A Life-Changing Experience

Since 1962 Indiana University Honors Program in Foreign Languages (IUHPFL) has offered Indiana high school foreign language learners the unique opportunity to participate in “Total Immersion” study abroad programs. Currently, programs are available to students of Chinese*, French, German, Japanese*, and Spanish. Students participate during the summer after their senior, junior, or sophomore year.

* Our Chinese and Japanese programs are offered on alternating years. The Hangzhou, China program is offered on even years (2018, 2020, etc.), while the Osaka, Japan program takes place during odd years (2019, 2021, etc.).

Eligibility

- Students must attend high school in Indiana
- Senior, Junior, or Sophomore at time of application
- 15-18 years old during the program dates
- Heritage speakers are eligible
- Level II and above for Chinese and Japanese
- Level III and above for French, German, and Spanish

In addition to these criteria, participants must demonstrate an enthusiasm for study abroad and language immersion, have high performance in their foreign language classes, show a history of solid academic achievement, and demonstrate good character.

IUHPFL is a Unique Opportunity!

- Five or six weeks in June and July
- 100% Language Immersion and Honor Code
- Intensive Classes and Afternoon Activities
- Excursions to historical sites and regional attractions
- Living with a host family
- Community Engagement Projects

The program combines academic language learning, cultural instruction, community engagement, host family living, and fun, educational excursions into one life-changing experience.

Language Commitment & Honor Code

Students speak only the target language during the entire program. Contact with home consists of one brief phone call after arrival followed by 1 hour per week on the Internet (no speaking English, only typing). To ensure success, well-being, and safety, students must commit to all the tenets of the IUHPFL Honor Code and recite the Pledge of Excellence during Orientation in April.

Academic Focus

Students attend weekday classes designed and taught by our instructors, including conversation, culture, grammar, linguistics/phonetics, and literature. They also participate in a variety of Afternoon Activities, including theater, choir, dance, art, and sports.

"Our expectations as parents were fully realized. Sarah gained self-confidence and became more introspective. She made lasting friendships, both Mexican and American...Your child will have a great summer while being shepherded by the faculty and the local family. Expect your great kid to come home an even greater young adult."

-Craig S., Parent
Excursions
All programs offer unforgettable excursions to sites of historical and cultural significance. Instructors prepare students for these outings, so they are able to fully understand and appreciate what they are seeing upon arrival. Students often comment on how fun and meaningful IUHPFL excursions are.

IUHPFL Provides a Home Away from Home!
Significant progress in language and cultural fluency results from living with carefully selected host families. Through their host families, students experience regional cuisine, have outings to local attractions, meet friends and extended family members, and develop their language skills in a variety of contexts. For many students, the host family becomes their second home.

Community Engagement
These projects allow students to interact with local residents in settings such as preschools, retirement communities, and youth centers. Students come to understand and experience yet another layer of the culture. Hours count toward the International Baccalaureate Diploma if applicable.

Benefits
IUHPFL significantly advances language skills and fosters cross-cultural understanding, while providing students with one of the most valuable academic and personal experiences of their lives. Although IUHPFL is not a college-credit program, alums will typically place into the 5th semester of the language in college*, saving time and tuition expense. Those who take the AP exam in their language are likely to see higher exam scores, which result in college credit and additional savings. Participation in IUHPFL also reflects well on students’ college applications. Intangible benefits include personal growth, increased maturity, self-confidence, and lifelong friendships!

*Typical placement at IU Bloomington

Application Materials and Deadlines
◆ Online registration is open 9.15 to 11.15 and costs $15.
◆ Eligible students receive a link to the Application Materials:
  ◆ Personal Application
  ◆ Writing Sample in Target Language
  ◆ Parental Assessment
  ◆ 3 Appraisals (2 Teachers & 1 Outside Adult (non-relative))
  ◆ High School Transcript
◆ Application Materials due early December.

Program Costs and Funding
IUHPFL is self-funded through student Program Fees. While students may qualify for financial aid through IUHPFL, other resources are also available to offset costs, such as scholarships, fundraising projects, online crowd-funding, and sponsorships. Not included in Program Fees are travel expenses and spending money. For more information about costs and funding, including a list of scholarship providers and fundraising ideas, visit our website!

“Take the chance. Do this program. If you are a student... debating whether to take the leap of faith and plunge into a culture unlike yours, to speak in a foreign language daily, to make new friendships—do it! It was the best choice I ever made.”
- Hannah I., Saumur, France

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