



# English Language Training in California

Programs and Courses for Adults

Since 1972



**SAN FRANCISCO**



**SAN DIEGO**



## ABOUT CISL

What CISL Offers

3

## COURSES

### General English Courses

Standard English Program	4
Intensive English Program	4
Private Lessons	4

### Afternoon Elective Courses

English in Use ( <i>San Francisco only</i> )	4
Conversational English ( <i>San Diego only</i> )	4
Business English	4
English for Academic Purposes (EAP)	6

### Exam Preparation Courses

Cambridge English Courses	5
TOEFL Preparation Course	5
IELTS Preparation Course ( <i>San Diego</i> )	5

### Academic Preparation

Academic Year Program	6
English for Academic Purposes (EAP)	6
CISL Pathway Program	7

### Career English Program

7

### Premier English Courses

Executive English ( <i>San Diego</i> )	8
Global Success ( <i>San Francisco</i> )	9

## LOCATIONS & SERVICES

San Diego	10
San Francisco	11
Activities	12
Accommodation	13
Additional Services	14

# Communicate with Confidence in English<sup>sm</sup>

In today's world, the ability to communicate effectively and with confidence in English is often necessary for professional and academic success. With 45 years of experience, Converse International School of Languages (CISL) is a leader in English language training.

Since 1972, motivated students from around the world have received rigorous English language training from CISL. The mission of CISL is to help our clients learn to communicate effectively and with confidence in English. Our experienced instructors help identify students' needs and challenge them every day to maximize their learning potential in a friendly, stimulating environment.

## CONVERSE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES:

- 45 years of teaching experience: CISL has been successfully teaching English to international students and professionals since 1972.
- Small classes and individual attention (maximum of four students for Premier programs and a maximum of eight students for all other programs)
- Modern schools located in exciting urban environments
- The CISL Interactive Teaching Method is used to facilitate communicating effectively and with confidence in English
- Levels from Basic to Advanced
- Motivated students from all over the world (diverse mix of nationalities)
- Accommodation placement options (homestays and student residences)



CISL is fully accredited by the Commission for English Language Accreditation (CEA), which is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and is the only specialized accrediting agency for English language programs in the United States.



# General English Courses

*Our integrated curriculum combines grammar, vocabulary, reading, writing, listening, and speaking instruction.*



## STANDARD ENGLISH COURSE

The goal of the Standard English Course is to help students use English with accuracy and confidence. Students improve their general English language skills and, just as importantly, they learn how to be better communicators, how to use English in different situations, how to interact with people from different cultures, and how to be better language learners.

• **20 lessons per week:**  
Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.

- Maximum 8 students per class
- Required level: CISL Basic (A1)

### Standard English Plus (FI only)

- Standard class plus self-study Study Hall class
- **21.8 lessons per week:**  
Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.  
Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (*San Diego*)  
Friday, 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (*San Francisco*)

## INTENSIVE ENGLISH PROGRAM

The CISL Intensive English Program gives students the opportunity to improve their general English skills in the morning and focus on specific content or skills in the afternoon. Students take the Standard English Course in the mornings and take the afternoon elective course of their choice.

- **Morning Course**  
Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.  
Standard English Course
- **Afternoon Elective Course Options**  
Monday – Thursday, 1:30 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.
  - English in Use (*San Francisco only*)
  - Conversational English (*San Diego only*)
  - Business English
  - English for Academic Purposes (EAP) (see page 6)



## PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons are based on the individual needs and goals of the student. Students may enroll solely in private lessons or add them to any other course (up to 30 per week)

- Schedule: based on student and instructor availability.
- No proficiency requirement
- One student per class

## AFTERNOON ELECTIVE COURSES

### English in Use (*San Francisco only*)

The goal of the English in Use Course is for students to become confident and fluent when using English in everyday situations.

Students in the English in Use Course are assigned a collaborative project to complete each week. Each collaborative project assignment is designed to give students the opportunity to put their English knowledge and skills into practice.

- **8 lessons per week:**  
Monday – Thursday, 1:30 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.
- Maximum 8 students per class
- Required level: CISL Basic (A1)

### Conversational English (*San Diego only*)

The goal of the Conversational English Course is for students to become confident and fluent when using English in everyday situations.

Students in the course focus on building vocabulary and perfecting pronunciation with lessons that emphasize useful vocabulary, targeted pronunciation practice, and conversational application. Students will be able to use English to express ideas, give opinions, participate in conversations and have discussions with their classmates.

- **8 lessons per week:**  
Monday – Thursday, 1:30 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.
- Maximum 8 students per class
- Required level: CISL Basic (A1)

### Business English Course

The goal of the Business English Course is for students to learn how to use English to communicate effectively in business settings. Students learn communication skills required in business settings, how to confidently discuss popular topics in business, and how to communicate with business people from other cultures with tact.

- **8 lessons per week:**  
Monday – Thursday, 1:30 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.
- Maximum 8 students per class
- Required level:  
San Francisco: CISL Low-Intermediate (A2)  
San Diego: CISL High-Intermediate (B2)

*Courses start every Monday. One lesson is 50 minutes. Minimum age is 18.*

# Exam Preparation Courses

*Exam Preparation courses at CISL are designed to prepare students for success on internationally-recognized English exams.*

MAXIMUM  
8 students  
per class

## CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ASSESSMENT

The CISL Cambridge English Exam Preparation Courses prepare students to take Cambridge English exams to receive certificates verifying their English proficiency. Over 20,000 universities, employers, and governments around the world accept Cambridge English exams.

CISL offers preparation courses for the Cambridge English: First (FCE) and Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE) in San Diego and San Francisco. CISL students can take the official FCE and CAE exams at the end of either course. The FCE and CAE Preparation Courses are offered in 9 and 11-week sessions.

Both CISL locations are authorized Cambridge English exam centres, and several members of the CISL staff are trained speaking examiners.

### Cambridge English: First (FCE)

- Required level: CISL Intermediate (B1)
- **20 lessons per week:**  
Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.
- **28 lessons per week (San Diego only):**  
Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 12:40 p.m. plus  
Monday – Thursday, 1:30 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.
- 9 or 11-week courses with several start dates each year

### Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE)

- Required level: CISL High-Intermediate (B2)
- **20 lessons per week:**  
Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.
- **28 lessons per week (San Diego only):**  
Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 12:40 p.m. plus  
Monday – Thursday, 1:30 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.
- 9 or 11-week courses with several start dates each year  
(8 week session San Diego, January)



Authorized Centre

*CISL SD and CISL SF are authorized Cambridge English Language Assessment centres*

*CISL San Diego: BEC, PET, FCE & CAE  
CISL San Francisco: FCE & CAE*

## TOEFL PREPARATION COURSE (Test of English as a Foreign Language)

The goal of the TOEFL Preparation Course is to prepare students to take the TOEFL iBT test by helping students build the skills necessary to successfully answer the questions and complete the tasks in the test, improve their general and academic English proficiency, and learn effective test-taking strategies.

The TOEFL is recognized by colleges, universities, and agencies in more than 130 countries around the world. Registration for the official exam must be done on the ETS website: [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org)

- Required level: CISL Intermediate (B1)
- **20 lessons per week:**  
Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.
- 6-week course (4 weeks in summer)  
Several start dates each year

## IELTS PREPARATION COURSE (San Diego only)

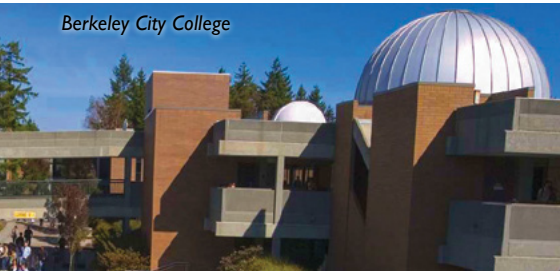
The IELTS Preparation Course focuses on preparing students to take the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exam by helping students improve their English proficiency as well as equipping them with effective test-taking strategies.

Students in the course will receive guided help in developing their academic skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing for taking the official IELTS exam.

- Required level: CISL Intermediate (B1)
- **20 lessons per week:**  
Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.
- 6 or 11-week course with several start dates each year

# Academic Preparation

*These unique programs prepare long-term, academic-focused students for success in English-speaking colleges and universities.*



Berkeley City College



Grossmont College

## ACADEMIC YEAR PROGRAM (AYP)

The Academic Year Program (AYP) gives students the opportunity to improve their general and academic English skills at CISL and then attend a semester at a college in California. It is popular with recent high school graduates taking a gap year and with students who want to attend an American university.

Ambitious students who want to experience American college life can appreciate the adventure of studying in a college in a new country with the support of CISL along the way. CISL helps students to prepare for their semester academically, personally, and linguistically. Before their first college semester, students have made CISL friends, honed their English skills, and received guidance from CISL staff. CISL students are able to enjoy their first American college experience without stress.

Students in the CISL Academic Year Program must study at least 16 weeks at CISL and enroll in one semester at a participating college. The specific CISL course plan depends on each student's language proficiency and goals, but most students take a combination of the following courses:

- **Morning Courses**  
Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.  
(Several course options available; contact school for details.)
- **Afternoon Elective Courses:**  
Monday – Thursday, 1:30 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.
  - English in Use  
*San Francisco only*
  - Conversational English  
*San Diego only*
  - English for Academic Purposes (EAP)  
(12 weeks)
- Required level: CISL Intermediate (B1)

## ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC PURPOSES (EAP)

The goal of the English for Academic Purposes (EAP) Course is to prepare students for college level coursework and academic writing. The course is divided into four three-week units; students can take one, two, three, or four units of the course. Students who successfully complete all four units of the EAP Course are eligible to participate in the CISL Pathway Program. (The CISL Pathway Program grants conditional acceptance to CISL students to universities and colleges partnered with CISL.).

This course is popular with students in the following programs:

- Academic Year Program (pg. 6)
- Pathway Program (pg. 7)
- Intensive English Program (pg. 4)

- **Course Schedule:**  
Monday – Thursday, 1:30 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.
- **Required level:** CISL High-Intermediate (B2)

“ I have been studying at CISL San Diego for 4 weeks....and at this time my English is improving very fast. Because there are not more than 8 students in the English classes, each student has enough time to ask questions and have conversation with the teacher.”

ÇAGIL, TURKEY



## CISL PATHWAY PROGRAM

The CISL Pathway Program offers international students the chance to study and obtain a degree at a U.S. college or university. This program is open to all CISL students who have completed the equivalent of a U.S. high school education and at least 12 weeks of a CISL morning class plus the 12-week CISL English for Academic Purposes (EAP) course. The CISL Pathway Program provides students access to its Pathway partners (oftentimes securing the student admission without submitting English proficiency exam scores, such as TOEFL or IELTS) but students must still apply for admission to the college or university. For a list of participating colleges and universities, see the box to the right.



New York Film Academy



Santa Monica College

### Some of our Partner Schools Include:

Alliant International University  
(multiple cities in California)

American Aviation Academy  
(San Diego, California)

California College of the Arts  
(Oakland and San Francisco, California)

El Camino College (Los Angeles, California)

Fisher College (Boston, Massachusetts)

Full Sail University (Orange County, Florida)

Indiana Institute of Technology  
(Fort Wayne, Indiana)

Lincoln University (Oakland, California)

Los Angeles Film School (Los Angeles, California)

Palomar College (San Marcos, California)

Peralta Community College District:

Berkeley City College (Berkeley, California)

College of Alameda (Alameda, California)

Laney College (Oakland, California)

Merritt College (Oakland, California)

New York Film Academy (New York City,  
New York and Los Angeles, California)

Santa Rosa Junior College (Santa Rosa, California)

Santa Barbara City College (Santa Barbara, California)

Santa Monica College (Santa Monica, California)

Seattle Central Community College  
(Seattle, Washington)

Southwestern Oregon Community College  
(Coos Bay, Oregon)

University of Houston-Victoria (Victoria, Texas)

Whatcom Community College  
(Bellingham, Washington)

Contact the school or visit our website: [cisl.edu](http://cisl.edu) for a frequently updated list of partner schools.

# Career English Program

*Our Career English Program gives students the opportunity to improve their English in a real-life working environment while developing relationships with American colleagues.*

Career English Program positions are unpaid and are focused on improving the student's English skills. This is not a job training program. Placement is subject to a successful interview. Students provide their top three choices of desired fields and should have prior education or experience in those fields. Specific fields/positions are not guaranteed.

### Program Requirements

- Minimum English proficiency level of CISL High-Intermediate (B2)
- At least one year of experience or education in the requested field

### The Career English program includes:

- English proficiency/needs assessment via Skype prior to arrival
- Supervision by the CISL Career English Coordinator
- An official letter of recommendation upon successful completion of the course
- Certificate of completion showing company's name



*Note: Placement between December 15 and January 15 is limited.*



# Premier English

English Language Training for Executives, Professionals  
and Ambitious Learners



“An opportunity to communicate with interesting business people, including the teacher.”

CONSTANTINE, RUSSIA

## EXECUTIVE ENGLISH PROGRAM - SAN DIEGO

The Executive English Program is designed for motivated students and business professionals who want to focus on the skills needed to effectively conduct business in English. The classes are very small; students can enroll in either group classes with 4 students maximum or private lessons in order to benefit from the highest level of attention and involvement in the class activities.

Courses are designed to address a variety of real-life business situations, as well as each student's specific needs and goals. The committed instructors are experienced in both English as a Second Language education and the business world, and will challenge and guide the students through this rigorous program. Students with English levels elementary to advanced are accepted.

- Improve writing skills for business reports and correspondence
- Gain confidence in giving presentations, conducting meetings, and handling negotiations
- Increase business and industry-based vocabulary
- Discuss topics such as finance, leadership, conflict management and problem-solving, and then put that knowledge into practice

- Learn useful tips for communicating more effectively in the business environment
- Benefit from a challenging curriculum and assignments

### Course Options and Schedules:

#### EXECUTIVE ENGLISH

Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.

#### EXECUTIVE ENGLISH PLUS

Includes: morning Executive English Course + Afternoon Elective and/or Private Lessons

- **Aviation English**  
Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:40 p.m.
- **English for Engineering**  
Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:40 p.m.
- **Afternoon Elective Options:**  
Monday – Thursday 1:30 p.m.- 3:10 p.m.
  - Business English (pg. 4)
  - Conversational English (pg.4)
  - English for Academic Purposes (EAP) (pg. 6)
- **Private lessons** can be added to any of the above options (for example, Executive English+ Business English + 5 private lessons/week). Each lesson is 50 minutes.

\* Morning classes have a maximum of 4 students per class. Afternoon group classes have a maximum of 8 students per class.





## GLOBAL SUCCESS ENGLISH PROGRAM - SAN FRANCISCO

The Global Success Course is designed for ambitious learners, executives, and professionals who want to be successful in the global economy. The Global Success Course curriculum is based on the needs and goals of the students currently in each class (there is a maximum of only four students per class), so students can gain the English skills they need quickly.

A key component of the course is goal setting. Students make language goals each week, and the course objectives and student learning outcomes are based on these weekly goals and the teacher's assessment of the students' needs. Every Monday, students set goals, then the instructor creates student learning outcomes that describe what the students will be able to do by the end of the week and delivers lessons on those topics. At the end of the week, students are assessed and receive written feedback from their teacher on their progress, participation, strengths, and weaknesses.

This program gives students opportunities to increase their confidence in English communication with:

- Weekly mini-presentations which are recorded each week so that students can see evidence of their progress
- Daily student-led class discussions on current events
- Weekly goal setting and reflection
- Personal, in-depth teacher feedback

### Course Options and Schedules:

#### GLOBAL SUCCESS

Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 12:40 p.m.

#### GLOBAL SUCCESS PLUS

Includes: morning Global Success Course + Afternoon Elective and/or Private Lessons

- **Afternoon Elective Options:**  
Monday – Thursday 1:30 p.m. - 3:10 p.m.
  - Business English (pg. 4)
  - English in Use (pg.4)
  - English for Academic Purposes (EAP) (pg. 6)
- **Private lessons** can be added to any of the above options (for example, Global Success + Business English + 5 private lessons/week). Each lesson is 50 minutes.

*\* Morning classes have a maximum of 4 students per class. Afternoon group classes have a maximum of 8 students per class.*



“ Every class I have to talk about something. First it was difficult for me to speak English, but now I have confidence to speak English. I like everything at CISL San Francisco.”

ISHIKAWA, JAPAN

“ My English lessons at CISL were really good, challenging, and helpful. I also loved the city of San Diego, and the school's location is right in the heart of the city! ”

MICHAELA, ITALY

# San Diego, California

*Come discover why San Diego is one of the most desirable cities in the world!*

With its wonderful climate, sunny skies, and beautiful beaches, islands, and peninsulas, this modern, safe, and clean city attracts people from all over the world. San Diego's warm weather allows its residents to enjoy outdoor sports, such as golf, tennis, and sailing, year-round.

The CISL San Diego campus is conveniently located in the city center near public transportation. Just a short walk from the school is picturesque San Diego Bay. Stroll along the Embarcadero and enjoy the view of beautiful Coronado Island. Our school is only a short walk to the Horton Plaza shopping district, the historic Gaslamp Quarter, and the new baseball stadium. Balboa Park and the world famous San Diego Zoo are also nearby.





# San Francisco, California

*Spend one day in San Francisco and you will see why it is considered one of the most beautiful and exciting cities in the world!*

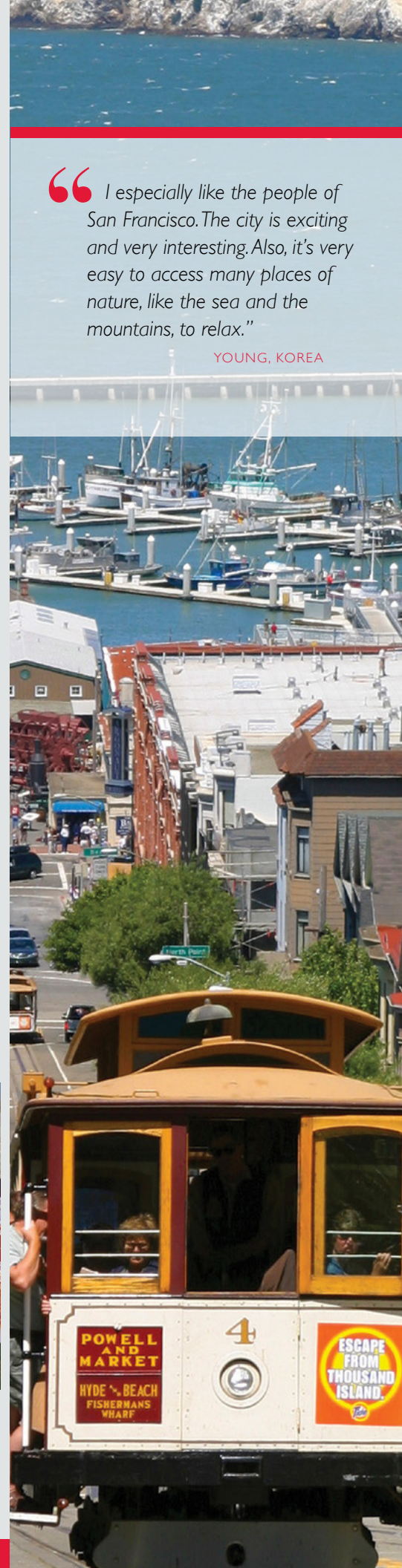
San Francisco is one of the most interesting and diverse cities in the world, full of vibrant neighborhoods and wonderful people from many different cultures and backgrounds. Its famous hills, the Golden Gate Bridge, the beautiful coast, and a mix of charming Victorian and modern architecture are only a few of San Francisco's many attractions.

CISL San Francisco is on the two top floors of a historic building downtown. On our large roof deck, you can enjoy views of the city, have lunch, do your homework, or just relax. Shopping and entertainment choices are only a couple of blocks away in the Union Square area. The school is just across the street from the Montgomery public transportation station.

On the weekends, students can enjoy hiking in scenic Yosemite National Park, skiing at Lake Tahoe, wine tasting in the famous Napa Valley, or driving along the spectacular coast. CISL staff are happy to help students arrange these excursions. Students can visit Golden Gate Park or a variety of museums, take a ride on a cable car, stroll along the piers, or attend one of the many musical and cultural festivals in the area.

“ I especially like the people of San Francisco. The city is exciting and very interesting. Also, it's very easy to access many places of nature, like the sea and the mountains, to relax.”

YOUNG, KOREA





# Activities

*Socializing and immersing oneself in a new culture are two important parts of the Converse International School of Languages total learning experience.*



Interesting weekend excursion destinations include:

*Las Vegas*

*Grand Canyon*

*Hollywood*

*Disneyland*

*Yosemite National Park*

*The World Famous San Diego Zoo*

*Monterey/Carmel/Big Sur*

*Sausalito/Muir Woods*

*Napa and Sonoma Wine Country*

*Lake Tahoe*

We encourage our students to make friends and practice their English while participating in activities and social excursions, which is why both of the CISL campuses have an Activities Coordinator available at school every day to answer student questions and help them plan their adventures. We offer many after-school and weekend activities for our students.

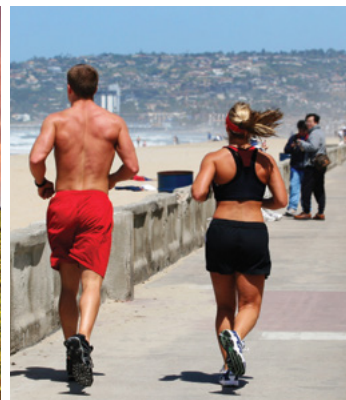
## ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Afternoon activities\*
- Cultural activities
- Sports activities
- Weekend excursions
- Volunteer activities

\* Visit [cisl.edu](http://cisl.edu) to download the monthly activity calendars.

“It was always my dream to go surfing. Finally, I was able to learn. I made many friends.”

DANIEL, VENEZUELA



# Accommodation

*We offer our students several housing options to help them find the accommodation that best suits their needs.*

Students can choose to immerse themselves in daily American life by living with a host family, or they can choose to be more independent and live in a student residence club, apartment, or hotel.

## Homestay

- Develop a relationship with an American family
- Meal options: breakfast and dinner or breakfast only
- Private room

## Residence Clubs

- Live with other students
- Private or shared rooms and bathrooms

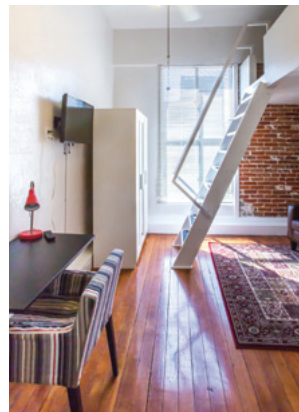
## Hotels\*

- High level of comfort

\* Hotels must be booked directly, not through CISL.

## Executive Accommodation (San Diego Only)

We offer a variety of executive style, fully-equipped studios and one or two bedroom apartments with amenities such as fitness centers, swimming pools, etc. within walking distance of the school.



“ My homestay family is lovely. The school is centrally located. I have met a lot of new friends and the teachers are very helpful. I like San Diego very much. I am happy to be here!”

NADIA, SWITZERLAND







Lombard Street, San Francisco



San Diego Public Library

# Additional Services

## STUDENT VISA ADVISING

CISL is authorized by the United States Immigration Service to issue the Form I-20. Students will need this form to apply for a student visa. Our admission advisors will be happy to answer questions regarding student visa requirements. More information is available on our website: [cisl.edu](http://cisl.edu)

## AIRPORT TRANSFER

CISL can arrange transfers to and from the airport. Students will be greeted by a professional driver and taken to their residence. In San Diego, if a student has reserved a host family accommodation and is arriving on the weekend during specified hours, the host family will pick up the student from the airport at no additional cost.

## INFORMATION

A Client Services Coordinator is available at the school to answer student questions about shopping, local activities and events, weekend travel, nightlife, local customs, medical service, etc.

“ I started to understand much better than before and I feel more confident in English now. It was one of the best and practical learning in my life.”

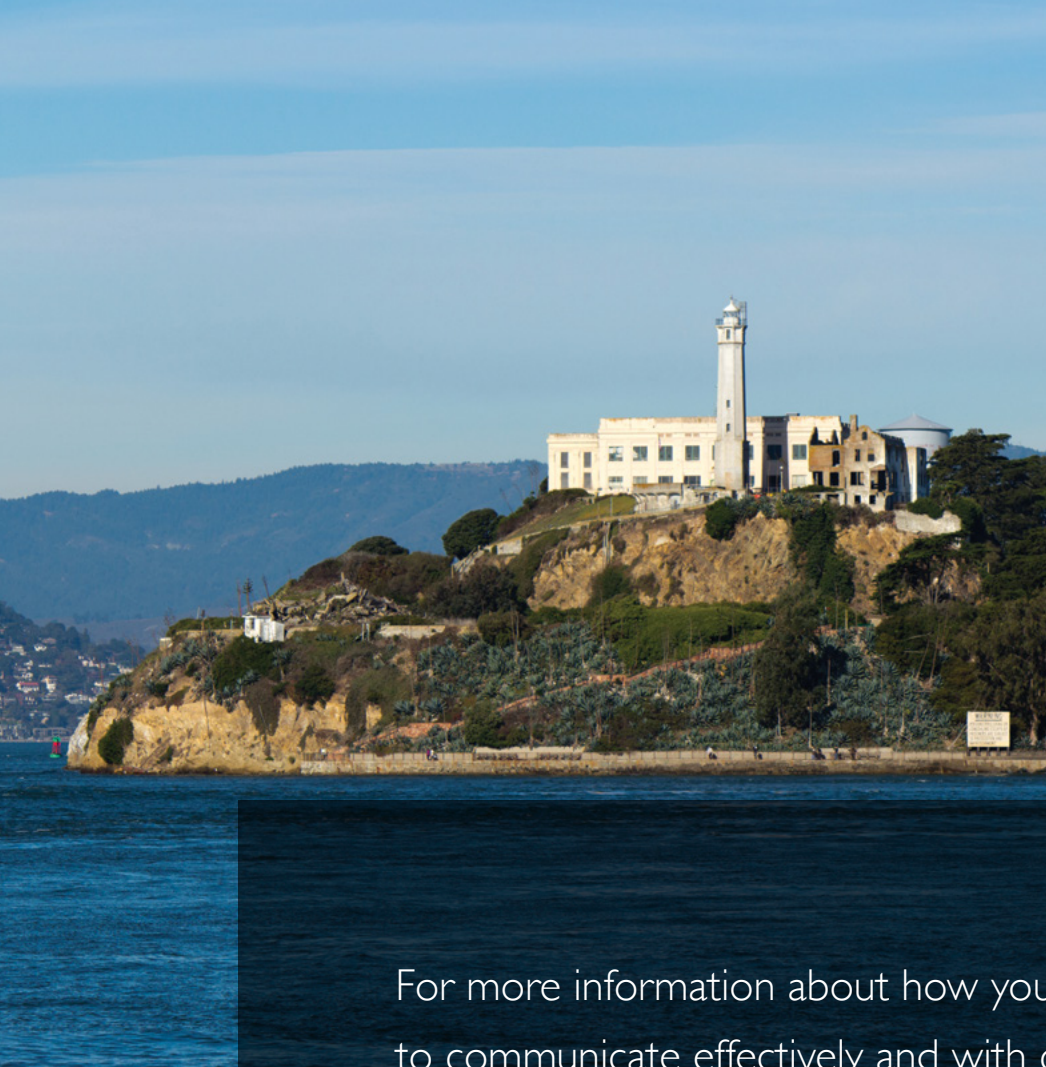
TATIANA, RUSSIA



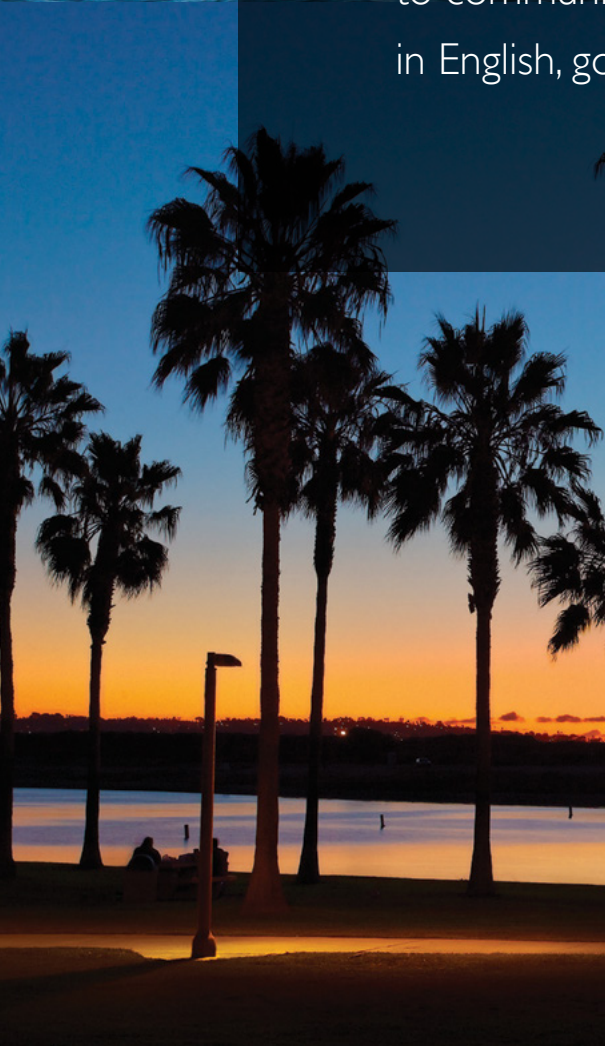
San Diego Trolley







For more information about how you can learn to communicate effectively and with confidence in English, go to [cisl.edu](https://www.cisl.edu)







Converse International School of Languages  
[cisl.edu](http://cisl.edu)

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*The mission of Converse International School of Languages is to help our clients learn to communicate effectively and with confidence in English.*