



INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

Winter 2024



TEXAS Global

The University of Texas at Austin

Report Contents

- Program Overview
- Coursework Overview
- Track Overview
- English Language Overview
- Cultural Events & Activities
- Program Calendar
- Room and Board
- Program Staff
- Certificate Ceremony
- Program Evaluations
- Student Feedback
- Acknowledgements



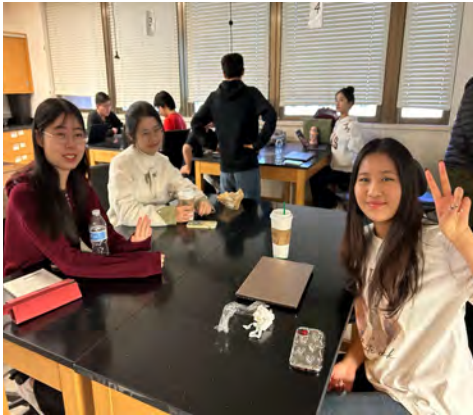


Program Overview

Texas Global at The University of Texas at Austin hosted 228 students for the Winter 2024 International Academy. The four-week program allowed university students to take English language classes and coursework in one of the following academic tracks: Accounting & Finance, Advertising & Marketing, Engineering, Software Engineering, and Western Language & Culture. Each academic track was complemented with a curriculum designed to foster practical skills, mutual collaboration, and problem-solving abilities. Through a comprehensive approach to language development, including oral and written communication classes, students received an immersive education to improve their English skills and prepare them for real-world applications of the language.

Coursework Overview

Students were grouped into one of the following tracks aligning with their academic interests: Accounting & Finance, Advertising & Marketing, Engineering, Software Engineering, and Western Language & Culture. They were enrolled in classes for 30 hours per week within their chosen track, as well as an additional 30 hours weekly of oral communication and academic writing classes. Details about program coursework are further outlined in this report.



International Academy students in class

Track Overview

Accounting & Finance

The Accounting track consisted of two courses: Foundations of Accounting and Principles of Finance. In Foundations of Accounting students studied the accounting cycles for service and merchandising firms. They learned about bank reconciliations, uncollectible receivables, and long-term assets. In Principles of Finance, students analyzed financial statements and cash flows. They calculated the time value of money, bond and stock pricing, and interest rates. In groups, students created presentations on publicly traded companies.

Advertising & Marketing

The Advertising and Marketing track consisted of two topics: Advertising and Marketing in Advertising. In the two courses, students studied integrated marketing communication (IMC), IMC and media planning, and advertising psychology. They gained an industry overview of advertising and public relations through general discussions, class presentations, and group projects.

Western Language & Culture

In the Western Culture course, students explored, discussed, and presented culturally significant ideas, events, people, experiences, and arts that have contributed to the culture of the United States, Texas, and Austin. Through experiential field trips and in-class projects, students expanded on their understanding of the cultures and characteristics of “the West” including relevant literary and artistic traditions. Students learned and applied primary and secondary research skills by engaging in close observation, integrating historical context, reading critically, recognizing credible sources, and incorporating different historical and current perspectives.

Track Overview

Engineering

The engineering track consisted of two courses: Engineering Physics and Engineering Design. In Engineering Physics, topics covered included vectors, Newton's Laws of Motion, systems of particles, and kinematics and dynamics of a rigid body. Students learned about the theory behind each topic, completed example problems, and participated in a final discussion. In Engineering Design, students explored the dimensions of design in engineering beyond designing a physical product: design experimental procedures, manufacturing processes, testing protocols, etc. They gained insight into common engineering design industry practices while exploring computer-aided design software and 3-D printed fabrications.

Software Engineering

The software engineering track consisted of two courses: Introduction to Python and Java Programming. In the Python course, students gained practical programming skills and learned essential software design. The curriculum covered programming concepts like encapsulation and inheritance, emphasizing code organization for maintainability. Students completed exercises which ranged from writing unit tests to industry standard coding challenges. Students constructed their own Python game and emerged proficient in the basics of Python programming. In the Java course, students participated in activities that allowed them to apply best practices in programming using Java. These included in-class coding assignments and programming puzzles. Student identified various problem and provide a Java program to solve it. The students presented a demo of their final product by the end of the program.

English Language

Oral Communication

Prior to their arrival to Austin, the students took an English placement exam, the results of which determined their placement into one of three levels of oral communication (OC) and academic writing (AW) classes: intermediate, high intermediate, and advanced.

In the intermediate OC course, students improved their conversational, discussion, and public speaking skills by leading and participating in class discussions and creating class presentations. In the high intermediate OC course students learned and implemented academic vocabulary in class debates and discussions. In the advanced level OC class, students facilitated and led moderated discussions, researched and presented on academic issues in their field of study, practiced accent imitation, and improved their aural comprehension and lexicon in real world scenarios.

Academic Writing

In the intermediate AW course, students developed a knowledge of appropriate language, format, and punctuation by writing formal emails and a final argumentative paper with a thesis, supporting paragraphs, and conclusion. In the high intermediate AW course, students honed their abilities to write academic essays by creating essay outlines, constructing clear thesis statements, and by peer-reviewing classmates' papers. In the advanced AW course, students improved their ability to write clearly and concisely through timed exercises; they also learned how to write in different styles by creating formal emails, U.S. style resumes, and an academic-style summaries.

Through these diverse and dynamic oral communication and academic writing classes, students advanced their proficiency in English, equipping them with the skills necessary for effective communication in their respective fields.



International Academy students with their instructors

Cultural Events and Activities

Outside of the classroom, students participated in co-curricular activities resulting in cultural enrichment and opportunities to engage with the community. Cultural outings included a tour of the UT Austin campus and city of Austin, site visits to campus facilities and attractions, and tours of the Texas State Capitol and the Texas State History Museum. Students also took a day trip to Houston where they visited the Johnson Space Center (NASA) and Houston Museum of Natural Sciences (HMNS). Each outing offered students a unique experience and perspective on culture in the United States.



International Academy students visiting the NASA Space Center in Houston



Students were able to tour the Texas State Capitol, a symbol of governance in the heart of Austin. They learned about the Texas legislature, Texas history, and architecture.



International Academy students visiting the Harry Ransom Center on the UT Austin campus: exploring first edition books, historic newspapers, photographs, and other American cultural artifacts



Mount Bonnell, a natural landmark in Austin, offers breathtaking views of the city, Colorado River, and surrounding landscape.



International Academy students in front of the Austin skyline






Left: International Academy students in front of the UT Austin Tower
Right: International Academy students visiting the Blanton Museum of Art on the UT Austin campus






International Academy students visiting the Johnson Space Center Houston (NASA)

Program Calendar

Sunday, January 21	Monday, January 22	Tuesday, January 23	Wednesday, January 24	Thursday, January 25	Friday, January 26	Saturday, January 27
		First full day of classes!				
	9am-10am Orientation 10am-11am Campus Tour 11am-12pm ID					
						Texas State History Museum 10am, 12pm, 2pm (Groups will visit for 2 hours) 

Sunday, February 4	Monday, February 5	Tuesday, February 6	Wednesday, February 7	Thursday, February 8	Friday, February 9	Saturday, February 10
Free Day!						
		Lunar New Year Festival @ Union 6pm-9pm 				Houston Trip 7am-7pm 

Sunday, January 28	Monday, January 29	Tuesday, January 30	Wednesday, January 31	Thursday, February 1	Friday, February 2	Saturday, February 3
						Capitol Tour 12:45 - 3:15 pm (tours will be in 30 min intervals) 

Sunday, February 11	Monday, February 12	Tuesday, February 13	Wednesday, February 14	Thursday, February 15	Friday, February 16	Saturday, February 17
			Valentine's Day!		Last day of classes!	IA Departure 
					IA Final Reception 6:00pm - 8:00pm 	

Room and Board

Students stayed in private apartment complexes during the program. Each apartment included complimentary WiFi access, along with access to fitness centers, swimming pools, and study lounges. The apartment complexes were strategically located along the city bus route to campus. With their UT identification card, students could ride city buses for no cost.

A meal plan was included with the program, offering students three meals a day in on-campus buffet-style dining halls. Fresh fruits, salads, hot plates, sandwich bars, and desserts were offered daily. The dining halls catered to various dietary preferences.



Apartment kitchen



Outdoor common area



Fitness center

The apartment I lived in was perfect, quiet and comfortable, the swimming pool, fitness center and lounge were always available.

Program Staff

A dedicated staff was assigned to the program consisting of ELC Director, Dr. Mike Smith, program coordinator, Rachelle Bumgardner, and a team of cultural ambassadors (UT student employees). Staff greeted the students at arrival, assisted with apartment check-in, organized and accompanied students to weekly cultural outings, and helped students with routine issues.

The staff were always very dutiful, and they answered our questions comprehensively.

The ambassadors and teachers are very enthusiastic, and their responses are spot on!



International Academy students with a cultural ambassador during the Texas State Capitol tour

Final Reception & Certificate Ceremony

Upon completion of the program, students were recognized for their achievements with a reception ceremony. Program staff and faculty joined attended to celebrate with the students and present them with certificate of completion. To receive a certificate, students were required to pass all of their classes and maintain 75% attendance throughout the program.



International Academy students at the final reception

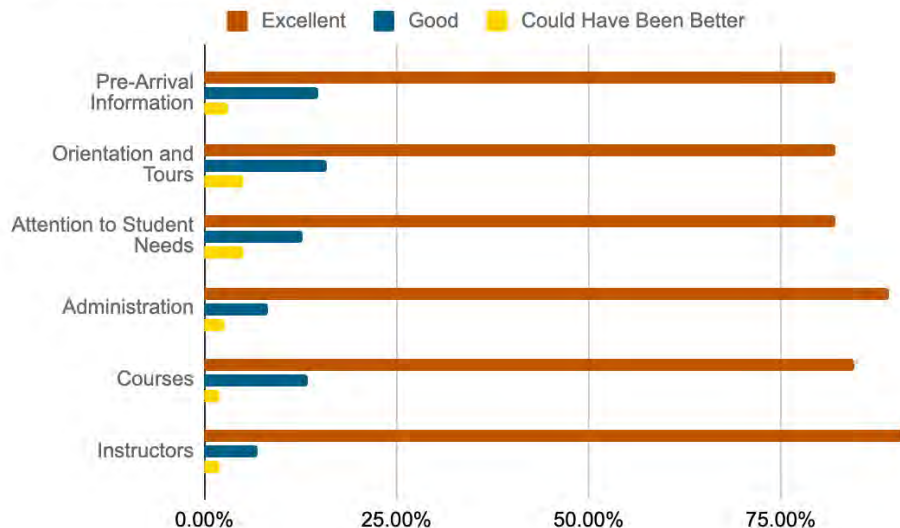


International Academy students with cultural ambassadors at the final reception

Program Evaluations

At the end of the program, program evaluations were administered allowing students to reflect and provide feedback and insights on their experiences during the program. Evaluations included questions about pre-arrival information and attention to student needs, as well as coursework and cultural enrichment activities. Results of these evaluations are shown below. Many of the students also left feedback detailing their personal takeaways. Student feedback is highlighted on the following pages.

Program Evaluations



Student Feedback

It really helps me improve my English level, and get some knowledge about my major. It also offers the opportunity to experience the US culture.

Overall, the program provided a well-rounded and complete experience. From the courses to the cultural trips, it exceeded my expectations.

The school life here at UT Austin was enjoyable, and the campus atmosphere was welcoming. It truly felt like a second home.

I feel so good and it's a pretty precious experience for me.

The campus tour was fantastic. It gave us a comprehensive look at the university's history and facilities.

It's a wonderful experience in my life and I like the lifestyle of studying in UT. Thank you all.

The teachers and culture ambassadors were incredibly helpful and kind throughout the program. Their support was invaluable.

The apartment provided a safe and friendly environment for us to stay in. It was a comfortable home during our time here.

The cultural trips, like the one to Houston, broadened my horizons and gave me a deeper understanding of American society.

The atmosphere on campus was vibrant and conducive to learning. It made studying here a truly dynamic experience.

Student Feedback

I loved the trips to museums and other cultural sites. They added depth to our learning experience and were very enjoyable.

The academic classes were top-notch, especially the engineering design course where we got to use 3D printers.

The classes were well-organized, and the teachers were excellent. It made learning enjoyable and rewarding.

The tour to the Texas State history museum was insightful and enriching. It added depth to our cultural experience

Overall, the program provided a well-rounded and complete experience. From the courses to the cultural trips, it exceeded my expectations.

Everything about this program is excellent! From the courses to the campus life, it's all been wonderful

The chance to communicate with local people was invaluable. It allowed us to immerse ourselves in American culture

I enjoyed everything, from the courses to the trips to various cultural sites. It was a well-rounded experience.

The school life here at UT Austin was enjoyable, and the campus atmosphere was welcoming. It truly felt like a second home.

The opportunity to freely explore the culture and lifestyle here was fantastic. It allowed us to fully experience life in the US.

Acknowledgements

Texas Global at The University of Texas at Austin wishes to recognize the following universities for supporting their students on this program.

- ❖ Beihang University
- ❖ Beijing Institute of Graphic Communication
- ❖ Beijing Institute of Petrochemical Technology
- ❖ Beijing Wuzi University
- ❖ Central South University
- ❖ Central University of Finance and Economics
- ❖ Chang'an University
- ❖ Changshu Institute of Technology
- ❖ China University of Mining and Technology Beijing
- ❖ China University of Petroleum
- ❖ China University of Petroleum (East China)
- ❖ Chongqing University
- ❖ Communication University of China
- ❖ Communication University of Zhejiang
- ❖ Donghua University
- ❖ East China Normal University
- ❖ East China University of Science and Technology
- ❖ Fudan University

- ❖ Huazhong University of Science and Technology
- ❖ Hunan University
- ❖ Inner Mongolia Agricultural University
- ❖ Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics
- ❖ Jimei University
- ❖ Jinan University
- ❖ Lanzhou University
- ❖ Nanjing University
- ❖ Nanjing University of Information Science and Technology
- ❖ Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunication
- ❖ North China Electric Power University
- ❖ Northeast Forestry University
- ❖ Shandong University
- ❖ Shanghai Dianji University
- ❖ Shanghai Lixin University of Accounting and Finance
- ❖ Shanghai Maritime University
- ❖ Shanghai University of Engineering and Technology
- ❖ Shenzhen University

- ❖ Sichuan University
- ❖ Soochow University
- ❖ South China University of Technology
- ❖ South University of Science and Technology of China
- ❖ Southern University of Science and Technology
- ❖ Southern University of Science and Technology China
- ❖ Southwest Jiaotong University
- ❖ Southwest Petroleum University
- ❖ Southwest University (China)
- ❖ Southwestern University of Finance and Economics
- ❖ Sun Yat-sen University
- ❖ Suzhou University
- ❖ Tsinghua University
- ❖ University of Jiangxi Economics and Finance
- ❖ University of Science and Technology of China
- ❖ Xi'an Shiyou University
- ❖ Yunnan University