

The American School in London

Profile 2021–22

The American School in London empowers each student to thrive as a lifelong learner and courageous global citizen by fostering intellect, creativity, inclusivity and character.

Introduction

Founded in 1951 • K-12, independent, co-educational day school, with an enrollment of 1,415 • 7:1 student-faculty ratio • Students hold citizenship from 66 countries • Accredited by the MSACS and certified by Ofsted; member of NAIS, CIS, CASE, NACAC and International ACAC. More than 48% of students hold citizenship from more than one country. Approximately 70% of students hold US citizenship, and 69% of students hold citizenship in a country other than the US.

Class of 2022: Snapshot

125
members in the class

25
languages spoken

70%
have studied at ASL throughout high school

50%
students hold passports for 2 or more countries

COVID-19 & ASL

2021-22

ASL anticipates returning to a normal school year with classes, sports and activities held in person.

2020-21

ASL held in-person classes for the entire year, except during the national lockdown, 18 December-8 March. Students and faculty were masked, with COVID-19 restrictions such as distancing, reduced class sizes and track and trace procedures in place. Online learning was available to any students needing to isolate.

- Normal grades were earned for the semester, with some students earning P/F grades in some subjects owing to COVID-19-related issues. These will be explained in counselor recommendations.
- Students in AP classes sat AP exams, administered either on paper during the school day or via computer at 5 pm and 9 pm, over six weeks, which disrupted classes significantly.
- In a departure from ASL policy, AP students were not required to take the AP exam in 2021.
- The ACT test was canceled internationally in December and February.
- No clubs/social/grade activities were able to occur on campus. Sports were canceled until mid-April.

2019-20

ASL closed on 13 March 2020, moved to distance learning on 23 March, and finished the fourth quarter of the 2019-20 year entirely online.

- Normal grades were earned for the semester, with some students earning P/F grades in some subjects, owing to COVID-19-related issues. These will be explained in counselor recommendations.
- Students in AP classes sat AP exams, administered at 5 pm, 7 pm and 9 pm over a number of weeks, with some technical difficulties, resulting in multiple retakes. These will be explained in counselor recommendations.
- In a departure from ASL policy, AP students were not required to take the AP exam in 2020.
- ASL was unable to administer SAT/ACT tests in April, May and June.

The winter/spring sports seasons were canceled, as were after-school activities, partnerships and clubs.

Academics, rank & grading

ASL operates on a semester calendar and block schedule. Grade 9 students take 7–8 classes per semester; Grade 10, 11 & 12 students take 6–7 classes per semester.

- ASL does not offer honors classes.
- Grades are not weighted.
- A cumulative GPA is reported using all grades earned at ASL only.
- ASL does not report a rank.
- The grading scale can be found on the transcript.

AP curriculum

ASL offers more than 20 designated AP classes, considered to be the most rigorous classes.

There is no designated AP English course; instead students take English electives in Grades 11-12 that prepare them for the AP English Literature and AP English Language exams.

Most APs are reserved for Grades 11-12.

Advanced Placement 2021 - COVID-19

In May 2021, 273 students took 738 exams in 30 subject areas in school on paper, or online at home in the evening.

The figures in the table to the right show the percentage of scores of 3 or above, followed by the number of exams in each subject area. In a departure from ASL policy, students were not required to take the AP exam in 2021.

Grade 11 distribution for Class of 2022

Grade	English	Social studies	World language	Science	Math	Art
A	216	159	104	109	94	112
B	30	37	18	53	34	2
C	2	2	1	5	7	0
D	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	248	198	123	136	136	116

Key academic programs

Advanced/Post-AP Classes: The following classes are the most rigorous courses outside or beyond the AP curriculum: Algebra 2 with Trigonometry, Precalculus with Calculus, Advanced Math Seminar, Advanced French Literature, Chinese Language & Culture Seminar, Advanced Arabic, Computational Circuits, Game Design.

Human Rights Symposium: Students selected for this course become human rights scholars as they research, organize, schedule and implement a one-day HS symposium targeting a contemporary human rights topic. Students complete a substantial research project which is delivered at the symposium and later published. This class is considered to be as rigorous as an AP class.

Advanced Independent Research Colloquium: Students pursue a topic of choice at the college research level, culminating in a public presentation, an individual academic essay and a self-reflection. This class is considered to be as rigorous as an AP class.

Experiential education opportunities: Peer Leadership is a selective, advanced leadership course for Grade 12 students. Students explore, develop and practice leadership skills, learning counseling, conflict resolution, mentoring and group facilitation skills.

Advanced Design Thinking Apprenticeship students utilize materials, technology and expertise to develop their design/engineering ideas. **Teaching Apprenticeship** students practice theories and best practices associated with teaching young children, working with LS classes and teachers, developing their own lessons and researching primary school pedagogy, theories and practices. **Community Action Seminar** students develop the skills to become ethical and effective advocates for social change in the local community. They work closely with a local organization to deliver a community action project and conduct research into a social justice issue.

Science 9 & 10: A two-year integrated science program, students are exposed to the fundamental principles of science, including biology, chemistry and physics. Science 9 investigates the origin of the universe and Earth, the basic chemical and physical processes that make life possible. Science 10 investigates the structure and function of living organisms. The curriculum encompasses all 3 dimensions of the NGSS standards;

AP exam

% of scores
3 or above

No. of
exams

2D Art and Design	100	10
3D Art and Design	75	4
Art History	100	6
Biology	96	28
Calculus AB	95	41
Calculus BC	100	26
Chinese Language and Culture	50	6
Chemistry	95	22
Computer Science A	100	41
Computer Science Prin	100	22
Drawing	100	15
Economics - Micro	82	61
Economics - Macro	84	67
English Language/Comp	98	47
English Literature/Comp	100	6
Environmental Science	96	23
European History	100	18
French Language	100	18
Human Geography	100	13
Italian Language	100	5
Japanese Language	100	1
Music Theory	80	10
Psychology	90	58
Physics 1	87	30
Physics 2	100	5
Physics C Elec	100	5
Physics C Mech	100	20
Spanish Literature and Culture	94	34
Spanish Language and Culture	100	7
Statistics	100	43
US History	98	41

students meet performance expectations with an emphasis on science and engineering practices and the cross-cutting concepts common to all scientific disciplines. Completion of this two-year sequence exposes students to perspectives by which each scientific discipline views science, allowing them to progress immediately to advanced and AP courses.

Unique programs

Alternatives: Prior to 2020, every Grade 9-12 student participated in a year-round alternative cultural experience or a concert tour that culminates in off-campus travel throughout Europe and a final day of reflection. Alternatives were canceled in 2020 and 2021. Alternatives are anticipated to return in 2022—while the music tours will travel to Europe, Alternatives will be UK-based.

Writer's Seminar: Student writers apply for the opportunity to be selected to work with a published author and writer-in-residence over the course of the year.

Community service & partnerships: Typically, 50% of Grade 9-12 students volunteer after school directly with people from the broader London community in a variety of settings—including youth centers, schools, playgrounds, shelters and senior citizen centers. Community partnerships were cancelled during 2020 and resumed in a limited fashion during the spring. There is no service requirement for graduation.

WorkX: WorkX is an ASL program that provides Grade 10-12 students with summer internships in companies throughout London and beyond. Students undergo a rigorous application and interview process. Each student prepares a CV and cover letter, and takes advantage of ASL preparatory workshops in Excel, interviewing, public speaking, LinkedIn and more. In 2020-21, COVID-19 continued to impact summer work experience placements, as many employers had not yet returned to the office or were limiting the number of people present. A total of 139 students applied for summer placements; 106 students took part in 113 placements with 46 organizations. WorkX offered a virtual speaker series each Wednesday throughout the summer, inviting all high school students to hear from and ask questions to leaders from a variety of organizations.

