



ASHLEY HALL

FOUNDED 1909

2021

Summer English Language Institute (SELI)

July 20-31, 2021

For Girls, Ages 13 to 18



Study in Charleston this Summer!

Join other international students for an immersive language experience in one of the most beautiful and historic cities in the United States, Charleston, South Carolina. The students will live in Ashley Hall's Elizabeth Rivers Lewine '54 House for Global Studies, a stately historic Charleston home located in the heart of the historic district and enjoy all the city has to offer.



Ashley Hall at a Glance

Ashley Hall's beautiful campus is located in historic Charleston, South Carolina, one of the most friendly and safest cities in the U.S. It is also one of the most popular, having recently been named the number one travel destination in the U.S. by *Conde Naste Traveler* for ten years in a row and *Travel + Leisure's* best city in the U.S. for the eighth consecutive year. *Architectural Digest* has designated Ashley Hall as South Carolina's most beautiful private school.



SELI students reside in the Elizabeth Rivers Lewine '54 House for Global Studies, a renovated historic mansion complete with a pool and large porches just across the street from the main campus. The program combines the comfort of living in a home environment with the added dimension of intercultural interactions and dialogues with American students.

Ashley Hall's downtown Charleston location is close to cultural and historical sites, shopping, and restaurants that provide a variety of weekend activities. Ashley Hall fosters strong community partnerships with The Medical University of South Carolina and the College of Charleston, both located only a few blocks from campus.



ITINERARY FOR THE

Summer Program

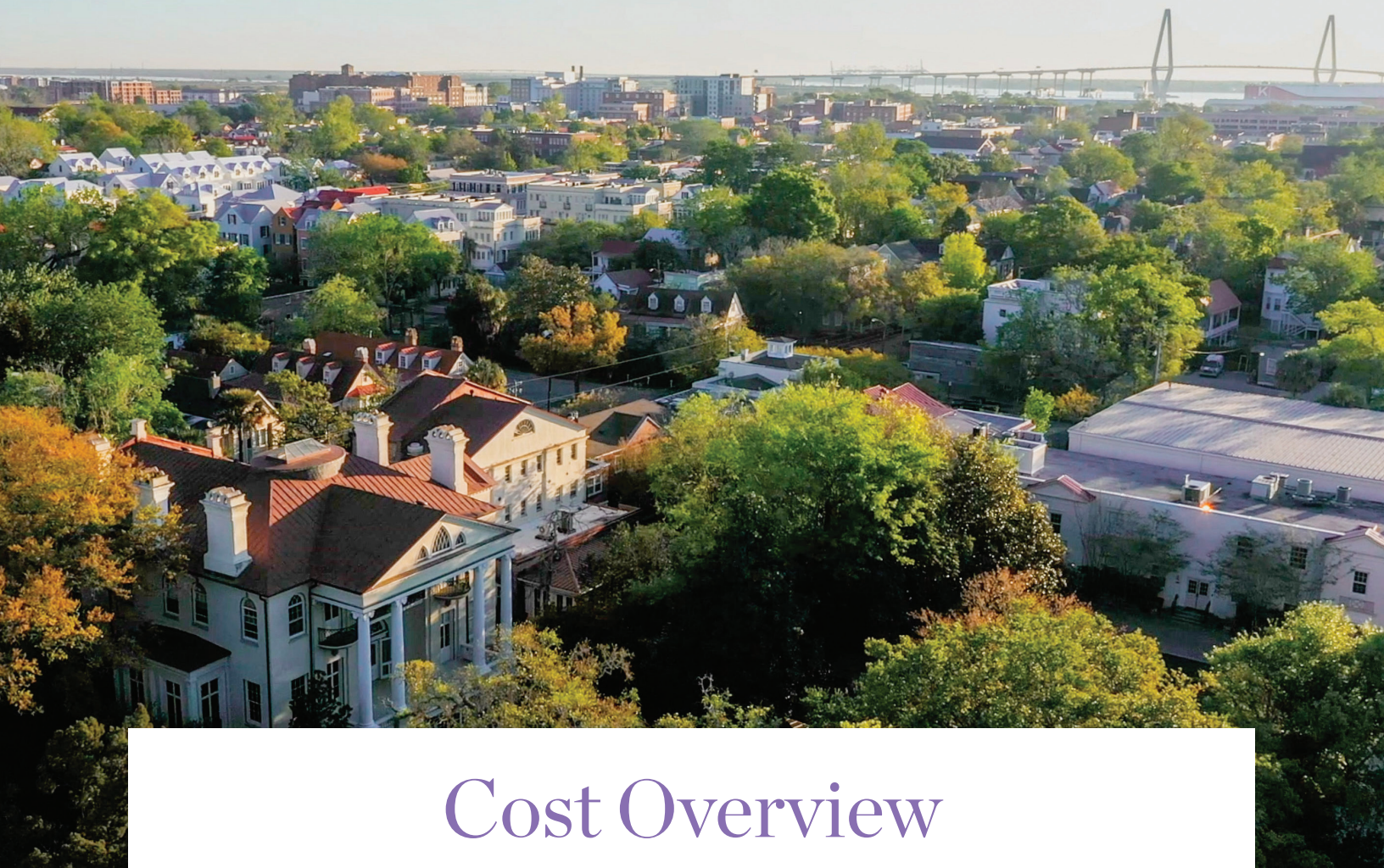
Veteran Ashley Hall administrators, faculty, and staff manage the summer session, and American Ashley Hall students live together with the SELI students and assist in all areas. The curricular theme is “Careers of Women,” and in addition to daily classes on the subject, students have the opportunity to visit various local businesses and meet successful women in different industries.

All English proficiency levels are welcome.

FEATURES AND ACTIVITIES (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

- Daily classes taught by Ashley Hall faculty
- Rooming with Ashley Hall Upper School students (Global Ambassadors) who act as mentors, teachers, and friends
- Visits to local businesses (Boeing, Volvo, major magazine publisher, city courthouse and judge chambers, and much more)
- Panel sessions with prominent female leaders in Charleston (judges, doctors, lawyers, restaurant owners, computer specialists, and more)
- Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) by certified faculty
- Historic church visits
- Professional baseball game
- Farmers Market visits
- Historic plantation visits
- Beach outings and access to campus pool
- American home visits
- Guided historic tours of Charleston
- Outdoor experiences
- Musical concerts





Cost Overview

TUITION: \$2,300

INCLUDED: The program includes all meals, lodging, activities, transportation (including to and from airport), and one Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI). Students are asked to bring some extra spending money for additional food and personal shopping.

NOT INCLUDED: Air travel is not included.

Health insurance is not included in tuition but must be obtained through Ashley Hall for an additional \$170 or through a US based private insurance company. See application for more details.

TO APPLY

Please contact Jeff Dionne, Director of Global Studies and Director of Summer English Language Institute (SELI), via our representative at info@USAcademic.hk or (+852) 6828-7378



The Language of Connection: Summer English Language Institute

BY JENNIFER TURNER, EDITOR & INSTITUTIONAL WRITER
EXCERPTED FROM THE FALL 2018 ISSUE OF *PERSPECTIVES*

For two weeks each summer, international students travel to Ashley Hall's campus to participate in the immersive Summer English Language Institute (SELI), and the resulting exchange of culture and friendship creates a language all its own.

Now in its fifth year, SELI offers not only international students a chance to study English in Charleston, but also current Ashley Hall students the opportunity to serve as Global Ambassadors and to assume leadership roles. Staying for two weeks in Ashley Hall's Elizabeth Rivers Lewine '54 House for Global Studies, international students and Global Ambassadors room together and build lasting friendships over late night conversations often interrupted with impromptu dance parties. "It is most satisfying when someone has an 'Aha' moment and gets it, and you were part of that," said Catherine Dixon '19, who has served as a Global Ambassador for the last three summers. "We have a nail painting party and do other little fun things to bond." International students even visit the homes of Global Ambassadors to experience American family life. Fostering close connections between the girls is paramount to building a comfortable and welcoming learning environment.

Moreover, faculty members make a point of connecting with the international students to establish rapport and create enriching activities. For example, all international students participate in a nearly hour-long Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI), which measures their proficiency in English with a formal skill rating. Faculty members are sensitive to the fact that such an interview might make some students nervous. "During the OPI, we establish the floor of their abilities and then push to get to the ceiling and find out where they struggle," said Upper School faculty member Sarah Margaret Decker, who is the Associate Director of SELI.



One way SELI helps international students with their English proficiency is through a curriculum that emphasizes the contributions of women in business and industry. "We are teaching English through the lens of women in these different conversations and examining the issues and challenges they face in their professional lives," noted Decker. "These girls are so capable individually, and our program empowers them to dream big."

This summer, academic classes and field trips to meet United States Magistrate Judge Mary Gordon Baker '77 and women leaders at Boeing bolstered the program's focus on strong women, as did a panel discussion with local female professionals who gave students insight into the factors that influence success and what to study academically to enter a specific career field. "The international students worked very hard to prepare for the panel," said Global Ambassador Margaret Quinn '19. "Although they were nervous, they asked all of their questions in English and were so inspired by the women presenters." By introducing international students to the success stories of high profile women, SELI's English language curriculum is both unique and highly effective. "American people are very kind and friendly," said international student Haruna Ishikawa. "The women are very strong."

At the end of the program's two weeks, the highlights and successes were many, but the centerpiece remained the special cross-cultural friendships. "I strongly believe that some of the most compelling and lasting learning takes place through peer interaction, and having the Global Ambassadors present throughout is very powerful for all students involved," emphasized Director of Global Studies Jeff Dionne, who serves as the Executive Director of SELI. It is that power of connection that ensures friendship is never lost in translation.

BOARDING RESIDENCE SPOTLIGHT:

The Elizabeth Rivers Lewine '54 House for Global Studies

179 Rutledge Avenue | Constructed 1876 | Renovated Fall 2016

BY BETSY KIRKLAND CAHILL '79, CHAIR OF PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF CHARLESTON BOARD
EXCERPTED FROM THE SPRING 2019 ISSUE OF *PERSPECTIVES*

The Elizabeth Rivers Lewine '54 House for Global Studies, or simply the “Elizabeth House,” is an exceptionally lovely Italianate mansion opened in 2014 after a renovation that was both respectful of the house’s architectural integrity and creative in its use of space. The fourteen-foot ceilings were impeccably restored, the nine exquisite fireplaces retain their ornate decoration, now repaired and cleaned, and the restored piazza overlooks a simple boxwood garden.

The Elizabeth House is not a dormant architectural showpiece. Rather, it houses a flourishing International Boarding Program that advances the School’s goal of providing its students with truly global perspectives. The architects, Evans & Schmidt of Charleston, designed practical modern spaces that coexist with this beauty and make the boarding program possible. Today, international girls living at the Elizabeth House enjoy the spacious dorm rooms upstairs.

Some classes are held in the dining room, where Ashley Hall girls sit around an oversized Harkness™ table – the hallmark of the discussion-based, student-led classroom model that allows Upper School students to hone their debating and critical thinking skills. The Elizabeth House at 179 Rutledge Avenue is another salutary melding of architecture and program, form and function.





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