development. Examples of Skills Enhancement Classes include Pronunciation, Vocabulary Development, Idioms, Conversation and more.

### Language Studies (LS)

This class focuses on listening, speaking and critical thinking skills. Every student in Levels 110-112 takes LS.

### Reading and Writing (RW)

This class focuses on improving reading and writing All Intensive English students take two periods of Reading and Writing in the afternoon, Monday-Thursday.

### Sample Timetable

Time \ Programs	Intensive 30Lessons/week	Semi-Intensive 20Lessons/week	American Explorer 15Lessons/week	
8:30 - 9:20 AM	<b>Mon-Fri</b> SSP, LTC & Skills Class	<b>Mon-Fri</b> SSP, LTC & Skills Class	<b>Mon-Fri</b>	
9:30 - 10:20 AM			SSP, LTC or Skills	<b>Mon-Fri</b> SSP, LTC or Skills Class
10:30 - 11:20 AM			Class	
11:30 AM - 12:20 PM				
12:20 -1:30 PM	Lunch			
1:30 - 2:35 PM	<b>Mon-Thu</b> Reading & Writing Class			
2:45 - 3:45 PM				

\* 1 Lesson = 50 minutes (Morning) / 60-65 minutes (Afternoon)



## Programs - Intensive English Program [REG]

- 30 Lessons/week (30 class hours/week) (class hour is defined as 50 minutes of instruction with a 10-minute break)

Intensive English is our most comprehensive program, providing the highest level of proficiency for language learning. The curriculum is designed help students succeed by focusing on all elements of the language: listening, speaking, reading, writing, pronunciation, grammar, and vocabulary. Most students taking this program study with a plan to go to community college or university after completing ELS.

**You must take this program to get the ELS level certificate required by the university.**

### Intensive English Program – Sample Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30am - 12:20pm	Structure and Speaking Practice OR Language Studies / Skills Enhancement / Language Technology Center				
12:20pm-1:30pm	Lunch				
1:30pm-3:45pm	Reading & Writing				

### Intensive English Program Sample Timetable – Each Level

Level Time	BEGINNER Lv.101 - 103	INTERMEDIATE Lv. 104 – 106	ADVANCED Lv. 107 - 109	MASTERS Lv. 110 - 112
8:30am-9:20am	Structure and Speaking Practice	Structure and Speaking Practice	Skills Enhancement*	Skills Enhancement*
9:30am-10:20am	Structure and Speaking Practice	Structure and Speaking Practice	Language Technology Center	Language Technology Center
10:30am-11:20am	Skills Enhancement*	Skills Enhancement*	Structure and Speaking Practice	Language Studies
11:30am-12:20pm	Language Technology Center	Language Technology Center	Structure and Speaking Practice	Language Studies
12:20pm-1:30pm	Lunch			
1:30pm-2:30pm	Reading & Writing	Reading & Writing	Reading & Writing	Reading & Writing



2:40pm-3:45pm	Reading & Writing	Reading & Writing	Reading & Writing	Reading & Writing
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\*Exact courses offered at each Center may vary.

## Programs - Semi-Intensive English Program [SEM]

- 20 Lessons/week (20 class hours/week) (class hour is defined as 50 minutes of instruction with a 10-minute break)

The Semi-Intensive English program allows students to learn English and get a true cultural experience at the same time. These classes are typically scheduled during morning hours and focus on all aspects of language and communication learning, including listening, vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. The classes are structured to provide speaking practice and tailored for real-world applications to give you the confidence to use your learning in social settings and in interactions with other students.

### Semi-Intensive English Program Sample Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30am - 12:20pm	Structure and Speaking Practice OR Language Studies / Skills Enhancement / Language Technology Center				

### Semi-Intensive English Program Sample Timetable – Each Level

Level Time	BEGINNER Lv.101 - 103	INTERMEDIATE Lv. 104 – 106	ADVANCED Lv. 107 - 109	MASTERS Lv. 110 - 112
8:30am-9:20am	Structure and Speaking Practice	Structure and Speaking Practice	Skills Enhancement*	Skills Enhancement*
9:30am-10:20am	Structure and Speaking Practice	Structure and Speaking Practice	Language Technology Center	Language Technology Center
10:30am-11:20am	Skills Enhancement*	Skills Enhancement*	Structure and Speaking Practice	Language Studies
11:30am-12:20pm	Language Technology Center	Language Technology Center	Structure and Speaking Practice	Language Studies

\*Exact courses offered at each Center may vary.





## Programs - American Explorer Program (ACP)

\* This program is not available to F-1 students.

- 15 Lessons/week (15 class hours/week) (class hour is defined as 50 minutes of instruction with a 10-minute break)

Students who wish to study English while on vacation in the USA may do so in the ELS American Explorer program. This program features three morning lessons per day (Monday-Friday) for a total of 15 lessons per week. Afternoons are free for recreation and relaxation.

The American Explorer part-time program is cultural in nature and does not award certificates of language proficiency. Since the core class schedule may vary by Center and session, 15-hour students may have different programs at different Centers or in different sessions. The American Explorer program consists of 12 levels of instruction from Beginner to Masters, with four weeks of instruction per level.

### American Explorer Program Sample Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30am - 11:20pm	Structure and Speaking Practice OR Language Studies / Skills Enhancement / Language Technology Center				

### American Explorer Program Sample Timetable – Each Level

Level Time	BEGINNER Lv.101 - 103	INTERMEDIATE Lv. 104 – 106	ADVANCED Lv. 107 - 109	MASTERS Lv. 110 - 112
8:30am-9:20am	Structure and Speaking Practice	Skills Enhancement / LTC	Structure and Speaking Practice	Language Studies
9:30am-10:20am	Structure and Speaking Practice	Structure and Speaking Practice	Structure and Speaking Practice	Language Studies
10:30am-11:20am	Skills Enhancement / LTC	Structure and Speaking Practice	Skills Enhancement / LTC	Skills Enhancement Class or Language Technology Center

# Sample Activity Calendars

<div>  <h2>ELS HOUSTON: Session 4</h2> <h3>March 27, 2023 — April 21, 2023</h3> </div> <div>Calendar subject to change. Please see Ray for details.</div>						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div>26</div> 	<div>27</div> <h3>New Student Orientation</h3> <p>8:15am—1pm</p> <p>Orientation &amp; Placement Testing</p>	<div>28</div> <h3>First day of class</h3> <p>All students get your schedule in the Houston Room.</p> <div>  </div>	<div>29</div> <p>Find ELS Houston on social media!</p> <div>   </div> 	<div>30</div> <h3>IELTS</h3> <p>Test for Academic Purposes</p> <h4>IELTS Testing Days*</h4> <p>Interested in taking the IELTS? Visit the IELTS office on Tuesday-Thursday from 9am-1pm.</p> <p>Future test dates include: 3/25, 3/26, 4/1, 4/2, 4/15, 4/16, 4/22, 4/23</p> <p>*You must sign up prior to the test date and receive confirmation to take the test. For more details, please talk with the IELTS Administrator.</p>	<div>31</div> <p>Suggested Activity</p> <p>Check out Karbach Brewery! Beer Hall open is daily, admission is FREE (beer and food are sold a la carte)</p> <h3>KARBACH BREWING COMPANY</h3> <p>Com Hole, games and bond with friends over some of Houston's finest brews.</p>	<div>1</div>  <h3>APRIL FOOL'S DAY</h3>
<div>2</div>  <p>See the schedule for FREE events at Miller Outdoor Theatre by going to: <a href="http://www.milleroutdoortheatre.com">www.milleroutdoortheatre.com</a></p>	<div>3</div>  <p>Have you been to the gym at UST yet? It is free with an ELS/UST ID!</p> 	<div>4</div>  <p>Come celebrate birthdays in the Houston room today at 12:30pm. Treats will be provided! FREE!!</p> 	<div>5</div> <h3>Easter Egg Hunt today!</h3> <p>Starts bright and early at 7:30 am!</p>  <p>Last day to sign up for Escape room</p>	<div>6</div> <h3>Make a Meal with Laci</h3> <p>At 4:00 pm</p> 	<div>7</div> <h3>NO SCHOOL TODAY! GOOD FRIDAY! NATIONAL HOLIDAY</h3> 	<div>8</div> <h3>Special Activity</h3>  <p>Escape Room Houston! \$35 Includes transportation and admission. Leave ELS at 2:00 pm</p>
<div>9</div> 	<div>10</div> <h3>Suggested Activity</h3> <p>Check out Texas Rock Gym, Houston's indoor rock climbing gym. They offer safety classes for everyone, and different types of climbing. Visit <a href="http://www.texasrockgym.com">www.texasrockgym.com</a> for more information and pricing.</p>	<div>11</div> <p>Enjoy your lunch outside today! Levy Park is located across the street! Ask any ELS staff for directions.</p> 	<div>12</div> <h3>Check out Houston's food trucks!</h3>  <p><b>Deadline</b></p> <p>Be sure to sign up for the Astros game in Nhan's office!</p>	<div>13</div>  <p>Did you know that some museums are free on Thursdays?</p> <p>Museum of Fine Arts: All Day Natural Science Museum: 3pm-6pm Health Museum: 2pm-7pm Ask Ray for more information!</p>	<div>14</div> <h3>Practice IELTS Test Today after class with Tim!</h3> 	<div>15</div> <h3>Suggested Activity</h3> <p>36th Annual Art Car Parade</p>  <p>2pm located Along Allen Parkway</p> <p>*See Nicolas for specific directions*</p>
<div>16</div> <h3>Special Activity</h3>  <p>Join Tim and your fellow classmates At Minute Maid Park for an Astros game \$35 Includes Transportation and Admission</p>	<div>17</div> <p>Go with classmates to study at the UST library. Make sure to take your ELS Student ID with you!</p> 	<div>18</div> <h3>STUDY!</h3> 	<div>19</div> <p>Have you registered for session 5? Will you study next session? Make sure to finalize payment to secure your schedule. Talk to any ELS Staff for help or email us at <a href="mailto:houston@els.edu">houston@els.edu</a></p> 	<div>20</div> <h3>Good Luck</h3> <h3>SSD FINALS 8:00 am</h3> 	<div>21</div> <h3>GRADUATION DAY!</h3> <p>Certificate Presentation at 9:00am. Meet with your teacher at 10:30 am Food provided</p> 	<div>22</div> <p>For returning students, we will see you on Tuesday, April 25, at 8:15am to pick up your schedule!</p>  <p>For departing students, we wish you safe travel back home!</p> 

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## Session First Day / Orientation Day Sample Schedule

The orientation will be conducted face-to-face at the center.

Below is the orientation sample schedule. Depending on the school, the actual orientation may be conducted differently.

※ At the Houston Center, even students who have taken the online placement test in advance will have an informal level test and interview.

<b>8:30 am</b>	Arrival and registration
<b>9:30 am</b>	student interviews
<b>10:30 am</b>	Orientation
<b>11:30 am</b>	printing of I-94s and logging into My ELS in our LTC (computer center).

## Minimum Age Requirements

- No ELS Housing: 16
- Homestay, Homestays in the area: 16
  - \* Students younger than stated minimum might be considered upon request. Approval must first be obtained from the Center Director before confirming.
- Student Residence (off campus), Kimpton Apartments: 18

## Contact information of ELS Houston

2990 Richmond Avenue, Suite 600, Houston, Texas, United States 77098

Phone (713) 331-7690

Email [hou@ELS.edu](mailto:hou@ELS.edu)