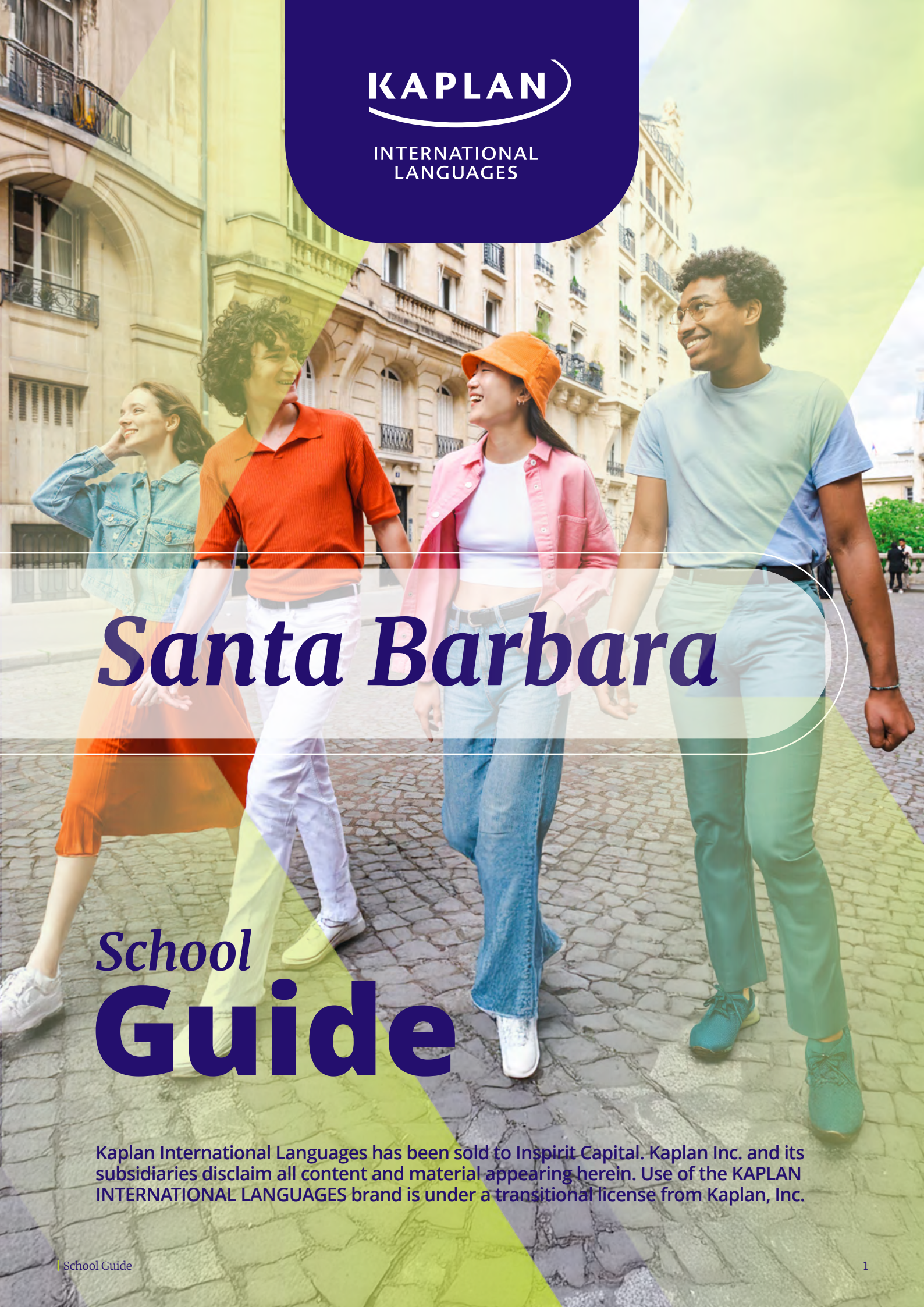
KAPLAN

INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES



Santa Barbara

School Guide

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Content

Click on the page numbers
to navigate to each page

03 About Santa Barbara

04 Why Choose to Study at our Santa Barbara School?

05 About the School

07 Courses & Students

09 Accommodation in Santa Barbara

11 Academic Year Abroad

12 Why Choose an Academic Year Abroad?

13 Programs & Timeline

16 Language & Culture

18 University Preparation Program

20 Accommodation Options

21 Health & Safety

21 Laws

22 Local Customs

22 Kaplan International Languages Rules

22 Holiday Policy

About *Santa Barbara*

Name of location: Santa Barbara

Famous landmarks: State Street, Stearns Wharf, Santa Barbara Courthouse, The Mission

Cuisines within a 20-minute walk: American, Chinese, French, Italian, Japanese, Mexican, Seafood, Thai, Vegetarian

Transport within a 10-minute walk: Bus

Top 5 reasons to choose this city: Safe atmosphere, friendly locals, close to many stunning beaches, beautiful campus, small town environment

What makes this city unique? Close proximity to many major cities, including Los Angeles

Alternative things to do: Go surfing on the California coast, hike in the nearby hills and cliffs, go sightseeing around Santa Barbara

City personality: Active, architecture, bike-friendly, boutiques, charming, eco-friendly, friendly, hiking

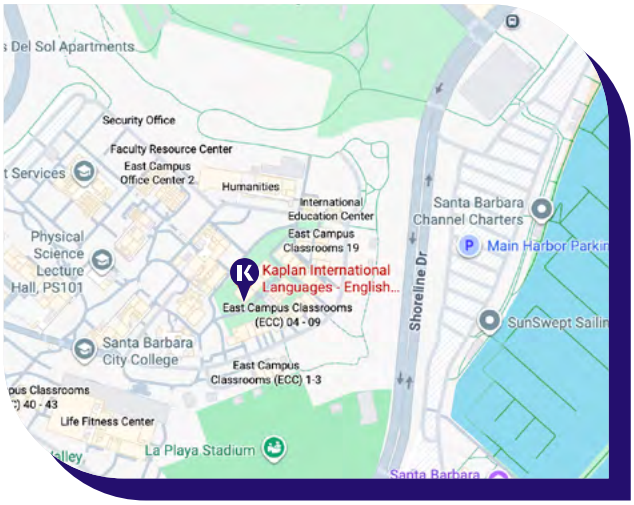
Examples of nearby cities to visit: Los Angeles (Travel time: 90 minutes, price of return ticket: $100); Las Vegas (Travel time: 6 hours, price of return ticket: $200)

Santa Barbara

KAPLAN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES

Why choose to study at our Santa Barbara school?

- Located on the amazing Santa Barbara City College campus just moments away from beautiful white sand beaches with volleyball courts, bike rentals, and surf sites.
- Surrounded by over 50 restaurants, cafés, and bakeries.
- Study in a safe and friendly city with year-round sunshine.
- Take part in the many outdoor activities, like hiking, skate boarding, biking, and sailing.
- Enjoy weekend trips to Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, and Las Vegas.



Location and contact information

Address
721 Cliff Drive, Santa Barbara, CA 93109
Phone
+1 (805)-966-1620
Emergency contact
+1 (805)-966-1620
At this address since
2021
Providing English courses since
2003

School information

School Director
Tyler Willson
Total numer of teachers
5-7 (Full time teachers: 0–5)
Languages spoken by staff
Spanish
Teacher Qualifications
Bachelor's (or equivalent) in combination with TESOL, CELTA, TEFL certificate (including practicum) or six months of ESL/EFL teaching experience

Accreditations and memberships

ENGLISH USA EnglishUSA.org LEARN · EDUCATE · ENGAGE

ACCET

Disclaimer: All the information on this school guide is for reference. Please contact your advisor for the latest information

About the School

- **Number of buildings:** 1
- **Number of floors:** 1
- **Total number of classrooms:** 9
- **School facilities:** Air conditioning, heating, Wi-Fi, computer lab / multimedia center, campus cafe and vending machines
- **Wheelchair / disabled access:** Yes
- **Extra cost of facilities:** No

School materials

- **Materials provided for students:** K+ Course Books, Language in Action workshop, K+ Learning Space, K+ Extra
- **Is there a book deposit?** No
- **Is there a material fee?** No

Samples

Class timetable

	Morning	Afternoon
Class	09:00 - 10:30	14:30 - 16:00
Break	10:30 - 10:45	16:00 - 16:15
Class	11:00 - 12:15	16:15 - 17:45

Specialist skills class timetable

Afternoon class (Monday to Thursday)
12:45 - 14:45

- **Other services provided:** Accommodation, Airport transfer, University Placement Service, Medical Insurance
- **Extra cost of other services:** See our price list
- **Number of computers available:** 6
- **Levels of English offered:** All levels
- **First day of school:** Students should plan to attend class on their first day.

Be sure to check your email the week before your start date for your class and orientation schedule! Also, don't forget to complete the placement test and send in any required documents before you arrive.

School location and transport

Time to...	By foot	By bike	By bus	By subway/train
The nearest café / restaurant	2 minute	1 minute	N/A	N/A
The nearest supermarket	5 minutes	2 minutes	N/A	N/A
The nearest post office	5 minutes	2 minutes	N/A	N/A
The nearest ATM / bank	5 minute	2 minutes	N/A	N/A
The nearest sports center	5 minute	2 minutes	N/A	N/A
The nearest hospital	20 minutes	10 minutes	N/A	N/A
The city center	2 minutes	1 minute	N/A	N/A

For the most up-to-date transport prices, please visit the MDT Website

Regular social activities

Surf Lessons: $60
Soccer: Free
BBQ: Free
Hiking: $10
Farmers Market: Free
Outlet Shopping: $60
Trip To The Movies: $12

Living cost

(sample prices for items in this city)

Bottle of water: $2
Coffee: $3
Can of Coke: $2
Meal out for two: $25
Takeaway pizza: $15
Sandwich: $8
Local bus ticket: $2
Local train ticket: varies
Bike rental: $10
Cinema ticket: $12

Typical 2-week social schedule

Days	First week	Second week
Monday	Welcome party	Welcome party
Tuesday	Beach volleyball	Farmers market
Wednesday	Hiking	Surfing
Thursday	Velvet Jones evening out	Movies
Friday	Weekend trip to San Francisco	Outlet shopping
Saturday	Weekend trip to San Francisco	Disneyland

Number of social activities per week: 2-3

Courses & Students

- **Courses provided at this school:** General English, Semi-Intensive English, Intensive English, Academic Year Abroad, TOEFL® Add-on
- **Special / extra courses provided:** N/A
- **Average number of students per class:** 14–17 (Maximum class size: 17)
- **Minimum age of students:** 16
- **Average age of students:** 18-21
- **Students per age group:** 18-21: 30.00% / 22-25: 30% / 26-30: 30% / Over 30: 10%
- **Top 10 student nationalities:** China, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Japan, South Korea, Germany, France, Spain, Belgium, Switzerland

Highlighted Programs

Professional Immersion Experience

The Professional Immersion Experience is designed for students aged 18 and above who want to enhance their language skills while gaining practical, real-world experience. This programme combines classroom learning with an immersive placement at a local business, giving students valuable insight into professional life abroad.

Program features:

- Language classes in English, French, or German
- A guaranteed volunteer placement (1– 4 hours per week) aligned with the student's interests and skills
- A wide range of opportunities in areas such as charity work, senior support, animal care, food banks, community outreach, environmental conservation, fundraising, and event assistance
- Full academic and administrative support before and during placement
- Self-study sessions on career essentials, featuring videos and curated background readings
- A letter of recommendation provided at the end of the programme
- Placement test and completion certificate
- Opportunities to build communication, cultural, and career skills in real-world settings

Students can start any Monday throughout the year and enroll for a minimum of 12 weeks. The structure includes four weeks of language preparation followed by an eight-week volunteer placement, allowing participants to apply their classroom learning in a professional and socially impactful context.

This course is available in all Kaplan destinations across USA, UK, Canada, France, Germany and Switzerland

Accommodation in Santa Barbara

Homestay information

- **Things students need to bring:** Toiletries, personal items to make your room feel like home, prescription medication, a small gift for your host family (not required), phone card
- **Services included:** Bed linen, towels, telephone use for emergencies
- **Extra cost of services:** No
- **Meals provided:** Yes (depends on booking type)
  Breakfast: Breakfast is usually a light meal consisting of cereal, fruit, toast, juice, or coffee. Hosts will usually ask you to prepare your own breakfast
  Lunch: You will be responsible for buying your own lunch at school, from a local restaurant, or the local shops
  Dinner: You will usually eat dinner with your host, or occasionally you may prepare your own meal with food supplied by your host
  NOTE: Meals provided will differ depending on whether you have selected 14 meals per week or 7 meals per week. If you have booked 7 meals per week, you are responsible for buying your own dinner and you may not have access to the kitchen at certain times
- **Will the homestay arrange to pick up the student from the airport?** No
- **Transport to school:** Your host will help you to find your way to and from school on your first day and will show you how to use public transport
- **Where are the homestays located?** Carpinteria, Goleta, and Santa Barbara
- **Additional information:** Homestays are 60-90 minutes of commute time to the school

Private accommodation

Only students aged 18 and over are permitted to go into private accommodation. If you are 16 or 17 years old you will be housed in a homestay and should be home curfew to 22:00.

If you are over 18 here are some tips if you want to find your own apartment or share a house with friends:

- The school's accommodation team can provide a local alternative accommodation list
- Check whether the accommodation you are going to see is in a safe area
- Take a friend with you when you go to view any accommodation
- If you are sharing an apartment or house find out who has access to it
- Make sure the accommodation is safe and has current fire/safety checks
- Make sure your room is secure and that you have insurance for your laptop, camera, TV, DVD, personal music player and other valuable items
- Keep in mind that in addition to rent, you may be responsible for paying for additional fees and taxes

Accommodation in Santa Barbara

Student Apartments - La Brezza

This is an Academic Year Abroad Residence

- **Address:** 620 West Gutierrez Street, Santa Barbara CA 93101
- **Website:** N/A
  Disclaimer: All the information on this residence file is for reference. Please contact your advisor for the latest information
- **Accommodation type:** 2-bedroom mixed-gender apartments with bathroom, living/ dining area, kitchen shared with other Kaplan students; Deluxe Single, Deluxe Twin, Single, Twin rooms available
- **Service available:** Laundry (extra charge), Wi-Fi, bed linen provided upon arrival
- **Extra cost of services:** No
- **Bedroom:** Wardrobe/ closet, desk, lamp, chair
- **Kitchen:** Fridge, oven, stovetop, toaster, cutlery & crockery, kitchen utensils
- **Facilities:** Laundry is credit card-operated
- **Extra cost of facilities:** Laundry
- **Famous landmarks nearby:** Stearns Wharf, Santa Barbara City College and West Beach
- **Visitors or guests allowed?** Yes; no overnight guests
- **Noise restrictions?** Yes (From 22:00 - 7:00)
- **Smoking allowed in the residence?** No
- **24-hour security?** No
- **Residence cleaning:** Rooms are cleaned on arrival; students are responsible for cleaning their own rooms
- **Linen changing:** Clean linens provided upon arrival; students responsible for washing their own linen
- **Availability:** Available year-round for students 18+
- **Minimum number of week:** One week
- **Check-in and check-out times:** Check-in is on Saturday & Sunday 16:00 - 21:00
  Check-out is on Saturday 10:00
- **Room deposit?** No deposit required

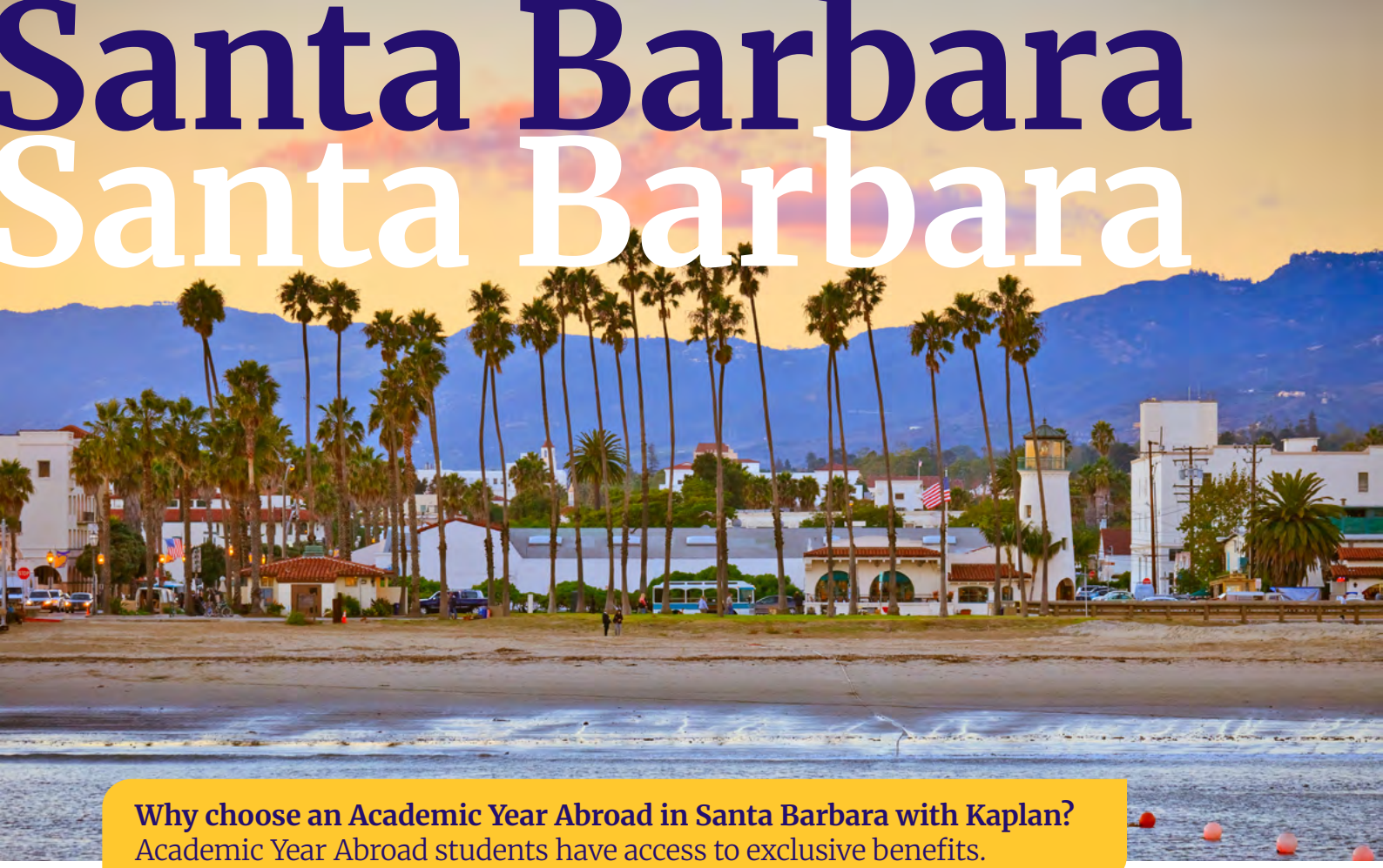
Time to...	By foot	By bike	By bus	By metro/train
The school	20 minutes	10 minutes	10 minutes	N/A
The nearest café / restaurant	10 minutes	5 minutes	5 minutes	N/A
The nearest supermarket	10 minutes	5 minutes	N/A	N/A
The nearest post office	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
The nearest ATM / bank:	20 minutes	10 minutes	20 minutes	N/A
The nearest sports center	20 minutes	10 minutes	10 minutes	N/A
The nearest hospital	30 minutes	20 minutes	20 minutes	N/A
The city center	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
The main airport	N/A	N/A	20 minutes	N/A

For the most up-to-date transport prices, please visit the MDT Website

KAPLAN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES
Academic Year Abroad
STUDY ENGLISH LONGER
SUCCEED FOR LIFE

Santa Barbara

Santa Barbara



Why choose an Academic Year Abroad in Santa Barbara with Kaplan?

Academic Year Abroad students have access to exclusive benefits.

1. Achieve the **fastest English progression** with Kaplan's exclusive Guaranteed Progression, while mastering fluency across reading, writing, listening, and especially speaking, **with personalized academic guidance every step of the way.**
2. Internationally recognized curriculum aligned with the Common European Framework of Reference.
3. Study for **6, 9, or 11 months** and experience life in one of the world's most **vibrant English-speaking cities.**
4. Receive a free TOEFL® exam to boost your academic or career prospects worldwide.
5. **Engage with online guest experts** at exclusive online seminars hosted for Academic Year Abroad students.
6. **Start strong and finish proud** with a **bespoke orientation** and **graduation ceremony.**
7. Enjoy **direct and free access** to morning classes.
8. Keep learning beyond the classroom with **12 months of access to K+ Learning Space** after your course ends.
9. Feel at home abroad with **total support from our team: personalized academic guidance from day one, accommodation services tailored to your preferences,** and a lively social calendar.
10. **Get to know the city from day one** with a warm welcome and guided tour.
11. Join a **global community of over 1.2 million learners** who choose Kaplan each year.
12. **Upgrade your academic and professional CV** by investing in a trusted institution since 1938. Kaplan is widely known worldwide for **educational excellence and student success.**

What programs are available in Kaplan Santa Barbara?

Language & Culture

- Intensive
- Semi-Intensive
- Multi-Destination Year

University Preparation

- English for Academic Pathways

Your course timeline

Start dates	End dates		
	6 months	*9 months*	*11 months*
5th January 2026	19th June 2026	11th September 2026	20th November 2026
30th March 2026	11th September 2026	4th December 2026	12th February 2027
22nd June 2026	4th December 2026	26th February 2027	7th May 2027
21st September 2026	5th March 2027	28th May 2027	6th August 2027
9th November 2026	23rd April 2027	16th July 2027	24th September 2027

Start dates	1st Holiday Start (All courses)	2nd Holiday Start (9 month courses)	2nd Holiday Start (11 month courses)
5th January 2026	30th March 2026	8th June 2026	14th September 2026
30th March 2026	8th June 2026	14th September 2026	21st December 2026
22nd June 2026	14th September 2026	21st December 2026	21st December 2026
21st September 2026	21st December 2026	29th March 2027	24th May 2027
9th November 2026	21st December 2026	29th March 2027	24th May 2027

Methodology

How do we help you learn English quickly?

We are proud to offer English programs built on a solid, research-based methodology designed to help you improve your English confidently and quickly. With our carefully structured syllabus, you can join at any point and continue progressing smoothly, with teaching materials tailored to your level and learning style.

Each Academic Year Abroad program is structured with carefully designed lessons aimed at achieving your specific objectives:

Language Foundation (20 lessons, 15 hours)
Build your core English skills with 15 hours of General English per week, using our spiral, blended curriculum aligned to the Common European Framework of Reference. Lessons are topic-based and communicative, designed to boost fluency, confidence, and real-world language use.

Language in Action Workshops (4 lessons, 3 hours)
Take your English beyond the classroom with interactive workshops each week focused on communication, collaboration, and real-life tasks.
These sessions help you practice spoken English in creative, practical contexts.

Specialist Skills (8 lessons, 6 hours)
Enhance your learning with focused classes, tailored to your needs and objectives. Ideal for students looking to improve in targeted areas, these sessions focus on specific skills like pronunciation, writing, exam preparation or Business English.

K+ Extra (3 lessons, 2.25 hours)
Students enhance their fluency with K+ Extra online resources supporting personalized language learning.

Learn about every program

Language & Culture

Discover the joy of learning English abroad like never before. Transform your language skills as you embark on a program designed to immerse you in one (or more) exciting destinations around the world. This is more than just a course. During this enriching year, we blend expert language training with cultural immersion, global friendships, and unforgettable experiences.

Intensive

35 lessons per week = 26.25 hours

Want to master every aspect of English? This course sharpens your skills in speaking, reading, writing, listening, grammar, and pronunciation, while also expanding your vocabulary for effective communication in real-world settings.

Lessons	Number of Lessons	Total Hours
Language Foundation	20 lessons	15 hours
Language in Action Workshops	4 lessons	3 hours
Specialist Skills	8 lessons	6 hours
K+ Extra Online	3 sessions	2.25 hours

Semi-Intensive

27 lessons per week = 20.25 hours

Strengthen your foundational English skills while enjoying plenty of free time to explore your new city and have fun with friends! Join our social activities, dive into local culture, and make the most of every moment on this unforgettable adventure.

Lessons	Number of Lessons	Total Hours
Language Foundation	20 lessons	15 hours
Language in Action Workshops	4 lessons	3 hours
K+ Extra Online	3 sessions	2.25 hours

Programs

Kaplan Multi-Destination Year

12 weeks Santa Barbara, 12 weeks New York City, 12 weeks Boston, 12 weeks Vancouver.

Study English in a 6, 9, or 11-month program spanning your choice of school locations.

Students travel the globe to create their own dream Academic Year Abroad by combining two, three or four locations, each destination with a minimum of twelve weeks.

In each location, students are immersed in comprehensive language development focusing on improving all language skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking, while living the language through a variety of cultural immersion activities.

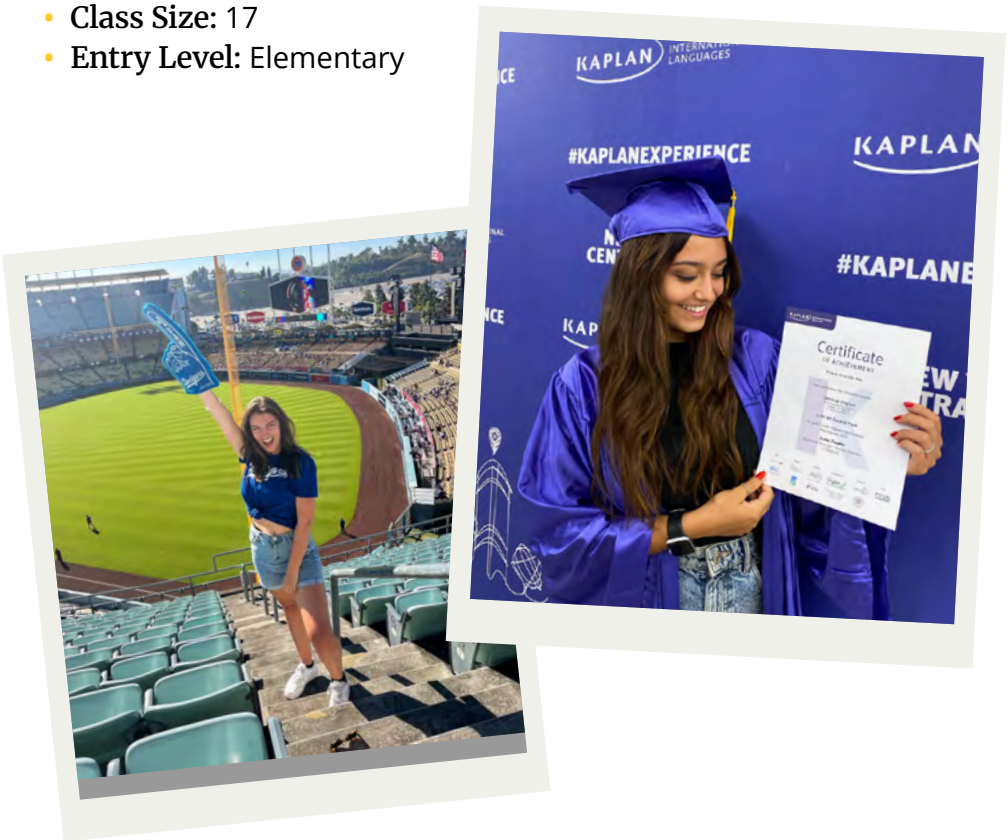
Visa regulations permitting, students can opt to build their own vacation breaks between 12-week quarters to experience even more of what the destination has to offer.

Example Multi-Destination Year itinerary: Nine months North America Coast to Coast.

Experience the relaxed coastal beauty of Santa Barbara, the cobblestoned charm of historic Boston, and the natural wonders of British Columbia.

Key facts

- **Minimum Age:** 16
- **Class Size:** 17
- **Entry Level:** Elementary



University
Preparation Program

Your pathway to academic success

Turn your Academic Year Abroad into a launchpad for your university journey. Our *University Preparation* track is designed for ambitious students planning to study at leading institutions in the UK, the US, or beyond. This exclusive package combines expert guidance, academic enrichment, and wraparound support, giving you the confidence and credentials to take the next step.

Real-world exposure

- Experience university life through campus tours and academic events
- Online guest speakers on topics like academic preparation and university application strategies

English for Academic Pathways

Total of 35 lessons per week = 26.25 hours

Want to be completely prepared for success in an academic setting? This program is ideal if you want to develop essential language skills and test strategies for academic success while preparing to achieve top results in an official English exam.

Lesson	Number of Lessons	Total Hours
Language Foundation	20 lessons	15 hours
Language in Action Workshops	4 lessons	3 hours
Specialist Skills on Academic English and Exam Prep	8 lessons	6 hours
K+ Extra Online	3 sessions	2.25 hours

Key facts

- **Minimum Age:** 16
- **Class Size:** 17
- **Entry Level:** B1

Accommodation

Accommodation Options

This program offers special accommodation packages.

Get in touch with our team to get a personalized quote depending on your preferences, whether you choose a residence apartment to live with other Kaplan international students, or host families, making the most of integrating into the lives of our local families in the city.

Follow the hearts and explore our previous accommodation section for more details.

"Great experience with Kaplan. Growth, unforgettable encounters. An experience to have at least once in your life! The staff is available if needed, very welcoming. The campus is well located just a few steps from the beach where activities are organised by Kaplan. Thanks Kaplan Santa Barbara!"

- Célina Kaplan Santa Barbara student from France.

Health & Safety

Medical insurance | All students must have travel and medical insurance for the duration of their stay in the US. Kaplan o!ers you a low-cost Travel and Medical Insurance Plan that we advise you to take. If you are not taking Kaplan Insurance you are required to show proof of alternative medical insurance. If not taking Kaplan Insurance, please make sure your insurance includes evacuation and repatriation.

If you get sick | If you get sick while in the US you should visit a doctor. You can ask the Kaplan sta! or your host family where the neareset doctor is. If you have a minor illness you can ask sta! at a local pharmacist for advice. Remember to bring any relevant insurance or medical documentation with you. You may be required to register with a doctor.

Protecting your belongings | We strongly recommend you take out insurance for your personal belongings, especially cameras, music players, mobile phones and laptops. Personal items cannot be covered by Kaplan homestay or residence insurance.

Prescription medication | Remember to bring enough of your prescribed medication with you as American pharmacist will not fill a foreign prescription. International customs agents may ask you questions about your medication upon your departure or arrival, so be sure to pack it carefully. Bring any important medical records (blood type, prescriptions, x-rays) that might be useful for medical care abroad as well as contact information for your health care providers at home.

Medical costs

Medical costs are at the discretion of your local doctor or hospital. Minimum medical costs are as follows:

- **Consultation with a doctor:** $85
- **Prescriptions at a pharmacist:** $25 per item
- **Dental treatment:** $150
- **Eye test or new glasses:** $150

Emergency services

Call **911** in case of fire, medical emergency or if you need the police.

Laws

- No one under the age of 21 in the US may buy or consume tobacco or alcohol, including beer and wine. It is against the law to buy tobacco or alcohol for someone you know is under the age of 21
- Driving under the influence of alcohol is a very serious crime and police make regular random checks
- You will need international ID to enter bars, clubs or pubs (e.g.passport, ID card, driving licence)
- Buying, selling and using drugs is illegal

Local Customs

- Women in the USA are equal to men and should always be treated fairly.
- American people talk to strangers in public areas. This is a great way to practice English, but caution should be taken. You should not give out your address and telephone number, or accept inappropriate invitations.
- "Please" and "thank you" are very important words! Always use them if you ask someone to do something for you, or if they help you or give you information.
- The US is a culturally diverse nation where people of all ethnic backgrounds are treated equally.
- People in North America leave a tip for good service in restaurants, hair salons and other places. The tip rate at most restaurants is about 20-22% of the bill and is not usually included. Fast-food is not tipped unless it is delivered. Porters in stations, airports and hotels should be tipped approximately $1 per bag. Taxi drivers are generally given a 15% tip.

Kaplan International Languages Rules

- If you leave your Kaplan International Languages course without informing us, your Form I-20 (if applicable) will be terminated and you may fall out of status
- You must attend all classes. If you do not your representative will be informed. If you do not then improve your attendence you may be issued a notice of expulsion
- Be on time for all your lessons
- Always tell Kaplan International Languages if you are going to be absent from school for any reason and tell your host family if you are going away overnight
- If you commit a criminal offence or have to be severely disciplined you will be sent home and no refund will be given. We will also inform the immigration authorities

US public holidays

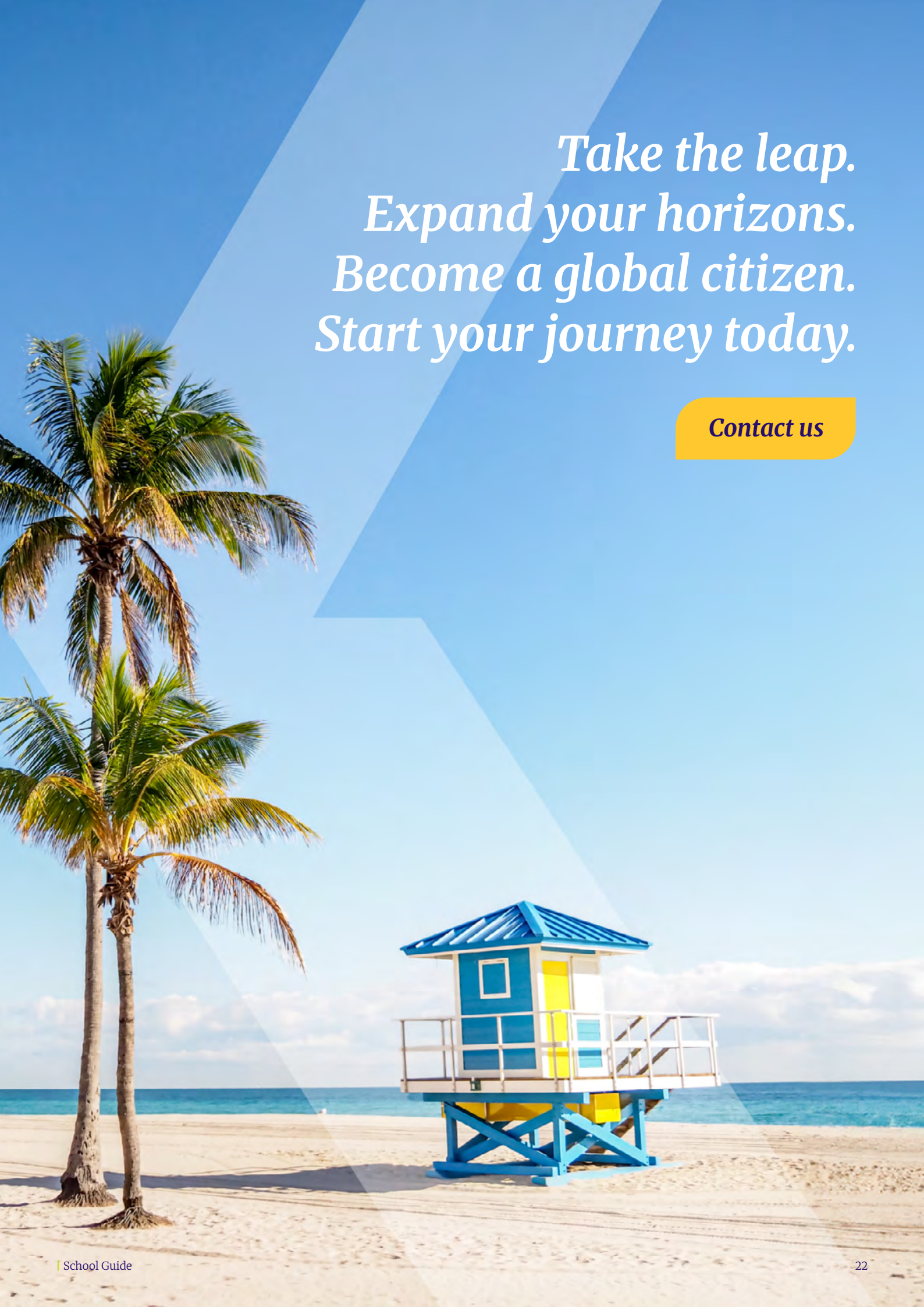
New Year's Day	1-Jan-26
Martin Luther King Day	19-Jan-26
Memorial Day	25-May-26
Juneteenth	19-Jun-26
Independence Day	3-Jul-26
Labor Day	7-Sep-26
Thanksgiving	26-Nov-26
Day after Thanksgiving	27-Nov-26
Christmas Day	25-Dec-26
Day After Christmas Day	28-Dec-26

The above dates are observed as holidays in the year. If you arrive on a week where the Monday is a holiday, your first day of school will be a Tuesday

Holiday Policy

Academic Year Abroad students | There are preset holiday dates for all Academic Year Abroad students. These dates depend on your start date and cannot be changed. Please check with the school if you are not sure when these are.

School closures | The school will be closed from December 21st 2026 to December 28th 2026 with an additional closure for New Years on January 1st 2027.


Take the leap.
Expand your horizons.
Become a global citizen.
Start your journey today.
Contact us

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