

# Welcome to LSI San Francisco/Berkeley



## Contact Details

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"When I arrived at LSI, I started in the Pre-Intermediate class. I have moved up three levels and I feel more confident in speaking – and my progress is not over yet!"

NICOLAS POILVERT, FRANCE

## Why LSI SI San Francisco/Berkeley?

- Excellent location: LSI San Francisco is situated in Downtown Berkeley amidst bustling streets, major restaurants, shops, and public transportation. Only 2 blocks away from the University of California campus and the BART (subway) station.
- Exciting weekly social program during high season is designed to introduce you to the city, make new friends, and complement your English language lessons.
- Teachers are carefully selected to ensure you have a fully qualified, experienced, friendly, and helpful hand to guide you through your studies.
- LSI manages its own pool of homestays, ensuring the quality of accommodation.
- Best value language school. LSI is well known for providing an excellent academic and social program at fair prices.
- Excellent student care. Upon request, weekly meetings with the School Director to provide every student with the opportunity for academic and personal support outside of the classroom.

## Excellent mix of nationalities

### Our students in 2024

<b>Japan</b>	24.2%
<b>Brazil</b>	9.9%
<b>Taiwan</b>	6.8%
<b>China</b>	5.6%
<b>Colombia</b>	5%
<b>France</b>	3.7%
<b>Italy</b>	3.7%
<b>Turkey</b>	3.1%
<b>Spain</b>	3.1%
<b>Mexico</b>	3.1%
<b>Mongolia</b>	3.1%
<b>Argentina</b>	3.1%
<b>Switzerland</b>	2.5%

Visit the downloads  
section and select the  
'other' category.



# School Facilities

Our school facilities are designed to provide an enriching and conducive environment for learning, growth, and development.



**10 modern classrooms**



**Maximum class size 16**



**E-Learning system**



**Student computers**



**Free WIFI**



**Student lounge**



**Self-study area**



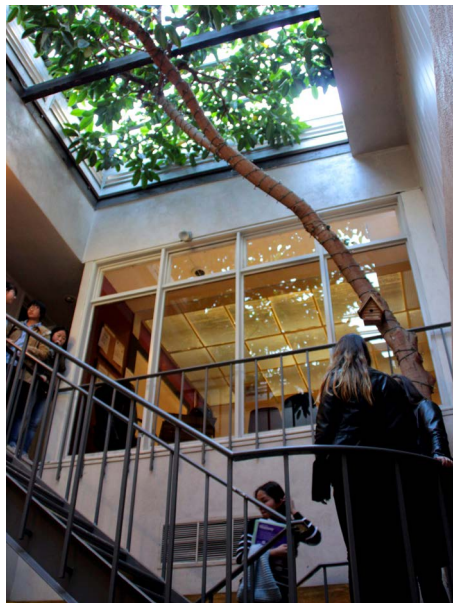
**Great location**



**Good transport links**



**Official exam centre**



# Programmes

## General 20

During the lessons you rapidly improve your communication skills in a variety of everyday situations. Classes cover grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, speaking, listening, reading and writing. You use a text book in conjunction with a wide variety of materials and exercises.

## Intensive Courses

LSI offers 25 or 30 lesson options per week on our Intensive courses. All our intensive courses consist of the General 20 course (4 lessons per day) and a range of electives to suit all levels, needs and interests (2 lessons per day).

Elective options are run twice a week on the Intensive 25, and four times a week (Monday to Thursday) on the Intensive 30 course.

LSI Berkeley offers the following electives:

- Fluency
- Academic English
- Business English
- TOEFL
- IELTS

Some elective options run on specific dates or require a minimum CEFR level of B1.

## One-to-One

Ideal for those who want extra help with general skills or more specialised topics. Our teachers work with you to develop your study plan. This course can supplement a General 20 or Intensive courses. One-to-one is the fastest way to improve your language skills and are ideal if you prefer a very personal focus on your own aims.

## Mini Group

This course combines general grammar and skills development with an in-depth focus on the language of business. The small, intensive group provides the ideal opportunity to practise negotiation, presentation and meeting skills in a realistic situation.

## Afternoon 10

For those who are short of time or may be working, Afternoon 10 gives you the perfect opportunity to brush up on your conversation skills, Business English or prepare for a range of examinations.

## SAT / GMAT

With LSI's GMAT & SAT preparation options, you'll work with a qualified and experienced instructor who will focus exclusively on your needs ensuring you achieve a higher score in a shorter time. Programme includes tuition, LSI GMAT/ SAT course materials, online GMAT/SAT practice tests and other resources, and MBA admissions guide.

Please note that a minimum of 4 weeks is required between booking and the course start date.

## English for Teaching (Groups Only)

Aimed at speakers of other languages, this course equips students with the basic tools required to teach English as a Foreign Language and is also an excellent refresher and development course for established teachers of English. It is also suitable preparation for the Teaching Knowledge Test.

**For specific pricing and start dates for all our courses please refer to our main price list.**

### Daily Tuition Schedule, Monday to Friday

General 20 Full Time	
09:10 - 10:50	Lessons 1 & 2*
10:50 - 11:10	Break
11:10 - 12:50	Lessons 3 & 4*

Intensive 25 Full Time	
09:10 - 10:50	Lessons 1 & 2*
10:50 - 11:10	Break
11:10 - 12:50	Lessons 3 & 4*
12:50 - 13:50	Lunch
13:50 - 16:05	Lessons 5 & 6* 2 days per week

Intensive 30 Full Time	
09:10 - 10:50	Lessons 1 & 2*
10:50 - 11:10	Break
11:10 - 12:50	Lessons 3 & 4*
12:50 - 13:50	Lunch
13:50 - 16:05	Lessons 5 & 6* 4 days per week

Afternoon 10 Part Time	
13:50 - 16:05	Lessons 1 & 2* 4 days per week

\*During busy periods the General English classes may be run at different times of the day. Please check when booking. An additional 5 minutes mini break is taken between 50 minute sessions.

# The Lifestyle

## The Location

With a population of over 122K, Berkeley is located in the north of the sunshine state in a scenic and densely populated area with many international students.

San Francisco is one of most iconic cities in the US, home of the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz and Coit Tower. Famous for its rolling fog and diverse spirit, San Fran is also regarded as the cultural, commercial, and financial centre of Northern California. Berkeley itself is alive with cafes, shops, restaurants and nightlife, and also offers visitors easy access to all the attractions of San Francisco and the rest of the Bay Area.

San Francisco has an efficient and reliable subway system making it easy and convenient to travel at a low cost.

## Excursions

LSI San Francisco partner with a local tour company to offer a range of day and weekend excursions to Alcatraz, Golden Gate Park, Oxford, Yosemite, Las Vegas, Los Angeles and many more.

A perfect way to see the sights whilst making new friends along the way.

## Social Programme

Our team of bubbly activity leaders work with teachers to run an exciting programme offering a range of after school activities. A perfect way to see the sights whilst making new friends along the way.

Regular social activities include:

- Pub night to welcome new students
- Tour of the local area
- Museums and Exhibitions
- Art Galleries
- Bowling
- Baseball games
- Movie nights



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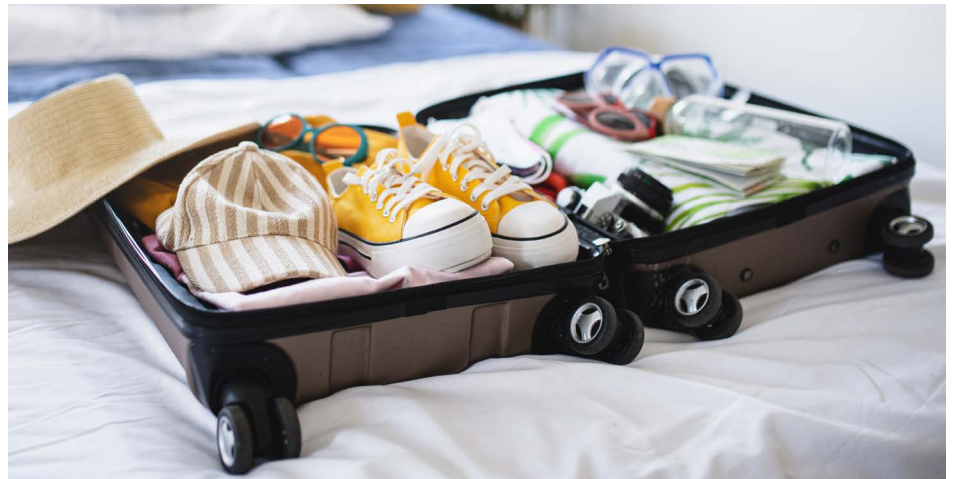


# Departure Guide

Before you leave, here are some important things to remember to ensure your arrival is as smooth as possible:

## Checklist

- ☒ Passport
- ☒ Letter of acceptance and LSI documentation
- ☒ Accommodation confirmation letter (either homestay profile or residence details)
- ☒ Proof of medical/health insurance
- ☒ \$250 in cash and credit/debit cards
- ☒ Any prescription medication
- ☒ Adaptor for electrical appliances (Type A: 2 pin with standard voltage 120V or Type B: 3 pin with standard voltage 120V)
- ☒ Laptop/tablet
- ☒ SIM card that can be used in the US



## Clothing

San Francisco has a mild climate in all seasons, however there may be warmer and cooler periods, so we advise bringing a range of clothes suitable for all climates. Please bring waterproof clothing, a raincoat, and suitable footwear.

Our activity programme may include sporting events, so it is also a good idea to bring active wear suitable for the outdoors.

The average temperature is around 10 degrees in Winter and 15 degrees in Summer.

## Pocket money

We recommend a weekly budget \$250 to cover local travel, lunch, and activities. Credit and debit cards are widely accepted in the US, but it is a good idea to bring some cash with you.

Check with your debit/credit card company that you are able to use your card and withdraw money in the US.

We do not advise carrying around large amounts of cash.

## Bank account

If you are staying in America for three months or more you may wish to open a bank account. LSI can support you with this process when you arrive.

## When you arrive

Arriving at a foreign airport can be overwhelming. If you get lost or confused, don't be afraid to ask the airport staff for help.

If you have booked an airport transfer, an LSI representative will meet you in the arrivals hall after baggage reclaim and immigration. They will be holding an LSI sign with your name on it and will take you directly to your accommodation. If you can't find the driver or your flight is delayed, please inform the transfer company at the phone number provided in the transfer confirmation email as soon as possible.

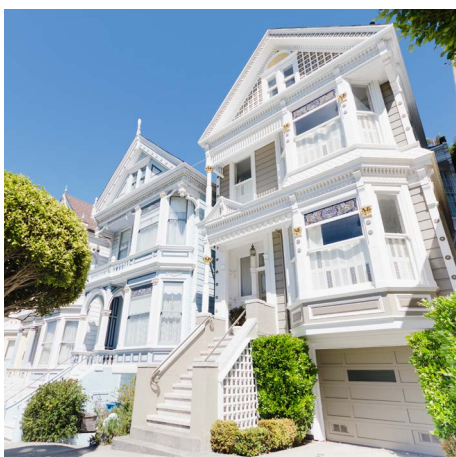
Sometimes, customs and immigration may ask you to wait while they check your travel documents. Please don't worry if this happens, it is normal procedure to check student's visas. Be calm and polite. If there are any concerns at immigration, ask the office to call the LSI San Francisco/Berkeley emergency phone: +1 341 732 6149.

If you have not booked an airport transfer, public transport can be found at all major airports for travel to San Francisco. Alternatively, you can catch a taxi from the airports taxi rank.

## First day information

Two weeks before your arrival date LSI will email you welcome information with details on how to get to school and what your first day will look like. You will also receive log in details and instructions for our E-LSI platform where you can complete our pre-arrival level test. It is important that you take the test before your first day to ensure we have the correct class ready for you.

There are no morning classes on Day 1, orientation will take place instead. Please arrive at reception by 10:30am.



# Residential Options

These options are more suitable for an independent student who is looking for a clean and basic accommodation at an affordable price. All students must be 18 or older.



## Rental Properties and Sharehouses

Facilities in shared houses and rental properties often include kitchens, bathrooms, and laundry facilities. Shared house bedrooms often include a bed, study desk, and cupboard, while rental properties are generally unfurnished.

LSI San Francisco/Berkeley takes no responsibility for any rental or share house agreement into which a student may enter. Advertisements for rental properties and share house rooms may be found on [4stay.com](https://www.4stay.com) or [Airbnb.com](https://www.airbnb.com)









### Downtown Berkeley YMCA Residence

**2001 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA 94704**

Located just steps from shops, restaurants, theatres, BART and the University of California, Berkeley, YMCA is perfect for younger travelers and welcomes a diverse mix of guests from all over the world. 1 minute by foot to LSI San Francisco/Berkeley.

Single rooms with shared bathrooms offered.

#### Facilities available:

-  Fully equipped community kitchen
-  WIFI
-  Laundry
-  Towels and bed linen provided
-  Fitness facilities
-  Lounge with TV
-  Daily housekeeping
-  24 hour security / concierge



# Homestay Accommodation

Staying with a host family is an excellent way for you to practise English and learn about American culture and California life. Here at LSI we carefully select and manage our own host families, ensuring high standards and a welcoming and friendly atmosphere. Commute time from homestays to LSI San Francisco by public transport is between 45 – 60 minutes.

Our Accommodation Co-ordinator is available to speak with you and to help whenever you need.

To help you prepare for your stay, please read the following information.

## What will my room be like?

Every homestay is unique. You are not going to a hotel so each home will be different. However, we make sure that your room has the following: a bed, a chair, a table or desk, a table lamp, a mirror, a heating appliance and chest of drawers or similar and a wardrobe.

## What services are included?

Your host will provide bed linen, towels, and will have laundry facilities available in the home or suggest local laundromats. Toiletries are not included so you will need to purchase these yourself.

## Can I use the kitchen?

Your family will provide the meals you have requested through LSI, either Breakfast only or Breakfast and Dinner (Half Board). Families will not usually allow you to use the kitchen to cook your own food or to store a lot of items in their fridge. If you have any dietary requirements or allergies please ensure you have informed LSI of these.

## About homestay meals

**Breakfast:** Usually a light meal consisting of cereal, toast, spreads, fruit, yoghurt, and a choice of tea, coffee, and juice. Hosts will usually ask you to prepare your own breakfast.

**Lunch:** You will be responsible for buying your own lunch from a local restaurant or local shop. There are many cafes and shops close by, all within walking distance of the school.

**Dinner:** You will usually eat dinner with your host, unless you have arranged otherwise. Dinners should be varied and balanced and

should include meat, fish or cheese, some carbs, vegetables and a piece of fruit or dessert. In America most families have dinner between 6pm – 8pm. Your host will inform you of their dinner time and ask that you let them know if you will not be eating with them or do not require dinner.

## Arrivals and Departures

Sunday to Sunday or Saturday to Saturday. Check in between 10am – 10pm.

## On arrival

At least one member of your family will be waiting at home to greet you on your arrival day. They will show you your room and share with you any house rules they may have; please respect these.

## Travel to school

You will have to come to school by yourself via public transportation. Your host families can help and give you instructions on how to get to school. Our accommodation confirmations also have instructions on what bus, subway, or train to catch and from where (if necessary).

## Executive homestays

Executive homestays are also available which offer a private bathroom (ensuite or sole use).

**For further information and pricing please refer to our accommodation brochure.**

