



WLSA
World Leading Schools Association



**WELCOME
TO THE**

**2025-2026 WLSA
GLOBAL FOUNDATION
YEAR PROGRAM**

www.wlsafoundation.org



Program Overview

WLSA's new Global Foundation Year Program (GFY Program) is a transformative, full-time, year-long experience. It aims to broaden participants' global understanding, foster resourcefulness, and prepare them for academic excellence in China. This preparation is specifically tailored for students' application to leading Chinese C9 universities.

Focused on providing an immersive cross-cultural experience based in China, the GFY Program blends historical and contemporary perspectives. It offers an enriching pre-university experience for academically inquisitive, adventurous, and culturally aware students.

Target Students

Ideal candidates should be eager to engage deeply with China's rich cultural heritage and its dynamic role in contemporary global affairs, encompassing both traditional and innovative aspects. It is specifically designed for two groups of students:

'GAP' year students:

Those admitted into universities, or are re-applying, and are seeking a year of cultural immersion and internships in China. The program offers specialized insights and skills for meeting the entry requirements of Chinese higher education.

Students wishing to complete their Grade 12 at WLSA:

Students who aspire to complete their last year of high school at WLSA Shanghai Academy. The program offers a unique opportunity to experience an academically rigorous environment that emphasizes global perspectives, leadership, and innovative ideas. Students will not only be prepared for success in higher education but also be part of the global community.

Dates and Duration

The GFY Program is scheduled to commence in ***Late August to Early September 2025***, strategically timed to provide optimal preparation for students gearing up for university entrance examinations. The academic year will be divided into two semesters, offering a comprehensive and structured learning experience.

It's important to note that the program has been designed with ***flexibility*** in mind, especially concerning entry points. This consideration allows us to accommodate students from different countries who have varying academic calendars.

Educational Goals

The GFY Program takes a holistic approach weaving together academic challenges, cultural enrichment and professional development. It is designed to cultivate expertise in three key areas:

- **Leadership:**
Fostering decision-making skills, strategic thinking, compassion and the ability to inspire and guide others.
- **Cross-Cultural Understanding:**
Enhancing global awareness and the capacity to navigate and bridge diverse cultural contexts, fostering international cooperation and empathy.
- **Technological Innovation:**
Equipping students with cutting-edge skills in artificial intelligence, preparing them for future technological evolution. Additionally, it will involve engaging in critical debates surrounding AI including topics such as ethics, safety, sustainability and its broader societal implications.



About WLSA Shanghai Academy



Tony Little

President of the WLSA Shanghai Academy Board
Former Head Master of Eton College

No one knows what the world will look like in ten-year's time. At WLSA we want all our students to have the foundation of skills and the creativity to face our unknown futures confidently and purposefully.



Marcel Gauthier

International Principal of WLSA Shanghai Academy
Former Head of Shanghai American School

When do students thrive? When they are both challenged and supported, when they are invited to innovate and to grow, and when their successes are acknowledged. At WLSA Shanghai Academy, we prepare our students not only to excel in college, but also to succeed in the modern world: as citizens, as leaders, and as productive change-makers in their local and global communities.

Mission

To empower young people to become successful leaders who make a positive impact in their communities.

Vision

To create access for students from diverse backgrounds to a unique international education.

Values

- C**reative and reflective
- H**armonious and healthy
- A**mbitious in the pursuit of excellence
- R**esilient in the face of adversity
- G**lobally aware, respectful and inclusive
- E**thical, honest and accountable

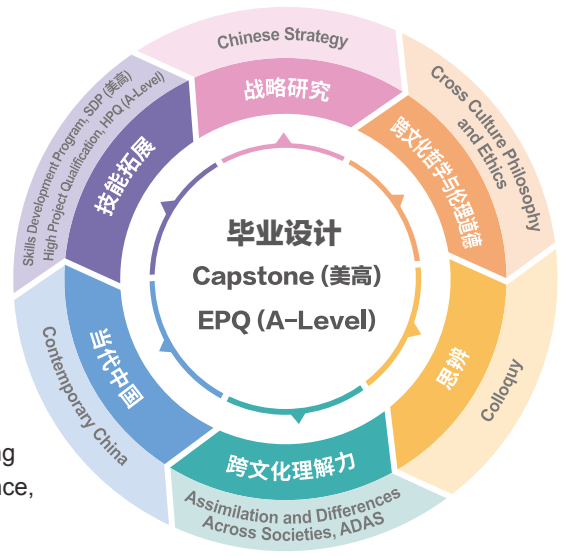
Time	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.
8:00-12:00	Morning Classes				
12:00-12:50	Lunch Break				
12:50-14:55	Afternoon Classes				
14:55-16:35	Afternoon Classes				
16:40-17:30	CCA				
17:30-18:30	Dinner Break				
18:30-20:30	Evening Study				
20:30-22:30	Dorm Study				

Curricula

WLSA Shanghai Academy offers two curricula on campus — Sino-Global Program (AP courses) and A-Level Program — together with the WLSA Global Impact Program (GIP).

GIP

The GIP is a unique, interdisciplinary, skills-based curriculum that forms the foundation of a holistic vision of high school education in a globalized society. Built from the ground up, students at WLSA Shanghai Academy (WSA) develop critical skills and competencies in a rigorous and empowering three-year program based on our core values: promoting academic excellence, creating community leaders, and developing global citizenship.



Sino-Global G12

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career-readiness* • Chinese Strategy* • P.E.* • Portuguese • Latin • Visual Art • European History II • Classical Theater Studies • Music Performance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Literature II* • Adv. Statistics / College Math* • Adv. Macroeconomics • Adv. Microeconomics • Adv. Psychology • Adv. Art History • Adv. Computer Science • Adv. Environmental Science • Further Physics • Genetic Analysis • Adv. Biology • Adv. Chemistry • Adv. Physics • Organic Chemistry | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assimilation and Differences Across Societies (ADAS) * • Capstone* • Cross Culture Philosophy and Ethics* • Contemporary China |
|---|---|---|



A-Level G12

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P.E.* • Career-readiness* | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced English* • A2 Physics • A2 Chemistry • A2 Economics • A2 Further Math • A2 Biology | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assimilation and Differences Across Societies (ADAS) * • Capstone* • Cross Culture Philosophy and Ethics* • EPQ* |
|--|--|---|

• Courses with * are compulsory. Regular ■ Advanced ■ Distinction ■

• The teaching language for all courses is English.

Chinese University Application

If you are interested in Medicine, Biology, Engineering, Economics, or Urban Design, depending on your choice of major, you may have the opportunity to pursue further studies (English taught programs) at the following universities in China: Tsinghua University, Fudan University, Zhejiang University, Shanghai Jiaotong University, Xian Jiaotong University, and Harbin Institute of Technology.

If you wish to study outside of the above majors and programs, you will need to achieve HSK level 5 or above (Chinese Language Proficiency Test) in order to be eligible for Chinese taught programs at the universities above as well as other top universities in China including Peking University, Nanjing Universities, and the University of Science and Technology of China.

The general requirements for entrance into the above programs are:

- Diploma of highest degree conferred
- High school transcripts
- 2-3 Recommendation letters
- Statement of financial capacity or financial support
- HSK Level 5 or above (For Chinese taught programs only)
- Results of international standard test scores (e.g., SAT/ ACT/ A-Level/ AP/ IB/ others).
- English proficiency test transcript (if English is not your first language, examples of acceptable tests: TOEFL/IELTS/DET+ scores)

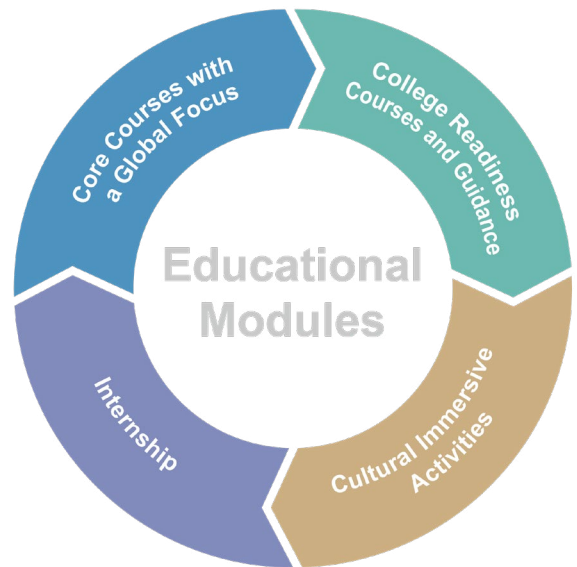
Please note that each university may have their own country specific requirements, and each program may require special test results. Detailed university application information can be found on their websites.

College counseling guidance will be provided further into the GFY application process.



Educational Modules

We are committed to developing students' essential skills through a comprehensive and diverse curriculum, consisting of four interlinked educational modules. Students have the flexibility to choose and tailor these modules, and elective subjects, according to their individual needs and aspirations, ensuring a personalized and effective learning experience.



Core Courses with a Global Focus

At the heart of the GFY Program lies WLSA's innovative Cross-Cultural Leadership Programme (CCLP), a course which is designed to address contemporary global challenges and cultivate essential 21st-century leadership skills. Key focus areas of CCLP include:

- **Negotiation Skills:**
Empowering students with the ability to handle complex discussions and reach mutually beneficial outcomes.
- **Cultural Competence (CQ):**
Enhancing understanding and adaptability across diverse cultural contexts.
- **Risk and Resilience Capabilities:**
Building awareness and flexibility to manage challenges effectively.

In addition, the course provides insights into the impact of AI and its associated ethical debate, integrating technological awareness into leadership training. All students are required to take the CCLP course; however, recognizing the differentiated needs and learning pathways of our students, we will offer flexibility in weekly hours, ranging from 1 to 5 hours.

College Readiness Courses and Guidance:

For students of group A, B and C, this module will be the cornerstone of the education until college acceptance. It consists of two parts:

- **Customized academic courses from WLSA Shanghai Academy.**
Here, students will have the opportunity to select from a range of academic courses under the guidance of a dedicated college counsellor. These courses are tailored to strengthen their academic foundation, ensuring they are well-prepared for the rigors of college-level studies.
- **Bespoke College Counselling Services:**
This service is crucial for students aiming for 2025 college entry. It provides personalized guidance for applying to top universities in the US, UK, and China. The counselling focuses on enhancing students' academic profiles and devising personalized strategies, significantly maximizing their chances of successful admissions.



Cultural Immersive Activities:

The GFY Program places a significant focus on cultural enrichment. This includes opportunities for unique cultural encounters exploring China's rich heritage:

- **Exploration:**
Students will explore China's iconic landmarks such as Beijing's Forbidden City, the Terracotta Warriors in Xi'an and the Great Wall of China.
- **Project Work:**
Students will explore beyond the beaten path, actively engaging in community and sustainability projects to deepen their understanding of China's diverse cultural landscape. These initiatives enable students to contribute to local communities while gaining an authentic understanding of China's environmental challenges and efforts. It's a chance to make a tangible difference while learning about sustainable practices in a global context.



Internship:

A key aspect of the program is the provision of varied internship opportunities across different sectors such as industry, finance, the arts, education and more. For example, students could work as Teaching Assistants in WLSA Shanghai Academy or as Research Associates in universities. These internships will be matched to fit each student's interests and aspirations, enriching their practical experience and broadening their professional horizons. These internship opportunities will be with renowned companies and organisations. Additionally, organized industry visits, such as to SAIC Motor Corporation and the Shanghai Docks will expose students to technical innovation and global business operations.

Student Well-being and Pastoral Care

Student well-being and pastoral care are at the forefront of the GFY Program, encompassing several key areas:

- ***Comfortable and Safe Accommodation:***

Our top priority is the well-being of our students. They will be accommodated in the WLSA Shanghai Academy's housing, which is comfortable and well-equipped. This will be on a full board basis, providing all meals in the school cafeteria, ensuring that students have access to a variety of healthy food options.

- ***Safeguarding and Pastoral Support:***

We have robust safeguarding policies in place to ensure the safety and security of our students. The school's pastoral team is dedicated to maintaining the pastoral well-being of each individual. This team actively works to create a nurturing and supportive environment for all students.

- ***Personalized Tutoring and Mentoring:***

Every student will be assigned an individual tutor/mentor. This personalized approach allows for tailored guidance and pastoral support, catering to the unique needs and aspirations of each student.

- ***Engagement in Co-curricular Activities:***

Students will be integrated into the school's co-curricular program, giving them the opportunity to engage in sports, lead an active lifestyle, and join various clubs. These activities are designed to encourage personal interests and hobbies, contributing to a holistic educational experience.



ADMISSIONS

The applicants are expected to provide the following documents:

Application Form:

Applicants are required to fill out a comprehensive application form. This form is designed to gather basic personal information, educational background, and specific interests in the program.

Personal Statement:

A critical part of the application, the personal statement is your opportunity to articulate your motivation for applying to the program. This should include why you believe you are a suitable candidate and how you think the program will benefit your educational and career goals.

Other Materials:

A scanned copy of applicant's ID or passport, English Proficiency Test transcript (example: TOEFL/ IELTS/DET+scores), recent 4-year school transcript, University Application Results (if any), Financial Situation Explanation (if applying for scholarship), 2 recommendation letters from your current or alumni school, and your resume should be submitted along with the application form and personal statement.

Selection Process:

Following the submission of applications, our admissions team will review all materials thoroughly. Candidates may be invited for an interview, either in person or virtually, as part of the final selection process.

Deadline:

The deadline for submitting applications for the 2025-2026 WLSA Global Scholar Program is May 31, 2025. We encourage interested candidates to start their application process early to ensure they have sufficient time to gather and submit all required materials.

For detailed information on the application process and to begin your application, please contact our admissions team at admissions_GFY@wlsafoundation.com.

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