



**A.C.E. Language Institutes**

*making the world your community*

# Welcome to Seattle!



## Pre-Arrival Guide

시애틀에서 성공적인 유학생 생활의 첫걸음 | シアトルでの留学生生活成功への第一歩 | الخروج في ناجحة تجربة دراسة نحو الأولى | 西雅图留学生生活成功第一歩 | El primer paso para una experiencia exitosa en el extranjero

# 1

## Things to Know about A.C.E.

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### Our Levels

A.C.E. has a 6-level curriculum. On your first day (Orientation), you will take a test that will place you in one of these 6 levels. Once you pass that level, you step up to the next level.



### Our Sessions

A.C.E. operates on a session schedule. Each session lasts 5 weeks. One level of our curriculum has 2 sessions, an A session and a B session. It normally takes at least 2 sessions, or 10 weeks, to complete a level.

### Our Program

**Core Classes:** *Listening, Communication & Grammar* (10 hours/week)  
*Reading, Writing & Grammar* (10 hours/week)

#### **Optional Classes (examples include):**

*Conversation* (5 hours/week) Practice speaking English with partners and small groups using discussions, role-plays, games and presentations.

*Test Prep* (5 hours/week) Practice strategies, grammar and vocabulary for one of the following tests: TOEIC, TOEFL, IELTS, GRE, or GMAT (different every session according to student interest).

*Private Tutoring* (5 hours/week) One-on-one tutoring with a native speaker of English and/or English language professional.

# 2

## Preparing to Come to Seattle

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### Preparing your bags

You should bring a rain coat or umbrella. Also long-sleeve shirts, jackets, and sweatshirts are good choices.

Carry a small amount of money in US dollars for emergencies.

### Preparing for Customs

Carry your **original I-20, welcome letter, and passport** with you. **Please keep a copy of your I-20 and passport in your checked baggage.**



# 3

## Weather in Seattle

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Seattle has a mild climate. While it is known as the “Rainy City”, it rains a lot less than most US cities and has some of the most beautiful summers in the country.

	Low	High
January – March	21°F / -6°C	58°F / 14°C
April – May	32°F / 0°C	71°F / 21°C
June – September	48°F / 8°C	88°F / 31°C
October - December	34°F / 1°C	56°F / 13°C

# 4

## Transportation in Seattle

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### From the Airport to Downtown Seattle

#### Airport Shuttle



**Website:** <http://shuttleexpress.hudsonltd.net/res?USERIDENTRY=ACESPU&LOGON=GO>

A.C.E. Language Institute at Seattle Pacific University has partnered with [Shuttle Express](#) to provide reasonably priced airport transfer service to our students. If you need an airport transfer when you arrive in Seattle, or returning to the airport, simply click on the link below to conveniently make a [reservation online](#). We recommend you schedule your transfer as soon as you have your flight and housing information.

**Cost:** About \$40

**Time:** ~40 minutes

**Pay with:** VISA card/Cash

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#### Taxi

There will be taxis waiting outside the airport to take you into the city. Taxis are **very expensive**. Estimate: <http://www.taxifarefinder.com/main.php?city=Seattle>

**Cost:** About \$50  
- \$75

**Time:** ~40 minutes

**Pay with:** VISA card/Cash

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#### Train (Central Link Light Rail)

The Central Link Light Rail is the cheapest and most convenient way to get from the airport to downtown Seattle. The Light Rail connects to the bus system.

Trains leave the airport every 10 - 15 minutes. Just follow the signs in the airport for "Central Link Light Rail" or ask "Where can I find the light rail?" You will be able to buy a Light Rail ticket at a vending machine.

**Website:** [www.soundtransit.org/Schedules/Central-Link-light-rail.xml](http://www.soundtransit.org/Schedules/Central-Link-light-rail.xml)

**Cost:** \$2.00-2.75

**Time:** ~40 minutes

**Pay with:** VISA card/Cash

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## Getting Around in Seattle

### ORCA Bus Pass

The bus is the most common form of public transportation in Seattle. The bus costs \$2.25-\$2.50 for one ride. **There is no student bus pass for A.C.E. students.** The easiest way to pay for the bus is by buying an ORCA Card. The ORCA card is like a debit card that stores money for bus fare. The ORCA card costs \$5 to buy.

If you think you will not use the bus that much (less than once a day), or if you arrive to Seattle in the middle of the month, you should put money directly onto your ORCA card. This is called **E-Purse**. You can put any amount of money on your ORCA card using E-Purse.

If you think you will use the bus everyday – like to get to and from A.C.E. – you should purchase a **Regional Pass**. With a Regional Pass you can ride the bus as much as you want. The Regional Pass costs about \$90 a month.

**About the ORCA card** <http://www.orcard.com>



### Planning your bus trip

The easiest way to find bus routes is by using the following online tools:

**Seattle Metro Trip Planner:** <http://1.usa.gov/tURLB>

**Google Maps:** <http://www.google.com/transit>

You can know when your bus will arrive at your stop by using this website:

**One Bus Away** <http://onebusaway.org/>

# 5

## Housing in Seattle

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### Homestay Options

We have partnerships with two local homestay organizations. Please apply online for housing through one of these organizations. Questions about homestay should be directed to the organization to which you submitted your application. **Please visit their websites for applications and costs.**

**Intercultural Homestay** <http://www.ihincusa.com/>

Phone: [206-367-5332](tel:206-367-5332) | email: [ihincusa@aol.com](mailto:ihincusa@aol.com)

*Please apply 60 days prior to arrival for timely placement, late applications are accepted with no guarantee of placement prior to arrival. Applications received less than 30 days prior to arrival/relocation or start of college quarter are subject to a \$150 fee.*

### **American Homestay**

[www.homestaynetwork.com/regions/usa/washington-2/](http://www.homestaynetwork.com/regions/usa/washington-2/)

Phone: [888-268-1903](tel:888-268-1903)

*Please apply at least 60 days prior to arrival for timely placement. Late applications are accepted with no guarantee of placement prior to arrival. Pricing for minors (under 18) may be different as hosts for minors are specifically trained and certified to support these younger guests.*

## Other Housing Options

### **American Hotel (Hostel)** <http://hiusa.org/seattle>

A.C.E. has a close relationship with the American Hotel in Seattle, located within a short bus-ride from the SPU campus and available year-round. This is an excellent and inexpensive dormitory option for students.



### **Private Residence or Apartment**

Students are welcome to make their own housing arrangements independently. You would be responsible for any private arrangements for leases, deposits, etc. Review these resources about apartments:

1. Internet Research: [apartmentsearch.com](http://apartmentsearch.com), [rent.com](http://rent.com), [apartments.com](http://apartments.com), [move.com](http://move.com), [roomster.com](http://roomster.com), [craigslist.com](http://craigslist.com)
2. Seattle aPodments: [apodment.com](http://apodment.com)

# 6

## Things to Do After You Arrive

### In Seattle

**Pike Place Market** is a famous tourist attraction to grab a bite to eat and shop! While you're there, take the opportunity to visit the first Starbucks or learn more about Seattle's history by taking part in the Underground/Ghost Tours nearby.



**Seattle Neighborhoods:** Seattle has many unique neighborhoods including Alki, Ballard, Capitol Hill, Fremont, Queen Anne, the International District, the University District and more.

### Grab a Coffee and Read a Book!

Seattle is famous for its café culture and is one of the most literate cities in the country. Try a latte at one of our coffee shops, browse a local bookstore, or use our world-renowned libraries.



### Beyond Seattle



**The San Juan Islands:** Take a scenic ferry ride from Anacortes, Washington to visit this beautiful destination. The San Juan Islands are a great place to enjoy kayaking, bicycling, hiking, and whale watching!

### Explore Washington's Natural Beauty!

*Snoqualmie Falls* is one of Washington State's most popular scenic attractions located a short 40-minute drive east of Seattle. *Mount Rainier* is a majestic glacial volcano 2.5 hours southeast of Seattle.

