

International Student Program FAQs - Lower School

1. Do you accept students that do not come from a Waldorf school?

Yes.

2. What is the deadline for application?

We are currently accepting applications, but some classes may have a waiting list. Please contact the Admissions Director admissions@summerfieldwaldorf.org if you would like to find out more about this.

3. What are the language requirements for each grade in the lower school?

Kindergarten and 1st-4th grade: No test requirement.

5th and 6th grade: Language assessment by ESL Coordinator and Class teacher. This may involve an interview through Skype, or the student will submit some of their work in English and/or video.

7th and 8th grade students will need to submit an English proficiency test or equivalent. We recommend the iTEP-Slate which is available world-wide. We recommend the iTEP-Slate because it is appropriate for middle school students. We also do iTEP testing on site for a small fee. Please contact the ESL coordinator if you wish to schedule a test date.

4. What does the interview process involve?

There are no language requirements for grades 1 to 4. Students applying to grades 5 and 6 should be able to speak some English and will be assessed during an interview with the ESL coordinator and class teacher. Students applying to grades 7 and 8 should be able to read and write in English in addition to oral competency. In addition, these students MUST be accompanied by at least one parent who is able to stay for the full school year. This parent must demonstrate that they will be able to obtain a student visa for him or herself, a work visa, or possess a green card. Then the student and parent must meet with the ESL Coordinator and a Counselor for an initial interview either in person or through video chat/Skype. If that interview goes well, the student will have a second interview with the class teacher.

5. How many international students do you have at your school?

Currently our international students come from China, Taiwan, Brazil, Germany and Australia. We also have many bilingual American families at the school who speak languages of those countries, and other countries! In order to maintain an English speaking environment, we aim to have no more than four English language learners per class.

6. Can my child stay with a host family?

Only high school students may stay with a host family. Lower school students in grades 1 to 8 must be accompanied by at least one of their parents who is able to stay for the full school year on either a student or work visa, or who possesses a green card.

7. What is the cost of rentals in the area?

Average housing costs for 12 months in 2016 for two adults and a child in an apartment was \$18,898. Housing in a single family home will be higher. For more information, please see <http://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/06097>

8. Do you provide health insurance for international students?

No, we do not. Students and their families are responsible for organizing and renewing health insurance for themselves.

9. Do you offer ESL classes for international students?

Yes, we do. We have a program that supports students in a minimum two-year ESL program. This includes 3-4 times a week course for the first two years in adapted English and cultural integration. Additionally, the student may be required to have one-on-one English tutoring at least twice a week unless they can demonstrate language capacity that meets the expectations of Summerfield's student standards to participate fully in its regular classes.