

BRINGING PENNINGTON TO THE WORLD

Travel Opportunities for Experiential Learning

In addition to the many experiential learning offerings on campus, we are offering opportunities for students to enjoy academic experiences that will connect classroom knowledge with real-world learning. All travel opportunities will require a student application process. Those selected for each trip must commit to attend four pre-travel and two post-travel academic sessions as well as develop a project that will expand their knowledge and be shared with the School community upon their return. Links to applications for the trips listed below can be found on our website: www.pennington.org/academics/upper-school/travel-opportunities

STUDENT EXCHANGES

Pennington School students can immerse themselves in the culture and daily life at one of our partner schools: St. Paul's School in Barcelona, St. Denis International School in Loches, PORGMUN School in Prague, or Verzló in Iceland (for Juniors only), all within English-speaking programs. Students may also choose from schools within the Round Square network. While on exchange, students are required to keep up with their Pennington academic work. Some exchanges also require reciprocal hosting, meaning students will need to host a student from the same school at a different time during the year

Dates: January 15 to February 15, 2025

Estimated cost: cost of a round-trip ticket to the destination; accommodations and meals are with host families at the selected location and all program fees are included.

Students eligible: Grades 8, 9, and 10, and Grade 11 (for a 10-day program only)

Applications due: October 30, 2024

Questions: Contact Dr. Castro

SPRING BREAK ACADEMIC TRIPS

Spring trip experiences are academic programs designed to help students learn new skills, deepen existing knowledge, and explore areas of interest. Created by teacher leaders in their fields, these programs require students to attend three academic sessions before the trip and one session afterward to present their findings to the school community.

The Heart of Europe: Music and Culture in Prague and Vienna

Experience the rich musical and artistic heritages of Prague and Vienna, cities that were once the seats of empires and whose cultural impact continues to resonate. Travelers will have a unique opportunity to be among the first high-school students to study in residence at Nelahozeves, a Renaissance-era castle on the Vltava River. Attend concerts at historic venues such as Prague's Rudolfinum and Vienna's Opera House, walk the steps of modernist writer Franz Kafka in Old Town Square, traverse the largest castle complex in the world, and experience cities that—from World Wars I and II to Soviet-era occupation and political revolution—have often been at the turbulent center of modern culture.

Dates: March 8-16 2025

Estimated cost: \$2950

Students eligible: Grades 9-12

Trip leaders: Mr. Aubry, Dr. Dolan, and Mrs. Cohen

Science Exploration in Iceland

Experience Iceland's stunning landscapes and culture. Students will engage in hands-on learning and gain authentic insights into geology, ecology, and environmental sustainability. This science-focused trip explores Iceland's unique geological wonders, distinctive ecosystems, and captivating natural phenomena. From volcanic formations to geothermal hot springs, students will also embrace diversity, appreciate community, and develop cultural competence through exposure to global perspectives.

Dates: March 8-16, 2025

Estimated cost: \$3200

Students eligible: Grades 9-12

Trip leaders: Ms. DeFelice, Dr. Mysliwicz, and Mr. Horsley

Applications due: October 10, 2024

PROGMUN CONFERENCE

PORGMUN is a student-led, non-profit Model United Nations conference held annually in Prague, organized by students from the PORGMUN schools. It simulates UN proceedings, allowing participants aged 14 to 20 to engage in diplomacy, improve communication skills, and expand their perspectives. Pennington Upper School students involved in Model UN activities are eligible to participate.

Location: Prague, Czech Republic

Dates: April 10-13, 2025

Questions: Contact Dr. Sisserson

LANGUAGE INTENSIVE IMMERSION EXPERIENCES

Immersion experiences are the most effective way to improve language proficiency. Pennington offers students the chance to travel, participate in these experiences, and have a faculty member oversee the group during their stay. Homestays may be a part of the program; if so, all homes are vetted in advance by Pennington School faculty members. A minimum of eight students is required to run each program. **Applications due:** February 15, 2025

French Immersion in Loches, France

Improve your French skills with a three-week summer immersion living and learning at St. Denis International School. You'll take 15 hours of French classes per week in small groups of 15. Lessons are led by dedicated summer staff and include hands-on activities like kayaking, swimming, cultural visits, and sports, making learning French both fun and engaging.

Dates: July 2025 (exact days TBD)

Estimated cost: \$3900 (includes round-trip ticket from NY or Philadelphia and French summer experience)

Students eligible: French students from any level

Spanish Immersion in Valencia, Spain

Learn Spanish in Valencia, Spain! Live with a host family, take daily classes, and experience the relaxed pace of life in Valencia while improving your Spanish skills. The program includes morning classes and various cultural activities and field trips in the afternoons.

Dates: July 2025 (exact days TBD)

Estimated cost: \$3900 (includes round-trip ticket from NY or Philadelphia and Spanish summer experience)

Students eligible: Spanish students from any level

German Immersion in Germany or Austria

Take advantage of a unique summer program combining German lessons in the mornings with cultural activities and fun outings in the afternoons and evenings. Focusing on both spoken and written output, classes use German as the primary language, creating an immersive environment for all participants. Designed to enhance language skills in German or English, this program also includes a wide range of cultural and social activities, making learning both effective and enjoyable.

Dates: July 2025 (exact days TBD)

Estimated cost: \$3900 (includes round-trip ticket from NY or Philadelphia and German summer experience)

Students eligible: German students from any level

MORE
^

Travel Opportunities for Experiential Learning

Links to applications for the trips listed below can be found on our website:

www.pennington.org/academics/upper-school/travel-opportunities

SUMMER EXPERIENCES

Service trip: Challenges and Opportunities

This June, join us for an immersive service opportunity right here in a local community in partnership with a local organization. You will engage in meaningful projects focused on sustainability, housing, and community well-being. This hands-on service will not only create a positive impact but also provide you with a deeper understanding of the community's unique identity. This experience offers a perfect blend of service and personal growth, right in our own backyard.

Dates: June 15-21 2025

Estimated cost: TBD

Students eligible: Students rising to Grades 10-12

Trip leader: Mrs. Cohen

Applications due: February 15, 2025

Credit class: Art I class in France

Art I: Drawing Foundations

A month-long course with one week in France!

This four-week summer class will delve into the techniques and conceptual understanding required to craft compelling compositions and convey a sense of depth on a two-dimensional surface. Students will have the opportunity to explore a range of drawing methods, including but not limited to gesture drawing, visual measurement, negative space analysis, chiaroscuro, black and white line engraving, and jigsaw. Throughout the course, students will cultivate valuable habits of mind such as perseverance, confidence in self-expression, craftsmanship, and critical thinking.

During the last week, this class will be going international! The Drawing Foundations students will travel together to the picturesque town of Loches, nestled in the heart of the enchanting Loire Valley, France. Here, amidst the backdrop of majestic chateaus, quaint communes, and verdant landscapes, the classroom will expand beyond four walls. Using the city of Loches as our art playground, we will also explore nearby cities such as Amboise, Tours, Angers, and Paris to explore amazing art museums and immerse ourselves in cultural experiences.

Previous art experience is not required for this class.

- Open to current Pennington School students only
- This class grants Art I credit for rising students in Grades 10,11, 12
- Rising Grade 9 students may receive a recommendation for Art II after successfully completing the class.

Dates: Mid-June to mid-July (exact days TBD)

Students eligible: Open to all students attending Pennington's Upper School in 2024-25

Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. while on campus at Pennington
Estimated cost: \$4,200 (Tuition, travel expenses, art supplies, and most meals are included.)

Location: (while in France): St Denis International School in Loches; students will be housed in school dormitories.

Instructor: Mr. Moore

Applications due: Students must submit an application and a 50% deposit by March 30. Final payment is due by May 30.

2025 Tar Heel and Palmetto College Tour

Sophomore year is a great time for students to start exploring college options. High school is a period of growth and decision-making, including the question: "What do I want to do with my life?" Visiting college campuses helps, but many students find it challenging to do so alone or feel overshadowed by their parents.

Our college exploration trip empowers students to take charge of their college search. With peers, they feel more comfortable asking questions and imagining themselves on campus. Beyond visits, we'll explore North and South Carolina's culture, enjoy local dining, and engage in community activities. Workshops on college essays, interview skills, and career exploration led by college staff are also included.

Dates: June 15-21, 2025

Estimated cost: \$1700

Students eligible: Any student rising to Grades 10, 11, or 12 in good academic and disciplinary standing.

Trip leaders: Mr. Materasso, Mrs. Zoll, and Mrs. Ward

Applications due: February 15, 2025

Adventures in the Klamath River

Experience the world's largest dam removal on the Klamath River in northern California, a landmark event revitalizing endangered salmon fisheries and supporting local communities, including the Yurok and Karuk Tribes. This trip offers a unique opportunity to explore the relationship between humans and nature, with direct engagement from environmental scientists. Students will learn how different forces shape the Earth's surface, understand how ecosystems work, and appreciate how various cultures connect with the environment. Discover the science, culture, and history behind this transformative moment in environmental conservation!

Dates: June 15-21, 2025

Estimated cost: \$2100

Students eligible: Students rising to Grades 10-12

Questions: Contact Dr. Castro

Applications due: February 15, 2025

STEM – Malawi Trip

Students will use their STEM skills to bring innovative solutions to low-resource communities in Malawi. This year, on our fourth trip to this region, students will continue to work on designing a water filter and a hybrid sanitary napkin, along with a supportive economic infrastructure, and they will also design a solar power phone charger. Students will engage in cultural and educational activities while executing their project work.

Dates: June – 10 days (exact days TBD)

Estimated cost: \$3,250

Students eligible: Open to all Upper School students who are working on at least one of the Malawi projects during this academic year.

Trip leader: Ms. Wirsig

