



**LANGUAGE
SCHOOLS**

Juniors Program

AT

**ILSC-VANCOUVER
WELCOME GUIDE
2023**





CONTENTS

- 3** Preparing for Your Trip
- 6** Once You Arrive
- 8** The Homestay Experience
- 9** Important Health and Safety Tips
- 10** Medical Insurance Health Coverage
- 11** Exploring Vancouver
- 12** Telephone Service
- 13** Getting Around
- 14** Conduct for Classroom Activities
- 15** Important Information
- 17** Our Teaching Philosophy
- 18** Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

ARE YOU READY FOR THE EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME?

ILSC's Junior Camps are an exciting and fun way to learn either English, and to connect with other students from around the world while getting a taste of the local culture at one of ILSC's unique locations.

This welcome guide will help you prepare for your visit, and give you tips and advice for while you're here so that you can get the most out of your experience. We look forward to meeting you!

PREPARING FOR YOUR TRIP



BEFORE YOU LEAVE

ILSC CUSTODIANSHIP SERVICES

Any child who is a minor (a child under the age of 18 in Ontario and Quebec and 19 in BC) who wants to study in Canada (without a parent or guardian) and is not a Canadian citizen or a permanent resident, may have a **custodian** an adult appointed to them who will provide the care and support they need while in Canada.

A custodian's responsibilities include:

- Assisting with the student's arrival and departure from Canada
- Providing consent (as required) for academic programs and activities (e.g., field trips)
- Responding 24/7 to emergency situations involving the student
- Assisting in accessing immediate and/or ongoing medical services
- Mediating disputes involving student and or UBC residence staff
- Advising the student's parents of any issues pertaining to the student's social, emotional, physical, or academic wellbeing

To appoint a Custodian, you must select an adult who meets the requirements and can fulfill the custodian responsibilities. This can be a relative or friend that lives near the school and residence or can be an ILSC team member. Once you have determined who you would like as your child's custodian, you must complete and submit a **Custodianship Declaration form**.

The [Custodianship Declaration Forms \(Custodian and Parents/Guardian\)](#) form consists of two pages:

- The first page needs to be signed by the custodian and notarized in Canada.
- The second page needs to be signed by the parents or legal guardians of the minor child and notarized in their home country.

All minor students must provide a notarized declaration, one signed by their parent or legal guardians in the country of origin, as well as one signed by the custodian in Canada, stating that arrangements have been made for the custodian to act in place of parent. The [Custodianship Declaration Forms](#) must be signed and notarized by a lawyer or notary public. The fee for the ILSC custodianship services is \$150 and includes the notarization costs for the declaration form as well as the custodian's services

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

An "**Unaccompanied Minor**" is any child between the age of 8-17 years old traveling without a parent or legal guardian.

Most airlines provide an "**Unaccompanied Minor**" program to assist children who are travelling alone from their point of departure to their destination. The unaccompanied minors are escorted by airline personnel until they reach their destination and are released to an ILSC Juniors Program team member. This program is mandatory for children between 8-11 years old and optional for children aged 12-17 years old. The airline charges an additional fee for this program.

ILSC ACADEMIC ENGLISH PLACEMENT TEST

A few weeks before you arrive, you will receive an email with a link to our online English Placement test. The

test will assess your English reading, writing, grammar and speaking skills and will take about 60-75 minutes to complete.

Technical Requirements:

- Internet connection
- Audio
- Camera and microphone to record videos for the speaking part of the assessment



WHAT TO PACK



CHECKLIST OF THINGS TO BRING

IMPORTANT INFORMATION & ITEMS

- Letter of acceptance from ILSC
- This Welcome Guide (*record important information on p. 15*)
- Your passport and travel documents (*leave photocopies of travel documents with your parent or guardian*)
- Travel health insurance
- Any prescription medications that you require
- Canadian Dollars or credit cards to purchase snacks or souvenirs

TOILETRIES

- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Soap
- Sunscreen
- Hairbrush/comb
- Hairdryer (if needed)
- Washcloth
- Feminine hygiene products

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Backpack or school bag
- Pens and paper

CLOTHING

- Underwear
- Socks
- Sweatshirts/sweatpants (for cool weather)
- T-shirts
- Shorts
- Jeans/pants
- Rain jacket (suitable for cool or rainy weather)
- Pajamas/sleepwear
- Swimsuit
- Sun hat
- Running shoes
- Casual shoes
- Flip-flops/sandals

MISC.

- Beach towel
- Refillable water bottle
- Regular medications (Acetaminophen or Ibuprofen)

PERSONAL ELECTRONICS

- Camera
- Mobile phone
- Headphones

ONCE YOU ARRIVE

AT THE AIRPORT

If you are coming from an international flight, you will be arriving at the international arrivals' terminal of the airport. If you are coming from a Canadian connecting flight, you will be arriving in the domestic arrivals terminal of the airport.



All ILSC's locations are in major cities, and the airport will be between 20-45 minutes away from the school depending on which city you will be studying in.

When you arrive, there will be an ILSC Juniors Program staff member waiting for you inside the terminal. The person will be waiting for you with a sign with the ILSC logo and your name. This Juniors Program staff will greet you and take you directly to your accommodation.



If you don't see them right away, don't worry; someone will be there waiting for you. If, after looking carefully, you can't find anyone with a sign with your name on it, go to the information booth and ask to make a phone call to the **ILSC Vancouver Juniors Program emergency phone number 236-308-2345**, which is always available, 24 hours a day from June 28, 2023-August 13, 2023. A Juniors Program team member will answer the phone and make sure to connect you with the person picking you up.

SEE PAGE 15 FOR IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND EMERGENCY INFORMATION



JUNIORS PROGRAM DAILY SCHEDULE*

TIME	MONDAY-FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
8:45 - 8:55 am	Arrival to ILSC		
9:00 am - 1:30 pm	Morning Activity		
1:30 - 2:30 pm	Lunch		
2:30 - 3:45 pm	Classes	Weekend excursion	Day with host family
3:45 - 4:00 pm	Break		
4:00 - 5:15 pm	Classes		
5:15 - 6:15 pm	Travel time home		
6:15 pm - evening	Dinner and evening with host family		

*Schedule may vary depending on activity. Students will be informed ahead of time if the schedule varies.

ILSC VANCOUVER JUNIORS PROGRAM ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Activities for the Junior Camp program take place Monday—Friday from 9am—1:30pm and Saturday from 9am—5pm. Activity times are approximate.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
WEEK 1 JUL 3-9 Daily Life	Canada Day Holiday School Closed	Vancouver Aquarium	City Bike Tour	Indoor Rock Climbing	10 Pin Bowling	Playland Amusement Park	Homestay Family Day
WEEK 2 JUL 10-16 Culture	Chinatown + Bubble Tea	Capilano Suspension Bridge	Ice Skating	Queen Elizabeth Park & Bloedel Conservatory	English Bay & Beach Sports	Whistler and Peak 2 Peak Gondola	Homestay Family Day
WEEK 3 JUL 17-23 History & the Past	Granville Island by Boat	Laser Tag	Stanley Park Bike Tour	Science World & IMAX	Gastown & Vancouver Lookout	Marine Safari	Homestay Family Day
WEEK 4 JUL 24-30 Travel	Cleveland Dam & Fish Hatchery	Dragon Boating	Movie Day	Kits Beach & Beach Sports	Prospect Point & Beaver Lake	Grouse Mountain	Homestay Family Day
WEEK 5 JUL 31-AUG 6 The World Around Us	Fly-Over Canada, & Smore's	10 Pin Bowling	Rogers Arena Tour with Hotdog & drink	Poutine Tasting	La Casa Gelato & Sports	Squamish Adventure Day	Homestay Family Day
WEEK 6 AUG 7-13 Communications & Media	Civic Day Holiday School Closed	Jericho Beach & Beach Sports	Vancouver Aquarium	Ice Skating	Chinatown + Bubble Tea	Whistler and Peak 2 Peak Gondola	Departure Day

All schedules are subject to change. This program officially closes on Sunday, August 13, 2023.

THE HOMESTAY EXPERIENCE

Our Student Accommodation Department will match you with a homestay family based on the information you included on your application (i.e., age, allergies, preferences). Prior to your arrival, you will receive a description of your homestay family including names of the family members, their ages, professions, and interests. You are strongly encouraged to communicate with your family by e-mail or by phone before you arrive. Sending them a picture is also a good idea—this will help them find you at the airport. They are as curious about you as you are about them!

Your new family will do their best to make you feel at home. Please keep in mind that this may include your helping with chores occasionally. If you follow the guidelines below, your stay will be enjoyable and memorable.



Keep your room tidy and make your bed every morning.



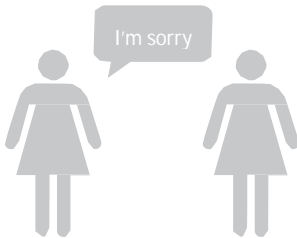
Offer to help with chores.



Respect all curfews and rules the family has.



Ask before borrowing something, and then always return it with a thank you.



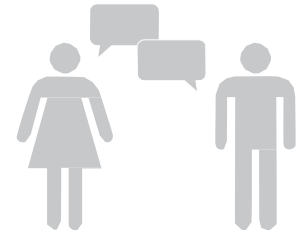
If you make a mistake, apologize and ask if you can talk things over.



Do not be late! But if you are going to be late, call the family to let them know.



If you don't know how to use something, ask for help.



If something is upsetting you, talk to the family about your concerns.



All long distance calls are to be made collect (charged to the person you are calling) or dialed on a long-distance telephone calling card.



If you feel ill, please notify the family right away.



Ask to use the internet or computer especially if you want to download something. Internet is not always unlimited in North American cities.



Enjoy your experience with your homestay family!

EXTRA EXPENSES

Your extra expenses may include activities outside of ILSC that are not part of your program package (ie. Sunday activities or excursions that you may go on with your host family), personal items (shampoo, soap, toothpaste, etc.) and souvenirs. The host family is not responsible for paying for these costs. Though your host family is responsible for providing you with three meals per day, it is always polite to offer to pay for your own meal if the family eats at a restaurant.

IMPORTANT HEALTH AND SAFETY TIPS

To ensure the safety and fun of everyone, it is essential that you understand and follow the following safety regulations. Please use your common sense and do not do what you don't do in your own country!



IN CASE OF ILLNESS OR INJURY

- » Immediately report any accident or injury to your teacher or another staff member.
- » Do not move a person who is injured.
- » Follow the instructions of your teacher/ILSC staff, or medical staff.
- » If there is no teacher or staff member available, call ILSC's emergency phone number or call 911.



YOUR BELONGINGS

- » It is important to pay attention to your belongings in and out of school.
- » Do not carry around large amounts of cash, or your passport.
- » Remember to take your backpack off while you're on public transit. This is the polite thing to do for people standing behind you and it will also keep your belongings safe.
- » When you are walking around keep your phone and other belongings in your bag, don't carry them in your hand.



TALKING TO STRANGERS

- » In general, people are friendly, and it is safe to talk to strangers in public areas; however, if you are not feeling comfortable to talk with someone, you can always say "Excuse me, it is not a good time to talk," then move on.



IF YOU GET LOST

- » Use WhatsApp on your mobile phone and call or send a message the Juniors Program group. The Juniors Program Staff will have your location on WhatsApp and will be able to find you. You can also call the Juniors Program Emergency Phone number at **437-688-8408** and a Juniors Program staff will help you.
- » DO NOT attempt to make your way back to the school site on your own.



IF THERE IS A FIRE

- » If there is a fire, or you hear a fire alarm, calmly exit the building, and gather in a safe place outside with your classmates and your teacher or activity coordinator.
- » Follow all instructions from your teacher, activity coordinator and/or firefighting staff who can inform you when it is to return to the building, or to leave the area.

MEDICAL INSURANCE HEALTH COVERAGE

MINOR ILLNESS

Students will receive medical attention at one of 3 medical clinics located within 7 km from the ILSC Montreal campus for minor illnesses such as sore throat, runny nose, cough, cold, flu, mild fever, skin irritations or urinary tract infections and Guard.me will be billed directly.

MAJOR ILLNESS OR INJURY

If a student has a medical emergency such as broken bones, bad cuts, excessive bleeding, high fever (over 38.8 C/102 F), severe pain or illness or trouble breathing, they will be taken to the closest hospital for medical treatment. Payment can be made at the hospital, or the hospital will mail the invoice to you. You can then submit a claim, including the invoice and/or payment receipts to guard.me to get reimbursed for eligible expenses.

Below is a summary of medical benefits covered by the Guard.me medical insurance plan:



BENEFIT SUMMARY

SERVICE	BENEFITS
Hospital	100% of eligible charges; Semi-private room; Private room where medically required
X-rays, Lab Testing	100% of eligible charges
Physician/Surgeon	100% of eligible charges
Psychiatric Hospitalization	100% of eligible charges; benefits payable up to \$50,000
Psychotherapy	100% of eligible charges for a) psychiatrist inpatient fees following an emergency up to \$10,000 in addition to hospitalization benefit above or b) up to \$1,000 for outpatient psychiatrist or psychologist care
Eye Exams	100% of eligible charges up to \$100 for one non-emergency eye exam when 6 months of coverage is purchased
Paramedical Services	100% of eligible charges up to \$500 for Chiropractor, Massage Therapist, Acupuncturist, Naturopath, Chiropractist /Podiatrist – no referral from physician required
Physiotherapy/ Speech Therapy	100% of eligible charges up to \$1,000; unlimited if provided as inpatient service
Private Nursing	100% of eligible charges up to \$15,000
Ambulance	100% of eligible charges

SERVICE	BENEFITS
Emergency Transportation	Taxi fare to or from a hospital or medical clinic up to \$100
Prescription Drugs	100% of eligible charges to a maximum 30-day supply; unlimited when hospitalized
Dental – Accidental Injury	100% of eligible charges up to \$4,000 for Emergency dental treatment as the result of an injury caused by an accidental blow to the mouth
Dental – Emergency	100% of eligible charges up to \$600 for relief of pain and suffering when 6 months of coverage is purchased
Medical Equipment & Supplies	100% of eligible charges for crutches, canes, wheelchairs, walkers, casts etc.
AccessAbility	For disabled students, coverage for Corrective Device Defect, Malfunction and Theft Protection
Annual Non-emergency Exam	100% of charges for one exam up to \$150 when 6 months of coverage is purchased
Out of Canada Coverage	All eligible expenses anywhere in the world except – coverage in USA limited to 30 days; no coverage in Home Country unless part of school or training program

SERVICE	BENEFITS
Maternity	Serious complications to pregnancy covered
Family Transportation	When you are hospitalized for more than 7 days, up to \$5,000 for air tickets, for 2 family members to join you; up to \$1,500 for expenses
Air Evacuation/ Return Home	100% of the cost to transport you to the nearest hospital or to a hospital in your Home Country
Accidental Death and Dismemberment	\$50,000 (optional coverage available up to \$200,000)
Common Carrier	\$100,000
Trauma Counselling	Up to 6 sessions if an insured suffers a loss under the accidental death and dismemberment benefit
Burial in Host Country	Up to \$5,000 for the cost of preparing the remains, cremation or burial and a burial plot in the location where death occurs
Repatriation of Deceased	Up to \$15,000 toward the cost of preparation and return to your Home Country

COVERAGE UP TO \$2,000,000

notice from turbo:

- This is a summary of benefits available under the **guard.me Canada** policy.
- Certain limitations and exclusions may apply.
- Full details are found in the **guard.me Canada** policy available at www.guard.me.
- The actual policy wording governs.
- All benefits are in Canadian currency and are per 365 day period.
- Prior approval required for certain benefits.

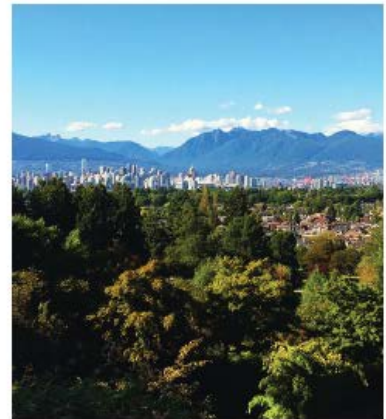
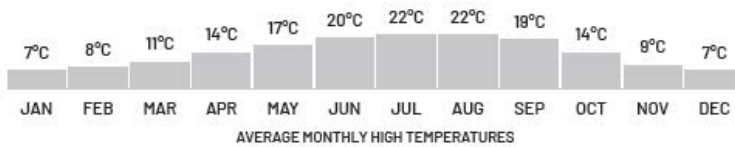


EXPLORING VANCOUVER

Come and discover Vancouver, a modern, magical city set among lush green mountain forests and beaches lapped by the Pacific Ocean. Enjoy the friendly multicultural atmosphere of Western Canada's largest metropolis, where you can enjoy shopping, museums, and many outdoor adventures. ILSC-Vancouver's campuses are in the city's downtown, close to public transport, banks, restaurants, and shopping options.



ATTRACTIONS	TRANSPORTATION	ILSC CAMPUSES	CONTACT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Vancouver Public Library 2 Canada Post Office 3 Queen Elizabeth Theatre 4 Tinseltown 5 Victory Square 6 Holy Rosary Cathedral 7 Steam Clock 8 Harbour Centre 9 Pacific Centre 10 Vancouver Art Gallery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Burrard Skytrain 2 Vancouver City Centre Station 3 Granville Skytrain 4 Waterfront Station 5 Stadium/Chinatown Station 6 Seabus Station 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R 555 Richards Street S1 554 Seymour Street S2 543 Seymour Street S3 540 Seymour Street D 525 Dunsmuir Street G 560 Granville Street Greystone College 	555 Richards Street Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6B 2Z5 tel: 604.685.9095 fax: 604.683.0771



MODERN CLASSROOMS

FREE WI-FI

STUDENT LOUNGES

KITCHENS

DOWNTOWN LOCATION

TELEPHONE SERVICE

SIM CARD AND DATA PLANS

We use the app **WhatsApp** to communicate with students on their mobile phones.

An international SIM card can lower your roaming and international calling expenses while you are in Canada.

You can use your current mobile phone and by changing the SIM card, you will get a local phone number and data plan!

A SIM card, can cost from \$9-\$19/week or \$35-\$45/ month, depending on the plan. For more information, please visit gophonebox.com/plans.

If you would like to purchase a SIM card, please let us know on your first day of class and one of the Junior Program staff will help you.



TELEPHONES/PAY PHONES

- » There are three area codes within Vancouver (604), (236), and (778).
- » You must always dial the area code, along with the number.
- » If you are making a long-distance call, you must always dial 011 + the country code (011-55 +, or 011-886+, etc.) followed by the phone number.
- » It's best to bring a cell phone with you; however, some pay phones are still available in transit hubs, airports, shopping malls and hotels.
- » All local pay phone calls are 50 cents, with no time limit.
- » 911 is the Emergency number that can be dialed for FREE from any telephone. 1-800 or 1-888 numbers are free

GETTING AROUND

PUBLIC TRANSIT

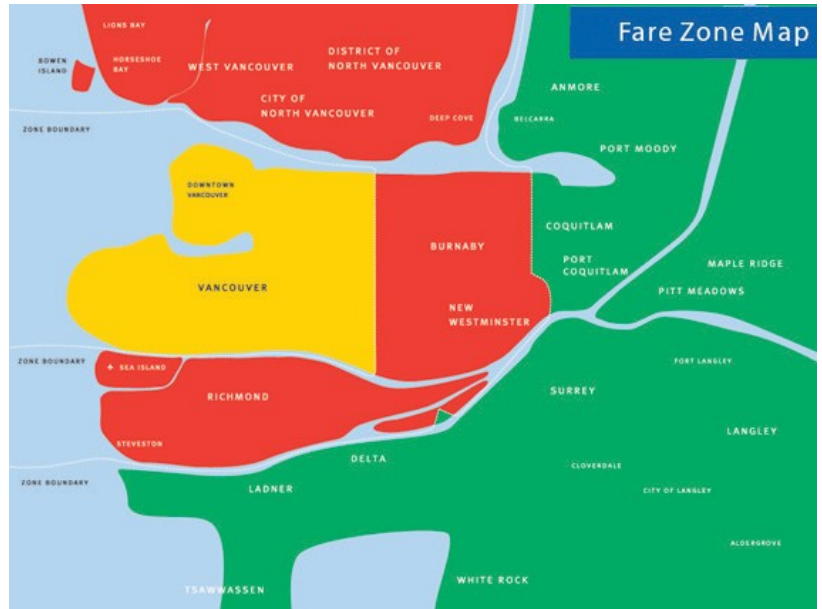


The ILSC campus is located right downtown, and is only a 5-minute walk from the Seabus, two SkyTrain stations, and many buses that can take you around the city.

An ILSC staff member will always accompany you on activities and will know the transit routes and fares required.

Students may need to travel on their own between their homestay and the ILSC campus each day. Your homestay family can explain the route and can help you choose the appropriate transit option.

Students are responsible for their own public transit fare.



Each colour indicates one zone.

WHEN TRAVELLING BY SKYTRAIN OR SEABUS

You need to buy the zone fare accordingly. For example, if you are travelling across two zones, you will need a 2-zone fare. However, on weekends, and in the evening after 6:30 pm you can travel across all zones on a 1-zone fare.

WHEN TRAVELLING BY BUS ONLY

All bus travel is considered 1-zone, no matter where you go or when you travel. There is no need to buy 2 or 3 zone fares for bus-only travel.

ZONES OF TRAVEL	SINGLE FARE	COMPASS CARD WITH STORED VALUE FARES	DAY PASS	MONTHLY PASS (VALID DURING THE CALENDAR MONTH)
1 ZONE	\$3.10	\$2.50	\$11 (valid for all zones)	\$102.55
2 ZONE	\$4.45	\$3.65		\$137.10
3 ZONE	\$6.05	\$4.70		\$182.20

Note: New pricing for bus - effective July 1st. <https://bit.ly/3ymyww2>

ABOUT COMPASS

Compass is a reloadable fare card that works everywhere on transit in Metro Vancouver. To travel on SkyTrain, SeaBus or West Coast Express, you need a Compass Card or Compass Ticket to pay your fare and open fare gates, or to tap on a station validator. You can keep using cash and bus transfers on buses, but you'll need Compass to transfer to SkyTrain or SeaBus.

Compass cards with stored value provide you with a discount on regular single fare rates. There is an additional \$6 fee for Compass Card (refundable card deposit).



TAXIS & RIDE-HAIL SERVICES

- » The meter starts at \$3.20 and increases according to time/distance.
- » Tax is included in the price, but it is always polite to tip the driver.
- » If the sign on top of the taxi is not lit, it is already occupied.
- » Students may also choose to use ride-hail services like Uber and Lyft. These services can be booked through the Uber or Lyft mobile device apps or websites. Prices for these services vary depending on discount rates, traffic delays, the type of

service chosen, and other factors.

CONDUCT FOR CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES



LATENESS & ABSENTEEISM

You are expected to be on time to classes. Attendance, punctuality, and participation are important parts of learning.

Students who come to class every day, on time:

- » Learn more English!
- » Get the class off to a good start!

Please note: if for any reason you are unable to attend a class or activity, please have your homestay parents notify the school IN ADVANCE with a written notice or phone call.

ENGLISH ONLY POLICY

The English Only environment helps you:

- » Think in English
- » Improve your English faster
- » Learn about other cultures
- » Make friends!

CELL PHONE POLICY

- » Respect your teacher and classmates.
- » Please turn your cell phone off during class times.

LOOKING AFTER YOUR VALUABLES

Always keep your valuables with you: your wallet, bag, cell phone, electronic dictionary etc.

BEING ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

We want to help planet earth! So, remember the three R's:

- » **Reduce:** Bring your own cup or bottle
- » **Recycle:** Use the right recycling bins, for beverage bottle and cartons, food scraps (compost) and paper
- » **Reuse:** Bring your lunch in re-usable containers.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

ILSC 24 HOUR EMERGENCY NUMBERS

You can call the emergency number any time during your stay if you encounter an emergency. Someone is always available to answer the phone and help you.

ILSC VANCOUVER JUNIORS PROGRAM EMERGENCY NUMBER

1.236-308-3184

CITY EMERGENCY NUMBERS

If you encounter a serious emergency, such as a fire, medical emergency, or emergency requiring police, and you cannot find an ILSC staff member, homestay family member, or teacher to help you, you can contact local emergency services by dialing **911**.

YOUR HOMESTAY FAMILY

NAMES: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE DETAILS

NAME OF HEALTH INSURANCE PROVIDER: _____

YOUR POLICY NUMBER: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT IN YOUR HOME COUNTRY

NAME: _____

RELATIONSHIP: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

YOUR PASSPORT INFORMATION

NAME: _____

DATE OF ISSUE: _____ CITY/COUNTRY OF ISSUE: _____

PASSPORT NUMBER: _____

IMPORTANT NOTES

OUR TEACHING PHILOSOPHY



Learning works better when it is student-centred.

We combine a set curriculum with the flexibility to accommodate each student's special interests and learning needs.

You will be motivated to learn about things that personally interest you.

Learning works faster when it's combined with everyday experiences.

Immersion learning through role-playing, field trips, and group learning activities helps you learn the language more quickly.

People learn best when they are confident, at ease and happy.

At ILSC, you will be part of a community of staff, teachers, and fellow students who will support your success on a fantastic learning adventure.

CONNECT WITH THE ILSC COMMUNITY #MYILSC



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE JUNIORS PROGRAM PACKAGE?

The package fee includes all entry fees to attractions (activities take place Monday to Friday and a full day on Saturday), your accommodation cost, and a full board meal plan (3 meals per day plus snacks), which are provided by your homestay family.

HOW MUCH MONEY SHOULD I BRING?

Public transport fees are not included, so students should bring between \$22-\$28 per week to cover their public transportation to and from the school, and during activities. Students should also bring enough money to cover any personal needs, including shopping for any personal items and/or souvenirs.

WHY IS PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION EXTRA?

Depending on the length and dates of a student's program, the most cost-effective option for transit varies greatly. We have found that it is easy and cost-effective for students to purchase transit fares once they arrive. Homestay families and ILSC staff can help students choose the best fare option for their needs.

HOW DO I ADJUST TO A NEW COUNTRY?

The program provides a wonderful opportunity to explore a new culture, improve your language skills, and meet other youth from around the world. This exciting opportunity is fun, but it can also be challenging. Once you arrive, you may experience "jetlag" which leaves you feeling a little bit tired for the first few days until your body naturally adjusts to a different time-zone. Eating unfamiliar food might also affect your stomach until you adjust to new food. Be patient, your body will naturally adjust to these new experiences. It is also a good idea tell your host family how you are feeling so that they can support you.

WHAT IF I FEEL HOMESICK?

Feeling homesick is very common, especially if it is your first time away from your home, and/or family on your own. Being in a new country, where everyone speaks a different language, can cause a bit of "culture shock," and be disorienting. The best way to cure homesickness is to talk about your life, experiences and feelings with friends, teachers, and host-family members. Expressing how you feel, and sharing what you love about your home will help you feel better. Writing how you're feeling in a journal can also help.

WHY DO I HAVE TO SPEAK ENGLISH ALL THE TIME?

ILSC's English or French Only policy is in place to help you learn the language faster! Although it might feel challenging at first, the people you meet at ILSC will understand your efforts and frustrations and they will help you as much as possible. If you meet a person who does not understand, try not to get upset. They may not know what it is like to learn another language, or they may just be having a bad day. No matter what, keep trying and soon your English or French will be better than ever!

IS THE CITY SAFE?

ILSC campuses are in several major cities, which are very safe. Students are accompanied by ILSC staff on all activities and stay with their host family in the evenings, so they are rarely alone. However, students may travel between their homestay and the ILSC campus on their own. Although the cities are safe and residents are usually friendly and helpful, students should still be attentive to their surroundings and should report anything that looks suspicious or makes them feel uncomfortable to either an ILSC staff member, or their homestay family. Even in the safest of cities, students should stay alert and aware of their surroundings after dark, and travel with others if possible.