SSALI
SONOMA STATE AMERICAN LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

The Journey Begins Here!

An Intensive English Program
Located In Beautiful Northern California
Experience Life On An American University Campus
ABOUT SSALI
Sonoma State American Language Institute (SSALI), located in scenic Northern California on the campus of California State University — Sonoma, is the perfect program for those desiring challenging classes taught in a supportive and family-like environment. Since 1979, SSALI has been providing intensive instruction to students, professionals and others who need to learn English quickly to meet academic, job-related and social needs.

THE ENVIRONMENT
The campus is located in the modern, comfortable community of Rohnert Park (pop. 43,000), near the rural beauty of the world-famous Wine Country and only one hour’s drive from exciting San Francisco. The spectacular Pacific coast, impressive redwood forests, numerous parks and several golf courses are only minutes from campus. The area enjoys a mild Mediterranean type climate — daytime temperatures range from 27°C in summer to 12°C in winter.

THE CURRICULUM
The academic program is a professionally designed curriculum for students from high beginning to advanced levels of English proficiency.

- Students receive instruction in grammar, composition, oral communication, reading and vocabulary.
- Class size averages 12-15 students. Students get a lot of individual attention.
- Up-to-date textbooks and multi-media materials are used for instruction.
- Classroom instruction is enriched and supplemented with contact assignments and field trips.
- Students can select from a variety of special elective classes such as: iBT TOEFL Preparation, American Culture & Conversation, Idioms and Slang, Pronunciation, Listening, English through Music and Vocabulary.
THE FACULTY

The SSALI faculty are talented, dedicated professionals. They really care about their students.

- All faculty have Master’s Degrees in TESOL or a related field.
- Teachers use interactive, collaborative and task-based techniques.
- Teachers routinely attend conferences and in-services for professional development.
- Teachers have experience working in multi-cultural classrooms and are sensitive to the issues important to international students.

THE STUDENTS

SSALI is truly a multicultural community. Typically 15-18 countries are represented in the student body. About 55% of those are Asian, 10% are European, 10% are Latin American, and 25% are African or Middle Eastern. SSALI has had students from age 16 to 75! However, the majority of the students are 18 – 25 years old.

About 25% of the students continue on to study at the local community college or at Sonoma State University. Some transfer to other institutions, some return to study in their home countries and others return to their work or business. Some students are residents of Sonoma County.

“SSALI is a wonderful language school for foreign students. It’s like a family for me. I love it.”

– Ilaria from Italy
SCHOOL CALENDAR
Application deadline is at least 6 weeks before session begins. See enclosed insert for exact dates and current fees.

SPRING SEMESTER
Mid-January – early May* (14 weeks)

SUMMER SESSIONS
June - July (5 weeks)
July - August (5 weeks)

FALL SEMESTER
September - mid December* (14 weeks)
*Mid-semester entrance is also permitted.

SPECIAL FEATURES
• Wireless internet access in all campus buildings
• Conversation Partner Program with an American student or community volunteer
• World-class Green Music Center
• Attendance and graduation certificates
• College and university admissions assistance
• Personal counseling to help students with academic problems or cultural adjustments
• State-of-the-art Schulz Information Center
• Recreation Center with gyms, dance studios, climbing walls and weight room
• NEW Student Center with food court, shops and club meeting areas
• Enrollment in credit-bearing university courses for eligible advanced students
• Airport pick-up service at San Francisco International Airport
• Supportive, family-like school environment in a beautiful and safe community
• Member of EnglishUSA, TESOL and NAFSA; accredited by WASC
APPLICATION PROCESS

If you have completed your secondary education, you are eligible to apply to SSALI.

To receive your F-1 student visa you should:

• Submit a SSALI application form.
• Provide a copy of page 1 of your passport.
• Provide proof of high school graduation or transcripts.
• Provide an official income statement or bank statement verifying availability of funds, minimum $10,000 per semester or $4,000 per summer session.

VISA INFORMATION

This school is authorized under Federal law to enroll nonimmigrant alien students. When the application process is complete, you will be sent the appropriate documentation to apply for a student visa (F-1) at a U.S. consulate or embassy. Visitors in the country on B-2 visas are permitted a limited amount of coursework.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Medical care in the U.S. is very expensive. California State University requires all students to have full coverage health insurance to cover major medical expenses. SSALI requires that you purchase SSU’s excellent school policy before registering for classes.

The mandatory SSU Health Center Services fee provides SSALI students with convenient on-campus care for minor medical problems. Available during Fall and Spring semesters only.

STUDENT PROGRESS

A thorough program of testing ensures appropriate placement in English language classes. Progress can be rapid depending upon individual aptitude, study habits and motivation. On the other hand, a student entering as a beginner may need three or four semesters before reaching the level of proficiency necessary for successful university study.

I like SSALI because everyone works together. They have the very best teachers and staff who really care about the students.

– Ahmed, Saudi Arabia

At SSALI I learned English really fast; I learned things I couldn’t do before I came here. I want to say thank you to SSALI for helping me because now I can speak, read, and write English and also understand when someone talks with me.

– Luria, Guinea-Bissau
If you want to pursue a degree program at the University, you should consider the following options:

A. Direct Application to the university is for students who have the required TOEFL or IELTS score. You must use the International Student Application.
   Email: debra.crow@sonoma.edu
   Internet: www.sonoma.edu/cie/prospective

B. Application to SSALI is for students whose TOEFL is below 500/61 and for students who do not yet have a TOEFL score. At an appropriate time, advisors will help you to transition out of SSALI into the university.

C. TOEFL Waiver: SSALI students who successfully complete the advanced level may be admitted to an undergraduate program at Sonoma State University without meeting the TOEFL requirement.

D. Conditional Admission to Sonoma State University can be granted to eligible SSALI applicants with a strong academic background who plan to attend an undergraduate degree program after they have attained the required English proficiency. Conditional Admission will be indicated on the I-20 document.
ACTIVITIES

Each semester students enjoy a number of social and cultural activities. Students can join university groups like IEEC (International Education Exchange Council), Outdoor Pursuits (camping and hiking trips), JUMP (volunteer in the community) and the International Business Club. The university also sponsors activities such as Asian Heritage Month, and the International Film Festival.

Students can also have a conversation partner (American college student), join lunch conversation groups with community volunteers, and attend plays, concerts and special sporting events. Many students participate in sports teams playing baseball, soccer, and volleyball.

SSALI students are encouraged to participate in as many activities as possible to experience American culture firsthand and to enrich their language study.

SAMPLE ACTIVITIES

- Welcome Pizza Party
- San Francisco & Alcatraz Trip
- Winery and Redwood Forest Tour
- Holiday Party
- Halloween Party
- Thanksgiving with an American Family
- Level parties or activities
- 6 Flags/Marine World Amusement Park
- Beach Cookout
- Intramural sports (softball, volleyball, soccer)
- Wednesday Night Market
- Outlet Mall Shopping
- Russian River Canoe Trip
- Ice Cream Social
- Graduation Party
THE UNIVERSITY

Sonoma State University is a member of the California State University system. Enrollment is about 9,000 students, representing all 50 U.S. states and over 30 countries.

Sonoma State University offers majors in the arts and humanities, the natural sciences, and the social sciences, as well as several outstanding professional programs.

In all, you have a choice of 46 Bachelor’s degrees, 15 Master’s degrees, 8 Certificate programs, and excellent undergraduate pre-medical and pre-engineering programs.

HOUSING

• SSALI students have several housing options, but most choose a homestay.

• SSALI works closely with International Student Placements, which places students in the local community. Students may choose a homestay with meals or a room only.

• On-campus housing may be available during the summer in the attractive townhouse suites or apartments. Submit your request early, several months in advance if possible.

• Off-campus apartments and shared rentals may also be available.

• The cost of housing varies widely. Contact the SSALI office for more information.

To apply or to obtain more information contact:
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