



SA International Student Program 2026-2027 Information Packet

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in Salem Academy!

Salem Academy is a small, friendly, top-rated school located in the city of Salem (population 170,000), the capital of Oregon. Our high school has an enrollment of approximately 216 students, including 10 international students from Korea, China, Vietnamese, Thailand and Japan.

Salem Academy is fully accredited by **Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC)** and is a member of the **Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)**. SA meets all requirements for graduation set by the **Oregon State Department of Education**. 95% of our graduates go on to enroll in a college or university.

Please read carefully through all of the information in this packet including the tuition/fees, entrance requirements, keys to success, ISP guidelines and expectations, and more. If Salem Academy looks like the right school for you, please download an **ISP Application Form**.

If you do decide to come to Salem Academy Christian, I believe you will have a wonderful international experience as you:

- Earn** an excellent education,
- Learn** English,
- Make** friends,
- Experience** America, and
- Discover** God's plan for your life.

I am confident that your life will be enriched in many ways. If you have any questions, please feel free to write to me or email me. I am eager to help you!

Sincerely,

Tomiko Doten

International Student Program (ISP) Coordinator, Salem Academy
tdoten@salemacademy.org

942 Lancaster Dr. NE, Salem, Oregon 97301
(503) 378-1211 * Fax: (503) 375-3522
www.salemacademy.org *



Admission Processes

Application

- Download and complete the *ISP Application* and submit with all required information pieces along with the *\$100 Application Fee*.



Note: Salem Academy recommends the use of *Flywire*. However, if you choose to wire the deposit, email the wire transfer verification information to ispprog@salemacademy.org.

Interview

- Once the application and supporting documents have been received, you will be contacted for a Zoom or WeChat interview.



Acceptance & VISA

- Salem Academy will provide an *Acceptance Letter* for you to take to the embassy.
- A *\$1,700 Deposit* will then need to be submitted to Salem Academy. (This amount will be credited toward the balance or refunded if the student is not granted a visa).
- Once the deposit is received, a **Form I-20**, "Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant (F-1) Student" will be issued. The Form I-20 is **essential** to obtaining a visa.
- After receiving the I-20, you will need to pay a **Form I-901 Fee** (\$350) directly to the U.S. government. Visit the U.S. government website and complete a *Form I-901*. Visit this site for instructions: <https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/>
 - ⇒ After you make the Form I-901 payment, **make sure you print out your RECEIPT**
- Make an appointment with the closest U.S. Embassy/Consulate for a *Student Visa Interview*. You will need to take all the necessary documents (Be sure to ask the embassy if other documents are required):



Passport
I-20, "Certificate of Eligibility"
I-901 Payment Receipt
Letter of Acceptance
Letter to the U.S. Embassy
Financial Bank Statement



At the interview, **just relax and try not to be too nervous**. Smile and be friendly! We hope you are successful in obtaining a visa and are able to come to Salem Academy. **We will be praying for you!**

- Notify SA with the interview date.
- At the visa interview, you will need to meet certain criteria:
 - Sufficient English proficiency
 - Sufficient funds to cover expenses
 - Adequate proof you will pursue academic studies
 - Adequate proof that you will return to your home country upon completion of studies.
- After your visa application and interview, email SA (isp@salemacademy.org) and let us know the results! If VISA has been approved, **full tuition balance payment is due by July 1**.



NOTE: Salem Academy recommends the use of *Flywire*. However, if you choose to wire the deposit, please include an additional **\$30 for wire transfer fees** & email the wire transfer verification information to ispprog@salemacademy.org.

Financial Information 2026-27

***Application Fee \$100. This fee needs to be sent with the application. ***

Total Tuition/Fees

NEW STUDENT

\$27,195 (U.S.)

RETURNING STUDENT

All Students: \$25,275 (U.S.)

Discount Opportunities

Any applicable discounts will be **determined by Salem Academy prior to enrollment. For multi-year students, discounts will be **reviewed annually**.*

DISCOUNT FOR 1-YEAR STUDENTS: Students interested in attending for 1-year cultural exchange **AND** fluent in English.

DISCOUNT FOR RETURNING STUDENTS: After the first year at Salem Academy based on level of support required.



Financial Overview

Tuition All Grades: *For one school year**

Includes the following fees: tuition, host family, orientation, registration, student fees, ISP administration, college prep, and support.

Additional Fees:

- **New Students Only:**
Application Fee **\$100 (U.S.)**

Host Family Fee: \$7,500 (U.S.) **For one school year**



Payment Deadlines

Deposit Fee - \$1,700

- * **New Student:** Once a student is accepted, a \$1,700 deposit is required **before** a Form I-20 will be processed. This amount will be credited toward the balance (or refunded if student is not granted a visa).
- * **Returning Student:** This amount reserves the student's place and allows a class schedule to be created. The amount will be credited toward their balance.

Tuition/Fees, - July 1. Students may not attend orientation or begin classes until all fees have been paid. Late fees will apply after July 1.

Refunds: If a student does not arrive and begin attendance, all tuition/fees (except the application fee and \$1,700 deposit) will be refunded. If a student leaves for any reason after the start of the orientation, only the unused portion of the Host Family Fee will be refunded.



OTHER POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL FEES: (These fees are subject to change)

Student Insurance	\$650-\$750 depending on plan selected
Salem City Bus Fare	\$30 for a one month bus pass
Sports Fee	\$175 - \$275 each sport
Special class Fees (Art, Foods, Band, Choir, etc.)	approximately \$30 - \$60
Personal Expenses	\$100- \$150/month

The above financial information is subject to change.

If you have any questions, please contact the ISP Coordinator by email: isp@salemacademy.org.

Academic Information

Along with your academic records, your **English proficiency** will be a major factor in determining your *grade level* and the *classes* you will be assigned. You will be tested and placed in the appropriate grade level & classes during the required **two-week ISP Orientation** prior to the start of school.

All of your classes will be in English. To be successful, your English proficiency level needs to be high.

Graduation Requirements

You will need to earn a **minimum of 24 credits** (plus one credit of Bible each year) to graduate. Most students take 7-8 credits a year.

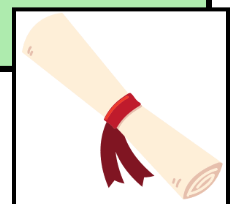
If you do not have enough credits to graduate, you may either be required to extend for another school year or take required courses online.

To graduate from high school, students need to earn the following credits (each full-year class [September to June] earns one credit):

Math	3
Social Studies	3.5
Science	3
English	4
Physical Ed.	1
Health	1
Foreign Language	2
Applied/Fine Arts	2
Electives	5
TOTAL	<u>24.5</u>
<i>Plus: Bible</i>	1 each year while at SA



To enter a 4 year college, we recommend 4 science credits and 4 math credits. Salem Academy offers courses in math, science, social studies, computer science, music, physical education, art, fine arts (choir, band, & drama), and language arts (i.e. Spanish, Japanese). We also offer advanced placement and honor classes in science, math, social studies, & English. We have an extensive sports program for the major sports: football, volleyball, basketball, baseball, softball, cross country, track & field, swimming, soccer and golf.



Typical Four-Year Class Schedule

This is a typical four-year schedule. Your individual plan may be different.
Your individual class schedule will be finalized during the ISP Orientation.

24 credits (plus 1 Bible credit each year while at SAC) are required to graduate. **10 hours per year of community service** are also required. Classes in **Bold** are required.

Grade 9: Freshman Year

English I*
(grammar & composition)
Physical Science
Physical Education (PE)#
Math (Algebra I)
Bible*
Speech/Geography
(1 semester each)
1 Electives

Grade 10: Sophomore Year

English II*
(Grammar & Composition)
Biology * or Chemistry *
Math (Geometry)
Health
Bible *
World History *
2 Electives

Grade 11: Junior Year

English III
(American Literature)
Science
(Chemistry, Physics, Adv. Biology)
U.S. History
Math (Algebra II)
Bible
3 Electives

Grade 12: Senior Year

English IV
(British Literature)
Government/Economics (Social Science)
Bible
5 Electives



*ESL designation is available for first year ISP students.

Can be taken any year



Entrance Requirements

In considering applicants for admission, the following items are important:

English Proficiency

- Applicants will need to take the TOEFL Jr., IELTS, or ELTIS test and submit those results to Salem Academy. Test results will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Academic Competence and Emotional Maturity

- Students need to provide adequate assurance that they are ready to face and experience the demands of living and studying in **the American culture** in the **English language**. This will be accomplished by the following means:
 - Recommendations by three school officials
 - Transcripts (grade records)
 - The student's application form and questionnaires
 - TOEFL Jr./IELTS/ELTIS test score
 - Zoom or WeChat Interview
- Students who apply to Salem Academy need to be well adjusted in their own society and willing to make cultural adjustments.

A Record of Success in the Student's Own Educational System

- Students need to have been adequately successful in their own school experience. Students who find it difficult to cope in their own cultural system will also most likely experience difficulty at Salem Academy. Students need to have demonstrated that they desire to study hard and to focus on learning English, doing their best in classes, and making American friends.

Full Understanding and Acceptance of Salem Academy's Guidelines (see page 9-11)

- Students need to thoroughly **read, understand, and agree to abide by all** of the guidelines regarding academics and behavior. The entire application form should be carefully read and the appropriate forms need to be signed. You may need to obtain the help of someone who is fluent in English.



SA Articles of Faith

Salem Academy Mission Statement:

“Salem Academy exists to provide an excellent education from a Christ-centered, biblical perspective, so that students might know and serve God.”

Salem Academy, as a **private Christian school**, exists to provide the spiritual, as well as the mental, physical, and social growth of our youth. As a Christian school, Salem Academy has a specific philosophy of education which is rooted in its Articles of Faith. The foundation for the Articles of Faith is the Bible. Salem Academy is an interdenominational school (representing many churches, such as Baptist, Nazarene, Presbyterian, Free Methodist, Quaker, Alliance, etc.) of the **evangelical, protestant tradition**.

Please read the Articles of Faith. During the application process you will be asked to sign that you will allow your student to receive instruction based on Salem Academy's Articles of Faith. **Your signature does NOT necessarily mean that you fully agree with the articles.**

Salem Academy's Articles of Faith are as follows:

- I. The Bible is the wholly inspired Word of God, and it is a totally sufficient rule of faith and practice;
- II. God is the Creator and Sustainer of all things, and the source of all truth;
- III. There is one God. God has eternal existence and manifests Himself to us in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
- IV. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God who was born of a virgin. Jesus' atoning and substitutionary death upon the cross redeemed us from our sins. His bodily resurrection and ascension to Heaven and His personal return produces the hope of eternal life;
- V. The Holy Spirit is a distinct personality and is the member of the Trinity who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment;
- VI. Because of sin, man omits God and thus fails to relate himself and his knowledge to God, the source of all wisdom;
- VII. The Bible teaches that all people are dead in their sins and need to be "born again." This regeneration is by faith in Jesus Christ apart from works. The true meaning and value of life can only be known in light of Jesus Christ;
- VIII. The dead are to be resurrected – those who are saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to everlasting punishment;
- IX. All true believers have spiritual unity in Christ, irrespective of denomination;
- X. Growth in the Christian life depends upon fellowship with God and with other believers.

Grade Level Placement Policy

It is our policy to place every student at the highest appropriate grade level. However...

There are many challenges for international students. The biggest challenge is becoming proficient in English. Without adequate English proficiency, a student's academic progress (especially in English-rich classes such as History, Literature, Bible, etc.) will be severely hampered. If a student is unable to adequately comprehend the teacher or the study material, it is almost impossible to award a grade mark (A, B, C, D, F) that accurately reflects the student's level of learning.

This creates hardship for the student and the teacher.

Consequently, Salem Academy has established the following policy for all international students who are entering Salem Academy:

A student's starting grade level (year of study) will be decided solely by Salem Academy. Most students do enter the desired grade level; however, the grade level will be finalized during ISP Orientation. Grade level will be discussed with the student and all factors will be taken into consideration, but the final decision will be made by Salem Academy staff.

The starting grade (year of study) of a new student will be determined by a combination of factors:

- Academic record

- English proficiency assessment (such as TOEFL Jr., SLEP)

- Oral interview (after arrival)

A student will **not necessarily** enter the next grade level after completing a level at a previous school.

This means, for example, that a student who wants to enter as a junior (11th grade) **may possibly** be required to start as a sophomore (10th grade) if the student's English proficiency is too low to enter the 11th grade.

SA will do all it can to place all students in the appropriate grade level.



As this decision has a financial impact with the student potentially attending an extra year before graduating, the parent/agent will be contacted with a grade level change request form for approval.



Sports Information

Students interested in participating in high school sports, please consider the following:

If you come to SA by means of an agency that is currently listed on the “**CSIET Advisory List**” (your agency should know this), then you are initially qualified to participate in sports **in Oregon**. If your agency is not on this list or if you are an independent student and not a freshman, you are not qualified to play sports during the *first* year.

If you come as a freshman, you are qualified the entire 4 years if you do not transfer.

These guidelines are established by the **OSAA** (Oregon School Activities Association), the agency which regulates all school sports in Oregon. For further information, you can visit the CSIET website to see the list of schools on the [CSIET Advisory List](#):

If you are eligible to participate in sports (see the “checklist” on page 8), you then can “try-out” for a sport (football, volleyball, basketball, track, baseball, softball, swimming, golf, etc.).

“**Try-out**” means that you need to be tested and demonstrate the skills necessary to be selected to play on a team. This means that even if you initially qualify (see above), there is the possibility that you may not be chosen to be a member of a team. The number of team members is limited.

If you become a team member, you will be required to maintain an average grade of a C or above and have no F’s in each school course. If you fall below a C average, or have even one F, you will not be allowed to play in games for a probationary period until your grades improve to the required level.

Besides school sports, there are other sporting opportunities available through city and private organizations.



ISP Guidelines & Agreement

For you to have a fulfilling experience, the following guidelines have been established. We would like both students and parents to read them carefully when considering attending Salem Academy. As part of the admission application, you will be asked to sign that you are in agreement with these guidelines.

Primary Purpose of SA's International Student Program:

Provide a high school education

Improve the student's knowledge of the American culture, including the historical Christian faith and English language. This is accomplished through:

Active participation in family life

Community activities

School programs.

In order for you to have a successful and fulfilling experience, your purpose for coming needs to be the same as the Program's Purpose.

Student Expectations

You should be aware that life in Salem, Oregon, may not be what you expect. The American culture, as you experience it here, will probably not be the same as you see on television, in the movies, in magazines, or on the internet. Host families come from a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds.

Host Family Guidelines

Life in the United States will be **very** different from what you are accustomed to in your own country. **You need to be willing to adjust to your new cultural environment:**

- **Family Rules:** You need to adapt to your new family and to the customs of the family. These customs may be quite different from your own family, such as curfew, asking permission to go out, supervision of media devices, etc. You will need to be ready to make adjustments to a new life.
- **Family Chores:** You should expect to assist with the household chores as a member of the family. You should not expect to be treated as a guest at a hotel.
- **Family Activities:** Since you will be considered a part of the family, expect to take part in activities with your host family, such as visiting relatives, celebrations, trips, and going to church.
- **Church Attendance:** Your family will be a Christian family. You will be expected to go to church with them. Please look forward to going with your family to church on weekends. It is a great way to make friends and learn more about culture and Christ.
- **Internet Use:** Similar to the television, mobile phones and computers are awesome tools with much potential for good when used properly. However, when abused they can also become a source of significant interference with your educational and social experience at Salem Academy. Students must abide by the **Internet and Mobile Phone Use Policy**. You will need to obey the family ISP/Host rules about when and where you may use the internet, etc.

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- **Host Family Placement:** Placement with a host family is the **sole** choice of Salem Academy. (Students may NOT make independent host searches).

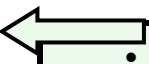
General Rules:

- The following activities are **strictly prohibited (despite laws in your country):**

- All tobacco produces (including vapor pens)
- Drinking alcoholic beverages
- Pornography
- Drugs

Possession of “controlled substances” [cigarettes, alcohol, drugs], and internet abuse, etc., may result in immediate expulsion from school. For more details, refer to SA’s handbook.

- **Grades:** Students are expected to do their best to learn and earn good grades. If it is apparent that poor grades are the result of poor study habits and poor choices, the student will be counseled and may be put on probation.
- **Driving:** Driving motor vehicles by international students is strictly prohibited.
- **Travel:** Before traveling, ISP students are required to have the permission of the program coordinator, host parents, and the student’s parents. A “**Travel Permission Form**” must be completed and submitted at least **one month** before travel date.
- **Problems.** Should problems with hosts or others arise during the program, you must **first** contact the ISP Coordinator. There is an established problem-solving procedure which must be followed. This procedure will be explained in more detail during the ISP Orientation.
- **Magazines & books** in your native language interfere with your English education and distract others. Do not bring them to school.
- **Visits by Relatives or Friends** must be coordinated in advance with the ISP Coordinator.
- **Employment**, conducting business, buying-selling online, shipping merchandise, etc., for profit is prohibited and illegal. This includes sending and receiving packages on behalf of a third party. These types of activity may result in legal prosecution.
- **Dress Code:** All students are responsible to follow the guidelines as detailed in the Student Handbook which you may view online. You will receive important points in your own language after arrival. Below is general information concerning the dress code. Clothing should always be modest
- Gang related attire is not allowed (chains, extremely baggy trousers, etc.).
- Visible tattoos and body piercing are not permitted. Girls may have up to three earrings per ear. Boys may not wear earrings or have other piercings.
- No other piercing is allowed, including in the face, tongue, etc.

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- Girl's clothing should be modest and not too revealing. See handbook for
 - specifics about dress length (i.e. no shorter than 4-inches above your knee).
 - All clothing must be neat and clean. Jeans must not drag on the ground.
 - Clothing must not be dirty, torn, patched or frayed, unhemmed or badly faded (Even if torn is "in fashion")
 - If clothing includes English phrases or pictures, be careful that these are appropriate for a Christian school.



Salem Academy Guidelines: You will need to comply with all the guidelines and rules in the **Student/Parent Handbook** (available on SA website under [RESOURCES](#)) This includes information on dress code, academics, sports, school behavior, school discipline, electronic devices, internet use, etc.



Keys to Success

Most students who have come to Salem Academy have experienced success. However, on rare occasions, students have had to drop out of the program. The following are some reasons for failure. **Please consider them carefully.**

1. An inadequate level of English proficiency
2. Poor study habits
3. Disrespect and defiance of school or host guidelines
4. Wrong primary motivation for coming to Salem Academy:
 - a. Play
 - b. Romance
 - c. Escape from home, from school, from problems, etc.



However, the student can be relatively certain that coming to Salem Academy will be a positive, growing experience if they have:

Good study habits

Respect towards school and host guidelines

Motivation to learn

These are the keys to success: **self-discipline, respect of others, and a keen desire to learn.**



Supporting ISP Students

Supporting ISP Students

Our goal at Salem Academy is for every international student to have a successful *spiritual, academic,* and *social* experience.

How Salem Academy will help each ISP student:

1. Meet with each student and create a “student profile.”
2. Consult with each student and each host family to assist with any issues, needs, etc. A monthly **Progress Report** will be sent to the student’s agency/parents. Each report will include updates about the student’s **academic** and **social** progress. The reports will be sent to the student’s agency or directly to the student’s family by the ISP Coordinator.

Report Schedule

Initial Report: At the start of school, the first reports will be sent to the student’s natural parents/agent.

Additional Reports: Completed reports will be sent to the student’s natural parents or agency.

Salem Academy’s goal is for each international student to experience academic, social, and personal success. We want all students to be successful by reaching their maximum, God-given potential.

To help students reach this goal, we have assembled an excellent team of teachers, staff, and support team members. We all are devoted to each student’s success.

College Prep and Visitation

University Visits

To assist our international students to make the transition from Salem Academy to a college or university, SA will arrange tours/visitations to universities in the local area. The universities may include, but not be limited to, Corban University, George Fox University, Oregon State University, and University of Oregon.

College Prep

SA will assist the ISP Coordinator and Guidance Counselor as needed to help students plan for the future, choose colleges/universities, and prepare the initial application. SA’s goal is to help make each student’s transition as smooth as possible, but cannot guarantee admission to institutions of higher education.

Contact Information

Salem Academy International Student Program (ISP)

Tomiko Doten, Coordinator of the International Program

Mrs. Doten grew up in Fukuoka, Japan, and came to the United States in 1999. She believes that the young students who come to the United States to study English and American culture are so brave. She wants to use her experiences to make these students feel comfortable. Mrs. Doten is dedicated to helping make our international students time in Oregon an enjoyable and memorable experience and to help them achieve academic success at Salem Academy.



Contact Tomiko at ispprog@salemacademy.org for the following:

- Student life, schedules, issues, needs, etc.
- Host family communication, questions, issues, etc.
- General questions about school and school activities
- “Who do I talk to about...?” Contact Tomiko first if you do not know who to contact.
- Applying to Salem Academy, ISP Application questions
- Requirements, needed documents, etc.
- Tuition & Fees

Lindsay Brownell, High School Principal

Mrs. Brownell graduated from Corban University. She has two Masters in Education degrees: a Master’s in Educational Leadership from Grand Canyon and a Masters in Applied Behavior Analysis from Cairn University and is Certified Biblical counselor from Grand Canyon University .through the Association of Biblical Counseling. Her family includes husband Jason (also on SA staff) and son’s Brady, Logan, Hayden, and Evan. Her hobbies include reading, watch/play sports, camping, crafting, restoring old furniture, and spending time with family.

