



Course Catalog

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PIA Mission, Vision, & Values



PIA Mission Statement

The overarching intent of Pacific International Academy (PIA) is to help students achieve their personal goals in English by facilitating the acquisition of language proficiency required in daily communication, higher learning, and the professional world. PIA provides a holistic learning environment that facilitates interpersonal connections, cultural exploration, and service to the community.

PIA Vision Statement

Pacific International Academy will support, educate, and inspire each member of its learning community to thrive in a diverse, globalized society. Through language development as a bridge to higher education, professional life, and community service, PIA students will leave positive and lasting contributions wherever they go.

PIA Core Values

1. Holistic Development

We value the growth and development of the whole person—intellectually, socially, and ethically. Learning at Pacific International Academy supports students' academic growth alongside personal formation, well-being, and purpose, recognizing that language learning is deeply connected to lived experience.

2. Multicultural Connections

We approach linguistic and cultural diversity as a valuable asset. Through intercultural intelligence, mutual respect, and reciprocal relationships, we cultivate a learning community where students and educators learn *with* and *from* one another, honoring multiple ways of knowing and being.

3. Critical Thinking

We cultivate curious, independent thinkers who engage thoughtfully with ideas, perspectives, and challenges. At PIA, language learning is not passive — it is an active process of questioning, analyzing, and constructing meaning across cultural contexts.

4. Service to the Community

We believe that learning carries responsibility. PIA students and staff are encouraged and supported to contribute meaningfully to their local and global communities. We recognize that service is both an expression of values and an extension of learning.

Accreditation

Pacific International Academy is accredited by the [Accrediting Council for Continuing Education & Training](#). PIA has been accredited through this organization since 2003, and has consistently endeavored to excel in delivering outstanding language instruction and supporting students as they pursue their educational goals.

Complaint Procedures

At PIA, we are committed to providing a supportive and collaborative learning environment. If you have a concern or complaint, we encourage you to approach your teachers or program staff as a first step. In most cases, we can work together to resolve the issue quickly and effectively.

However, if an issue cannot be resolved satisfactorily through our internal team, students have the right to file a formal grievance with our accrediting body. You can access the ACCET Student Complaint Form directly via this link: [ACCET Student Complaint Form](#).

Overview of Language Programs



Intensive English Program

Intensive English Courses: These courses prepare students for university study through communicative English language study and practice. This program is offered in 10-week terms. Basic level courses meet four days a week. Courses for all other levels meet two days a week.

Basics (preA1)	Beginner (A1)	High Beginner (A2)	Intermediate (B1)	High Intermediate (B2)	Advanced (C1)
ESOL 001 Introduction to Basic English	ESOL 014 Grammar 1	ESOL 024 Grammar 2	ESOL 134 Grammar 3	ESOL 144 Grammar 4	ESOL 154 Grammar 5
	ESOL 011 Reading 1	ESOL 021 Reading 2	ESOL 131 Reading 3	ESOL 141 Reading 4	ESOL 151 Reading 5
ESOL 002 Using Basic English	ESOL 012 Writing 1	ESOL 022 Writing 2	ESOL 132 Writing 3	ESOL 142 Writing 4	ESOL 152 Writing 5
	ESOL 013 Speaking & Listening 1	ESOL 023 Speaking & Listening 2	ESOL 133 Speaking & Listening 3	ESOL 143 Speaking & Listening 4	ESOL 153 Speaking & Listening 5

Service Learning and Community Service Courses: These classes engage students in classroom lessons and volunteer experiences. Students are supported to use English to make positive contributions in the real world. Intensive English students may choose to take these elective courses.

Service Learning	Community Service
SL 001 Service Learning Stage 01	CS 001 Community Service Stage 01
SL 002 Service Learning Stage 02	CS 002 Community Service Stage 02
SL VOL Service Learning Stage 03	CS VOL Community Service Stage 03

Integrated Skills Program

Workplace English Essentials: Participants in these courses work on English skills related to communication, comprehension, grammar & mechanics, and workplace confidence. These courses are offered in four 10-week modules. Courses meet once a week.

Community English: Community English courses are for students who live in the Portland area. In these courses students work on developing communication skills and building fluency in English. These courses are offered in 10-week terms. Courses meet once a week.

Workplace English Essentials	Community English
ESOL 015 (Modules A, B, C, & D) Workplace English Essentials A1	ESOL 136 Community English B1
ESOL 025 (Modules A, B, C, & D) Workplace English Essentials A2	ESOL 146 Community English B2
	ESOL 156 Community English C1

Group Study Abroad Program

Experience America: Experience America is a three or four week course offered in the winter and the summer. This course offers opportunity to participate in interactive English courses and community activities.

Short-Term English: Short-term English courses range from one to four weeks. Classes and educational activities can be customized to match the learning goals and schedule of the group.

Experience America	Short-Term English
EA 017 Experience America	STE 018 Short-Term English

Intensive English Course Descriptions



Intensive English: Basics

INTRODUCTION TO BASIC ENGLISH

Course Number: ESOL 001 Clock Hours: 100

Introduction to Basic English introduces true-beginner students to the basic forms of English. The main goal of the course is to prepare students with limited exposure to English to enter Level 1. Students gain familiarity with rudimentary elements of English, such as the alphabet, numbers, and simple tenses.

USING BASIC ENGLISH

Course Number: ESOL 002 Clock Hours: 100

Students in Using Basic English apply concepts acquired in Introduction to Basic English, with an emphasis on vocabulary, and using English in everyday situations. Students will gain confidence with English by engaging in communicative approaches and a variety of interactive activities.

Intensive English Course Descriptions



Intensive English: Grammar

LEVEL 1 GRAMMAR

Course Number: ESOL 014 Clock Hours: 50

Students in this beginning level are introduced to the basic elements of English grammar, starting with the most common regular and irregular verbs. Students also study basic tenses, question forms, prepositions, and noun forms. These grammar points are applied in productive activities and projects, with a strong emphasis on grammatically correct speaking and writing. (CEFR A1)

Prerequisite(s): Completion of English Basics or placement into Level 1

LEVEL 2 GRAMMAR

Course Number: ESOL 024 Clock Hours: 50

Students in this high-beginner level expand their understanding of the basic elements of grammar, starting with an in-depth study of the common verb tenses. Students also focus on question forms, nouns, sentences, and modals. These grammar points are applied in productive activities and projects, with a strong emphasis on grammatically correct speaking and writing. (CEFR A2)

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Level 1 or placement into Level 2

LEVEL 3 GRAMMAR

Course Number: ESOL 134 Clock Hours: 50

Students in this intermediate level study a variety of grammar elements, including those that are useful for academic work. Students focus on the passive voice, conjunctions, articles, and count/noncount nouns, as well as grammar points that are useful for everyday English, such as comparatives. These grammar points are applied in productive activities and projects, with a strong emphasis on grammatically correct speaking and writing. (CEFR B1)

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Level 2 or placement into Level 3

LEVEL 4 GRAMMAR

Course Number: ESOL 144 Clock Hours: 50

Students in this high-intermediate level refine their understanding of important grammar points, especially verb tenses, nouns, and modals. Students also work with grammar elements that are necessary for academic work, such as the passive, articles, and subject-verb agreement. These grammar points are applied in productive activities and projects, with a strong emphasis on grammatically correct speaking and writing. (CEFR B2)

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Level 3 or placement into Level 4

LEVEL 5 GRAMMAR

Course Number: ESOL 154 Clock Hours: 50

Students in this advanced level concentrate on some of the subtler points of English grammar, such as the use of gerunds and infinitives and conditionals. In addition, students practice using noun, adjective, and adverb clauses for a variety of purposes. These grammar points are applied in productive activities and projects, with a strong emphasis on grammatically correct speaking and writing. (CEFR C1)

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Level 4 or placement into Level 5

Intensive English Course Descriptions



Intensive English: Reading

LEVEL 1 READING

Course Number: ESOL 011 Clock Hours: 50

Students in Level 1 gain skills in both practical and academic reading, with a special emphasis on vocabulary building. Each week, students are expected to master 10 to 12 high-frequency vocabulary words selected from the textbook and provided supplementary word list. Level 1 consists of basic, introductory content with an aim toward building foundations for future learning. Students are exposed to short texts, including fiction and nonfiction, and materials related to daily life. The practice of extensive reading is introduced in Level 1. (CEFR A1)

Prerequisite(s): Completion of English Basics or placement into Level 1

LEVEL 2 READING

Course Number: ESOL 021 Clock Hours: 50

Students in Level 2 gain skills in both practical and academic reading, with a special emphasis on vocabulary building. Level 2 expands on introductory content with an aim toward preparing students for more advanced academic and cultural interactions. Students are exposed to short- to medium-length texts and materials related to personal and social needs. In addition, students are expected to master 10 to 12 high-frequency vocabulary words selected from the textbook and provided supplementary word list each week. Extensive reading is encouraged as a means of building fluency. (CEFR A2)

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Level 1 or placement into Level 2

LEVEL 3 READING

Course Number: ESOL 131 Clock Hours: 50

Students in Level 3 gain skills in practical, professional, and academic reading, with a special emphasis on vocabulary building. Level 3 expands students' exposure to both familiar and challenging subjects while incorporating critical thinking and original work. Students begin to work with intermediate materials related to professional, educational, and daily life. In addition, students are expected to master 10 to 12 high-frequency vocabulary words selected from the textbook and the supplementary academic word list each week. In preparation for the required long reading activities in Levels 4 and 5, students are encouraged to do plenty of extensive reading. (CEFR B1)

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Level 2 or placement into Level 3

LEVEL 4 READING

Course Number: ESOL 141 Clock Hours: 50

Students in Level 4 gain skills in academic reading, with an emphasis on specialized vocabulary building. Level 4 seeks to broaden students' interactions with more in-depth and advanced materials, including specialized vocabulary and documents. Students begin working more independently as they connect texts and ideas through analysis and abstract thinking. In addition, students are expected to master 10 to 12 high-frequency vocabulary words selected from the textbook and the supplementary academic word list each week. (CEFR B2)

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Level 3 or placement into Level 4

LEVEL 5 READING

Course Number: ESOL 151 Clock Hours: 50

Students in Level 5 gain skills in academic reading, with an emphasis on specialized vocabulary building. Level 5 challenges students to interact with advanced authentic materials through abstract and critical thinking. Students engage in self-directed inquiry, connecting ideas, and using targeted skills effectively. In addition, students are expected to master 10 to 12 high-frequency vocabulary words selected from the textbook and the supplementary academic word list each week. (CEFR C1)

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Level 4 or placement into Level 5

Intensive English Course Descriptions



Intensive English: Writing

LEVEL 1 WRITING

Course Number: ESOL 012 Clock Hours: 50

Students in Level 1 will gain foundational skills in writing, with a special emphasis on literacy skills, sentences, and simple paragraphs. Level 1 consists of basic, introductory content with an aim toward building foundations for future learning. The simple present and the simple past are used to write on familiar topics. Students will practice expressing their ideas in sentences and paragraphs, while accurately applying key grammar concepts introduced in Level 1. (CEFR A1)

Prerequisite(s): Completion of English Basics or placement into Level 1

LEVEL 2 WRITING

Course Number: ESOL 022 Clock Hours: 50

Students in Level 2 will gain skills in both practical and academic writing, with a special emphasis on sentences and paragraphs. Level 2 expands on introductory content with an aim toward preparing students for more advanced academic and practical tasks. Students will practice writing about familiar topics using simple, progressive, and future time frames. Students will employ the writing process to explore different paragraph styles while accurately applying key Level 2 grammar concepts. In Level 2, students begin to use feedback to improve their writing as they interpret rubrics and scoring guides. (CEFR A2)

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Level 1 or placement into Level 2

LEVEL 3 WRITING

Course Number: ESOL 132 Clock Hours: 50

Students in Level 3 will gain skills in both practical and academic writing, with a special emphasis on elaborate paragraphs. Level 3 expands students' exposure to both familiar and challenging content with an aim toward preparing students for more advanced academic and practical tasks. Students will practice writing academic paragraphs using past, present, and future time frames, including simple and progressive aspects. Students will deepen their engagement with the writing process while applying key Level 3 grammar concepts and engaging in peer review. (CEFR B1)

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Level 2 or placement into Level 3

LEVEL 4 WRITING

Course Number: ESOL 142 Clock Hours: 50

Students in Level 4 will gain skills in academic writing, with a special emphasis on essays. Level 4 is designed to broaden and deepen students' interactions with more advanced prompts and abstract topics. Students will practice writing academic essays using a range of time frames, including progressive and perfect aspects. Students will use the writing process to compose a variety of essays while applying key Level 4 grammar concepts and engaging more deeply in peer review. Critical thinking skills, such as synthesizing multiple sources and identifying logical fallacies, are a prominent element of Level 4 Writing. (CEFR B2)

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Level 3 or placement into Level 4

LEVEL 5 WRITING

Course Number: ESOL 152 Clock Hours: 50

Students in Level 5 will gain skills in academic writing, with a special emphasis on essays and research papers. Level 5 challenges students to evaluate and synthesize advanced, authentic materials while conducting research and refining core skills. Control of all time frames will be reinforced, in addition to the use of passive voice. Students will apply the writing process to essays and a research paper while employing key Level 5 grammar concepts and various types of feedback. (CEFR C1)

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Level 4 or placement into Level 5

Intensive English Course Descriptions



Intensive English: Speaking & Listening

LEVEL 1 SPEAKING AND LISTENING

Course Number: ESOL 013 Clock Hours: 50

Students at this level develop skills necessary for communicating at school and in the community. In Level 1, students are exposed to a variety of listening materials and communicative activities, with an aim toward preparing students for common, everyday interactions. In addition to the following objectives, students are assessed on the speaking, listening, and grammar skills introduced in the previous level. (CEFR A1)

Prerequisite(s): Completion of English Basics or placement into Level 1

LEVEL 2 SPEAKING AND LISTENING

Course Number: ESOL 023 Clock Hours: 50

Students at this level expand their speaking and listening skills to prepare for a range of communication tasks. In Level 2, students develop general communication skills while also being introduced to basic academic tasks. In addition to the following objectives, students are assessed on the speaking, listening, and grammar skills introduced in previous levels. (CEFR A2)

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Level 1 or placement into Level 2

LEVEL 3 SPEAKING AND LISTENING

Course Number: ESOL 133 Clock Hours: 50

Students at this level engage with a wide range of practical and academic tasks. In Level 3, students are introduced to more authentic content while developing presentations and group discussion skills, as well as beginning to incorporate academic support. In addition to the following objectives, students are assessed on the speaking, listening, and grammar skills introduced in previous levels. (CEFR B1)

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Level 2 or placement into Level 3

LEVEL 4 SPEAKING AND LISTENING

Course Number: ESOL 143 Clock Hours: 50

Students at this level will develop academic skills in speaking and listening. In Level 4 students use an advanced range of grammar, vocabulary, and conversation skills to complete individual and group tasks. They also find and incorporate effective academic support in presentations. In addition to the following objectives, students will be assessed on the speaking, listening, and grammar skills introduced in previous levels. (CEFR B2)

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Level 3 or placement into Level 4

LEVEL 5 SPEAKING AND LISTENING

Course Number: ESOL 153 Clock Hours: 50

Level 5 provides a strong focus on academic tasks, with an aim toward preparing students for speaking and listening tasks in a university setting. Students will develop advanced skills in group work, presentations, and research. In addition to the following objectives, students will be assessed on the speaking, listening, and grammar skills introduced in previous levels. (CEFR C1)

Prerequisite(s): Completion of Level 4 or placement into Level 5

Intensive English Course Descriptions



Intensive English: Community Service

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Stage 1 CS 001	2 hours per week (Fridays 10-12) 9 weeks	18 classroom hours
Stage 2 CS 002	5 hours per day 4 days (Monday-Thursday, between Intensive English terms)	20 classroom hours
Stage 3 CS VOL	Volunteer period begins during 2 nd term of study. Volunteer about 4 hours/week for 10 weeks	35 volunteer hours

COMMUNITY SERVICE STAGE 01 (Preparation & Placement)

Course Numbers: CS 001

The Community Service course prepares students to volunteer at a U.S. non-profit organization. During the course, students discover professional, social, and linguistic skills required in U.S. workplace settings and develop tools to support their volunteer experiences. Additionally, students explore perspectives on work, social issues, and volunteering through a series of personal reflections, group work, and presentations.

Format: 18 classroom hours (2 hours/week for 9 weeks)

Prerequisite(s): English skills A2 or higher

COMMUNITY SERVICE STAGE 02 (US Workplace Culture)

Course Numbers: CS 002

This intensive course focuses on developing the communicative and intercultural competencies required to succeed in a U.S. workplace setting. Students explore American business culture by analyzing nonverbal behaviors, practicing direct versus indirect communication styles, and mastering language for professional collaboration. Through interactive scenarios and reflection activities, learners build effective strategies to navigate common workplace dynamics and prepare for their upcoming service roles.

Format: 20 classroom hours (5 hours/day for 4 days)

Prerequisite(s): Community Service Stage 01

COMMUNITY SERVICE STAGE 03 (Volunteer Community Service)

Course Numbers: CS VOL

This experiential learning course provides students with practical, real-world English exposure through part-time volunteer placement at a local non-profit organization. Working approximately four hours per week, students apply previously studied intercultural and linguistic skills directly to an authentic workplace environment. Supported by structured reflection assignments, learners analyze their personal growth, navigate cultural challenges, and connect academic concepts to hands-on service.

Format: 35 volunteer hours (approx. 4 hours/ week for 10 weeks)

Prerequisite(s): Community Service Stage 02

Intensive English Course Descriptions



Intensive English: Service Learning

SERVICE LEARNING

Stage 1 SL 001	2 hours per week (Fridays 10-12) 9 weeks	18 classroom hours
Stage 2 SL 002	5 hours per day for 8 days Monday-Thursday for 2 weeks between Intensive English terms	40 classroom hours
Stage 3 SL VOL	Volunteer period begins after last term of Intensive English Volunteer about 20 hours/week for 3 weeks	60 volunteer hours

SERVICE LEARNING STAGE 01 (Preparation & Placement)

Course Number: SL 001

The Service Learning course prepares students to volunteer in two or more U.S. non-profit organizations. During the course, students discover professional, social, and linguistic skills required in U.S. workplace settings and develop tools to support their volunteer experiences. Additionally, students explore perspectives on work, social issues, and volunteering through a series of personal reflections, group work, and presentations.

Format: 18 classroom hours (2 hours/week for 9 weeks)

Prerequisite(s): English skills A2 or higher

SERVICE LEARNING STAGE 02 (US Workplace Culture & Communication)

Course Number: SL 002

This comprehensive, multi-week course prepares students for high-impact civic engagement by deeply examining U.S. workplace dynamics and social advocacy. Students engage in advanced communication simulations to master skills such as expressing opinions, requesting assistance, and resolving professional workplace scenarios. Through research presentations and guided discussions, learners evaluate their own cultural perspectives and develop the advanced intercultural skills necessary for multi-site service.

Format: 40 classroom hours (5 hours/day for 8 days)

Prerequisite(s): Service Learning Stage 01

SERVICE LEARNING STAGE 03 (Volunteer Service Learning)

Course Number: SL VOL

This intensive capstone course immerses students into the community through full-time, multi-site volunteer service at U.S. non-profit organizations following their intensive English studies. Immersed in a professional environment for twenty hours per week, students utilize advanced English skills to address real-world community challenges. Through rigorous written and oral reflections, learners synthesize their language acquisition, evaluate their intercultural adaptability, and critique systemic social issues.

Format: 60 volunteer hours (approx.. 20 hours/week for 3 weeks)

Prerequisite(s): Service Learning Stage 02

Integrated Skills Course Descriptions



Workplace English

WORKPLACE ENGLISH ESSENTIALS A1

Course Number: EOSL 015 Clock Hours: Vary

Workplace English Essentials is an ESOL course offered in four 10-week modules. Participants in this course will work on English skills related to communication, comprehension, grammar & mechanics, and workplace confidence. Designed for beginners, this level focuses on understanding simple and direct workplace instructions and using essential everyday phrases for immediate on-the-job needs. This course is offered in 4 rotating modules A-summer, B-fall, C-winter, D-spring. Students will review leveled language skills in each module while working with new vocabulary and communicative contexts.

Prerequisite(s): Placement into Level A1

WORKPLACE ENGLISH ESSENTIALS A2

Course Number: EOSL 025 Clock Hours: Vary

Workplace English Essentials is an ESOL course offered in four 10-week modules. Participants in this course will work on English skills related to communication, comprehension, grammar & mechanics, and workplace confidence. Designed for students with a basic foundation in English, this level emphasizes participating in routine workplace interactions, describing daily job responsibilities, and handling requests from coworkers. This course is offered in 4 rotating modules A-summer, B-fall, C-winter, D-spring. Students will review leveled language skills in each module while working with new vocabulary and communicative contexts.

Prerequisite(s): Completion of A1 Placement into Level A2

Community English

COMMUNITY ENGLISH B1

Course Number: EOSL 136 Clock Hours: 25

This course provides intermediate English language learners with opportunities to improve communication skills through practice and discussion of everyday topics. Students will build foundational fluency, acquire practical vocabulary, and develop confidence needed to express their ideas clearly in routine social and workplace settings.

Format: 1 class per week, 2.5 hours per session (10 weeks)

Prerequisite: Placement at the B1 level or successful completion of a high-beginner course.

COMMUNITY ENGLISH B2

Course Number: EOSL 146 Clock Hours: 25

This course provides high-intermediate English language learners with opportunities to improve communication skills through meaningful conversations and discussion of engaging topics. Students will increase their fluency, expand their vocabulary, and develop greater confidence in using English to connect with others and participate in their communities. Participants will work on developing the linguistic tools needed to communicate more naturally and navigate interactions.

Format: 1 class per week, 2.5 hours per session (10 weeks)

Prerequisite: Placement at the B2 level or successful completion of a lower-intermediate course.

COMMUNITY ENGLISH C1

Course Number: EOSL 156 Clock Hours: 25

This course provides advanced English language learners with opportunities to improve communication skills through discussing diverse topics, learning to articulate subtle distinctions of meaning, handling abstract concepts, and exploring cultural nuances of the English language. This course focuses on eliminating hesitation and enhancing professional and civic discourse, while preparing students to lead conversations, network confidently, and participate fully in social, academic, and professional spheres of their community.

Format: 1 class per week, 2.5 hours per session (10 weeks)

Prerequisite: Placement at the C1 level or successful completion of a high-intermediate course.

Group Study Abroad Course Descriptions



Experience America

EXPERIENCE AMERICA

Course Number: EA 001 Clock Hours: variable

This cultural immersion program offers international university students a comprehensive introduction to American life through the unique lens of Portland, Oregon. Classroom English lessons build the communicative confidence, vocabulary, and cultural context required to fully engage in daily real-world excursions. By combining academic instruction with homestay living, local non-profit volunteering, and first-hand exploration of the region's famous cafes, bookstores, food economics, and natural landscapes, students develop deep cross-cultural connections and an authentic understanding of contemporary American society.

Format: 3-4 weeks with morning classroom hours and afternoon experiential learning

Short-term English

SHORT-TERM ENGLISH

Course Number: STE 001 Clock Hours: variable

This course provides customized English language instruction designed to support daily cultural experiences for international high school students. Students participate in engaging English lessons to build practical linguistic confidence in real-world contexts. By combining interactive classroom learning with authentic daily activities, this program fosters both language proficiency and a deeper understanding of American life.

Format: 1-4 weeks with morning classroom hours and afternoon experiential learning