

The American School in London

Snapshot of the Class of 2010

Demographics

112 members in the class.
Lived in US, UK, and 44 different countries.
A second language is spoken in nearly 1/3 of their homes.
38% hold two or more passports.

Signature ASL Courses

AP Art History: seminar on art, utilizing London's museums and galleries as integral part of course.
APES: not primates but AP Environmental Science, which includes visits to waste treatment plants and field studies in Hampstead Heath.
Dramatic Literature: read the play, see it at the theater.
Ecology: spring field study to South Africa.
Outdoor Leadership: develop good citizens through exploration of the British wilderness.
Writers Seminar: Will Fiennes, author of *The Music Room*, leads a select group of students in an investigation of good writing.

Favorite Place in London

Brick Lane
British Museum
Camden
Chelsea Physic Garden
Covent Garden
Hampstead Heath
Hyde Park
Kensington High Street
Kensington Gardens
Knightsbridge
Millennium Bridge at night
National Gallery
National Theatre
Piccadilly Circus
Pinewood Studios
Primrose Hill
Putney Embankment
Queen Mary's Gardens
Regents Park
Science Museum
Soho
Stamford Bridge (Chelsea Football)
Tate Modern
Trafalgar Square at night facing Big Ben
White Cube and Gagosian Galleries

What did they do to earn some cash last summer?

One student worked as a cook in Charlevoix, Michigan, while others coached tennis or were referees at football camps. A corps of students worked as camp counsellors, one sang for Tom, Dick and Debbie Productions, and one was a hotel receptionist. Teachers abounded—teaching acting at a YMCA camp, preparing students for their bat mitzvahs, tutoring at the Kumon Math and Reading Centre, teaching dance at Extreme Dance—ASL students were at work. They rolled up their sleeves at Caffè Nero, did advertising voice overs, and worked as lab technicians at clinics. One student was initiated into the world of telemarketing, a career he will not be pursuing. Away in the States, or close to home in London, ASL students worked.

May Film Festival at ASL

Step One: Students in **Film and Literature** write plays.
Step Two: Students in **Advanced Acting: Film and Television** rehearse the plays.
Step Three: Students in **Film, Video, and Animation** shoot and edit the plays.

Our mission is to develop the intellect and character of each student by providing an outstanding American education with a global perspective.

Alternatives

Alternatives are four days of off-campus experiential learning designed by faculty. For more than fifteen years, ASL students have spread across the UK and Europe, learning and exploring.

A sample of the Class of 2010's Alternatives:

Art Nouveau and Architecture: Sketches of Budapest
College Touring
Exploring Slovenia through Writing and Photography
Get out of Inner London
Kilburn Park community service
Rock Climbing in Spain
Tuscan Cooking

Interned at Following Places

Burke Medical Research Institute
Citigroup
Credit Suisse
European Care
Fisher Hart Photography
Gloria Books
Human Rights Watch
Invisible Children
Kevin Spacey, Old Vic
Jeffries International Investment Bank
Leo Burnett Advertising
Marvel Entertainment
MP Philip Davies
MTV
Oregon Zoo
Skidmore, Owings and Merrill Architecture
Rutgers Infancy Studies Lab
State of North Carolina, Underwater Archaeology
Vineyard Gazette
University College Hospital London
Working Title Film

What Makes ASL Special

"I always feel like an equal with teachers. I am treated with respect and given independence. I feel like I can make a difference and can create change."

"The student-faculty trust formed at ASL, and the close-knit support for all students' special interests, from playing guitar, to building robots, to shooting hoops."

Books Read this Past Summer

The Age of Innocence
The Ancient Art of War
Angels in America
Anna Karenina
Atonement
The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao
A Clockwork Orange
A Girl Named Disaster
Interpreter of Maladies
Life of Pi
Lovely Bones
The Music Room
One Thousand Splendid Suns
A Passage to India
Soft Machines: Life and Nanotechnology
Teach Yourself Swedish
Three Cups of Tea
Twilight series
Wolf of Wall Street

Prettiest Friend

Last spring, the acting class went to see the play *Sh*t-M*x*, a West-End play by Leo Richardson. He came to ASL to talk to the students, and he agreed to write an original play for them. A few weeks later, Leo appeared at ASL with a draft, which the students workshopped. Working together they created roles and a story line about the topics of their lives: friendship, materialism, sexual identity, among others. *Prettiest Friend* was a collaborative effort, although Leo wrote the ending!

Countries Where They Have Lived

Australia
Austria
Bahrain
Belgium
Benin
Bermuda
Brazil
Burkina Faso
Canada
China
Croatia
Denmark
Dominican Republic
France
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Haiti
India
Indonesia
Italy
Ivory Coast
Japan
Kenya
Kuwait
Lebanon
Luxembourg
Malaysia
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nigeria
Pakistan
Romania
Russia
Saudi Arabia
Singapore
Slovakia
South Africa
Spain
Switzerland
Taiwan
Turkey
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
United States
Venezuela

Arts Electives Taken at ASL

3-D Studio Art
Acting
Advanced Acting: Character, Movement and Voice
Advanced Acting: Physical Theater
Advanced Acting: Play Production
Advanced Acting: Television and Film
AP Music Theory
AP Studio Art
Architectural Design
Black and White Photography
Chamber Orchestra
Choir
Concert Band
Digital Imaging
Digital Music
Digital Photography
Digital Video Editing
Drawing/Painting/Printmaking
Photography
Sculpture
Web-based Animation
Woodwork

Community Service

In London:
Alyth Synagogue
Amnesty International
Boy Scouts
British Heart Foundation
Camden Battered Women's Shelter
Canada Day
Cool Globes
Essex County Parks
Fencing referee
Girl Scouts
Greater London Authority
Holy Trinity Church
Invisible Children
Kilburn Park Club
PinkZone cancer fundraiser
Room to Read
SCOPE
Southampton Fresh Air Home
St. John's Wood Hospice
Swiss Cottage children's playground
The American Church in London
USO

In the United States:

4H
Appalachia Summer Service Project
Big Sunday in San Francisco
Boy Scouts
Boys and Girls Club
Brazos Bend Elementary School
Camp Farwell
East Hampton Library
Girls Scouts
Habitat for Humanity
Hawaii Parks
Historical reenactment at Virginia colonial farm
Maple Center tutoring
Navaho Indian Reservation
New York City soup kitchens
Nueva Vida Dream Catchers
Obama campaign
One Voice
Riding for Disabled
Special Olympics

In Other Countries:

Cambodia
Costa Rica
Ecuador
France
Ghana
India
Indonesia
Japan
Kenya
Lebanon
Mexico
Monaco
New Zealand
Panama
Philippines
South Africa
Thailand
Uganda

Musical Instruments Played

Accordion
Banjo
Baritone horn
Cello
Clarinet
Drums
Flute
French horn
Guitar
Harmonica
Harp
Lyre
Oboe
Piano
Saxophone
Trombone
Trumpet
Viola

Music Tour

Each year, the ASL band, chamber orchestra and choir go on tour. During their freshman year, ASL students went to Malta, as sophomores to Prague, and as juniors to Istanbul. The seniors are looking forward to their last music tour in February 2010: Berlin.

Sports on the Move

ASL Seniors not only competed against local London schools, they also travelled to the following cities (and more) to compete against other independent schools.

Amsterdam
Athens
Bonn
Brussels
Bucharest
Cairo
Dusseldorf
Frankfurt
The Hague
Munich
Paris
Tel Aviv
Vienna
Zurich

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