



# ESL

English  
as a second  
language

GRADES 8-10



St. Michaels  
University School



# At St. Michaels University School,

we believe that language should not be a barrier to any student who wants an outstanding education and the skills to excel at any university in the world. With that goal in mind, we offer a three-year English-as-a-second-language (ESL) boarding program starting in Grade 8.

## Overview

To be successful academically, students need to learn a more sophisticated level of English than the level they require for social interaction. There is an entire body of vocabulary and usage specific to subject areas like Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics that makes learning academic English a complex process. Research shows that it takes five to seven years of intensive English study to master academic English, compared to one to two years for social language learning.

### Success in academic English requires the following skills:

- using subject vocabulary appropriately;
- reading content textbooks with understanding;
- being able to describe, classify, evaluate, and sequence information;
- writing in a clear and well-organized way;
- understanding how to make choices or determine the principles of comparing and contrasting, or cause and effect; and
- being able to go beyond literal comprehension.



## SMUS Campus

Victoria's mild climate keeps our park-like campus green all year around and the excellent facilities provide our students with a safe and comfortable environment in which to learn and live.



## Our ESL Philosophy

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St. Michaels University School uses an approach that combines immersion with dedicated classes in English and Social Studies, allowing our students to tackle the rigorous academic curriculum with confidence.



## Our Approach to Learning

Our approach in teaching academic English skills is to immerse ESL learners with non-ESL students in subjects such as Math, Art, Music and Athletics, while providing a separate, sheltered environment for learning English and Social Studies, and in Grade 8, Science. The ESL classroom is staffed by specialist teachers who are dedicated to the success of their students, providing strong support in the classroom as well as one-on-one attention at lunch and after school. Our proven curriculum focuses not only on academic English, but on the cultural awareness and learning strategies students will need to develop their full potential.

By living as boarders on campus, ESL students have numerous opportunities to use English socially as well as academically. They can also count on the help and support of their boarding peers and house parents during evening prep.

By Grade 11, ESL students are fully integrated with their peers. Those who need additional help beyond the ESL program can take a transitional English class in Grade 11 and there is also an intensive writing class for all non-English speakers.

### Admissions

During the Admissions process, we ask prospective ESL students to take a language test if they have not already written a standardized test such as SSAT, IELTS, TOEFL or TOEFL Junior. Students are accepted into the program based on standard admissions criteria that evaluates the student's potential for success at our school based on their previous academic performance as well as their involvement in arts, athletics and leadership activities.

# Program Details

## Grade 8

Our ESL program begins at the Middle School, where students study English, Social Studies and Science together in a small, homogenous group, taught by a dedicated ESL specialist. For the rest of their subjects – Math, Art, Music, Physical Education, Career and Personal Planning, and Exploratory – ESL students are fully integrated in regular classes with their non-ESL peers.

The Grade 8 ESL English class is literature-based with an emphasis on reading and writing. The ESL Social Studies class uses the same content as the regular Social Studies class but places an emphasis on vocabulary development. ESL students also take a listening and speaking course that focuses on debating, public speaking, drama and recitations.

In addition to their in-class learning opportunities, ESL students also receive additional support from teachers at school and from boarding staff in residence.

## Grades 9 and 10

Starting in Grade 9, ESL students move to the Senior School where they are made more responsible for their own learning. For their transitional English and Social Studies courses, ESL students continue to have their own space – a large classroom in addition to language lab facilities and seminar/study rooms. For every other course, students are immersed in the regular Senior School curriculum.



## Sample Grade 9 & Grade 10 Day

### Grade 9

Beginner Japanese 9  
Home Form  
Social Studies 9  
Transitional  
Recess  
Science 9  
Lunch  
English 9 Transitional  
Mathematics 10 for Grade 9

### Grade 10

English 10 Transitional  
Home Form  
Mathematics 11  
for Grade 10  
Recess  
Spanish 10  
Lunch  
Social Studies 10  
Music 10: Concert Band

## Sample Grade 8 Day

Art 8  
ESL Science 8  
Recess  
ESL Social Studies 8  
Band 8  
Lunch  
Physical Education 8  
ESL English 8  
Mathematics 8





The goal of the English and Social Studies transitional courses are to provide ESL students with the learning strategies and in-depth skill development in reading, writing, listening, speaking, vocabulary and grammar that they will need to work successfully in North American academic settings. As in Grade 8, students receive lots of individual attention and support inside and outside the classroom, and in residence.



The ESL faculty work closely with the English and Social Studies departments to ensure that the material covered in transitional classes dovetails with the regular English and Social Studies curriculum so that they are prepared to join mainstream classes and function at a high level by Grade 11.

### **Grades 11 and 12**

By Grade 11, students are fully immersed in the St. Michaels University School program and planning for the next stage of their academic career at university.

For those who still need additional support in order to reach their full potential, there is an optional Grade 11 transitional English class, as well as an intensive writing class offered during lunch each term.

## **Beyond the Classroom**

Outdoor education opportunities – like kayaking among the spectacular islands of the West Coast – are also an important part of the SMUS curriculum.

# University Acceptances

The success of our ESL students in securing university acceptances and scholarships speaks volumes about the effectiveness of our program. Over the past four years, our ESL graduates have earned significant scholarships and averaged 4.5 university acceptances per student.

## After Graduation

Our university counselling program helps every student find the post-secondary opportunities that best match their interests and needs.

## Our Results

Our ESL students go on to prestigious universities around the world, where the skills they learned at St. Michaels University School support their future success.

Graduates of our ESL program have received acceptances from universities around the world:

### Canada

Camosun College  
Carleton University  
Emily Carr University of Art + Design  
Kwantlen College  
McGill University  
McMaster University  
Queen's University  
Ryerson University  
Simon Fraser University  
University of Alberta  
University of British Columbia  
University of British Columbia – Okanagan  
University of Guelph  
University of Ottawa  
University of Toronto  
University of Victoria  
University of Waterloo  
University of Western Ontario  
Wilfrid Laurier University  
York University

### USA

Bentley University  
Boston University  
Carnegie Mellon University  
College of William and Mary  
Cornell University  
Georgetown University  
Grinnell College  
Indiana University  
Johns Hopkins University  
Michigan State University  
New York University  
Northeastern University



**USA (continued)**

- Northwestern University
- Pacific Union College
- Parsons School of Design
- Pennsylvania State University
- Purdue University
- Rice University
- School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- Skidmore College
- Syracuse University
- University of California – Davis
- University of California – Irvine
- University of California – San Diego
- University of California – Santa Barbara
- University of California – Santa Cruz
- University of Chicago
- University of Delaware
- University of Denver
- University of Illinois
- University of Maryland
- University of Miami
- University of Michigan
- University of Nevada
- University of North Carolina
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Rochester
- University of San Francisco
- University of Southern California
- University of Washington
- University of Wisconsin
- University of Wisconsin – Madison
- Washington University in St. Louis

**International**

- Ecole Hotelier Lausanne
- Hong Kong University of Science & Technology
- Imperial College of London
- Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Occidente
- International Christian University
- Keio University
- King's College of London
- Les Roches
- Queen Mary, University of London
- Swiss Hotel Management School
- University College of London
- University of Essex
- University of Hong Kong
- University of Manchester
- University of Warwick
- Waseda University



# International Summer Programs for Youth (ISPY)

SMUS offers short-term summer ESL programs for students between the ages of 9 and 18 who want to work on their English-language skills.

The Academic and Cultural ESL program is for students with little or no English. In small class sizes, students improve their language skills while enjoying boarding life at SMUS and participating in Canadian cultural activities.

The more challenging Academic Preparation ESL program is for students aged 12 to 18 who have some English and want to improve their skills to the level required for acceptance into a BC secondary school like St. Michaels University School.

**Discover more online:**

[www.smus.ca/ispy](http://www.smus.ca/ispy)



# GO PLACES WITH SMUS

St. Michaels University School is a co-educational, independent day and boarding school or more than 900 students from kindergarten to Grade 12, preparing them for higher learning and for life. We are located in Canada, on the southernmost tip of Vancouver Island in the city of Victoria, the capital of British Columbia.

The St. Michaels University School academic curriculum is designed to meet the admissions standards of the best post-secondary institutions in Canada, the United States and abroad. Our international ESL program accepts approximately 40 students each year and provides an exceptional and integrated English-language education.



## For further information:

Paul Leslie  
Director of Admissions

St. Michaels University School  
3400 Richmond Road  
Victoria, BC, Canada V8P 4P5

Telephone 250-370-6170  
Toll Free in North America:  
1-800-661-5199

Email: [admissions@smus.ca](mailto:admissions@smus.ca)  
Visit us online: [www.smus.ca](http://www.smus.ca)



## St. Michaels University School

Outstanding preparation for higher learning and for life.