

The American School in London

Profile 2023-24

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 to ASL

Founded in 1951 • K-12, independent, co-educational day school, with an enrollment of 1,425 • 7:1 student-faculty ratio • Students hold citizenship from 71 countries and speak 64 languages • Accredited by the MSACS and certified by Ofsted • Member of NAIS, CIS, CASE, NACAC and International ACAC • 49% of students hold citizenship from more than one country • Approximately 68% of students hold US citizenship • 69% of students hold citizenship in a country other than the US

Class of 2024: Snapshot

140
members in the class

24
languages spoken

71%
have studied at ASL throughout high school

55%
students hold passports for two or more countries

COVID-19 & ASL

2019-22

ASL closed in March 2020, completing the school year entirely through distance learning. Some students earned P/F grades in lieu of letter grades, owing to COVID-related issues. School reopened in person in September 2020, holding in-person classes (and distance learning as needed) for the entire year except during national lockdown from 18 December 2020 to 8 March 2021. AP exams in 2020 and 2021 were optional for students. No clubs, social or grade activities occurred from March 2020 until September 2021; sports resumed in April 2022. ASL returned to all normal operations, with some COVID-19 restrictions, such as masks, for the 2021-22 school year. Students were required to take AP exams in 2022.

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 final 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 25 designated AP classes, considered to be among the most rigorous.

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 2023

In May 2023, 331 students took 953 exams in 32 subject areas in school on paper, or at home online in the evening. The figures in the table show the percentage of scores of 3 or above, followed by the number of exams in each subject area.

AP exam	% of scores 3 or above	No. of exams	AP exam	% of scores 3 or above	No. of exams
2D Art and Design	100	4	European History	88	26
3D Art and Design	100	2	French Language & Culture	94	18
Art History	96	26	German Language & Culture	100	1
Biology	100	17	Human Geography	90	52
Calculus AB	93	42	Italian Language & Culture	100	1
Calculus BC	100	34	Music Theory	100	14
Chemistry	100	39	Physics 1	86	69
Chinese Language & Culture	50	8	Physics 2	100	6
Computer Science A	94	64	Physics C Electricity & Magnetism	94	18
Computer Science Principles	100	37	Physics C Mechanics	94	18
Drawing	100	11	Psychology	81	81
Economics - Macro	76	67	Spanish Language & Culture	100	31
Economics - Micro	76	67	Spanish Literature & Culture	100	9
English Language/Composition	92	64	Statistics	91	43
English Literature/Composition	100	11	US Government and Politics	100	1
Environmental Science	92	24	US History	94	48

Grade 11 distribution for Class of 2024

Grade	English	Social studies	World language	Science	Math	Art
A	232	187	106	127	67	129
B	52	51	30	40	66	3
C	0	0	1	3	17	0
D	1	0	0	0	1	0
Total	285	238	137	170	151	132

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, Advanced Design Thinking Apprenticeship.

In 2023, ASL inaugurated a computer and engineering design department in the High School, and added new classes in data science, machine learning, and modeling and simulation.

Human Rights Symposium: Students selected for this course become human rights scholars as they research, organize, schedule and implement a one-day high school 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 an independent research 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.

Independent study: A student who has exhausted a department's curricular offerings, demonstrated a commitment to independent work, and expressed a deep and ongoing interest in a topic, as well as acquiring a faculty sponsor willing to oversee the project, may apply for independent study. The student and teacher meet regularly throughout the semester with an agreed set of requirements to fulfill for which the student earns a grade. An independent study course is taken in addition to the student's course requirements and does not substitute for course or distribution requirements in the regular curriculum.

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. They work closely with Grade 9 advisories and students throughout the year.

Advanced Design Thinking Apprenticeship challenges students to utilize materials, technology and expertise to develop their design/engineering ideas in independent projects.

Teaching Apprenticeship allows students to practice theories and best practices associated with teaching young children, working with lower school classes and teachers, developing their own lessons and researching primary school pedagogy, theories and practices.

Community Action Seminar sees 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, in which students are exposed to the fundamental principles of science, including full courses of biology, chemistry and physics. Science 9 investigates the origin of the universe and Earth, and the basic chemical and physical processes that make life possible. Science 10 investigates the structure and function of living organisms. The curriculum encompasses all three dimensions of the NGSS standards; 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: Every Grade 9-12 student participates 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, and returned in 2022. Alternatives are recorded on a student's transcript as of 2023.

Writers' Seminar: Grade 11 & 12 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. The seminar is highly selective and meets once a week in the evening. Students deliver public readings of their original work three times per year.

Community service & partnership: 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 canceled in 2020; some resumed in spring and fall 2021, and all resumed in spring 2022. 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 interviewing, workplace norms, email etiquette, public speaking and more. In 2023, a total of 138 students participated in 168 work experience placements with 70 organizations, a speaker series, eight career skills workshops and two workplace visits.

