

Winter 2024 American Conversation & Culture Program

Duration: **3 weeks**

Tentative program dates: **February 19 - March 8, 2024**

This program is a **DORM STAY** program.

Why Study at Portland State University (PSU)?

PSU is located in downtown Portland, Oregon in the heart of the city of roses (one of Portland's many nicknames!). Portland is a beautiful, clean, and safe place to study and experience American culture and university life. Portland is a popular tourist destination because of its walkability, many restaurants and parks, and the fact that it is tax free for shopping and other activities!

Program Description:

All students will participate in an English Communication class each day. The general focus of our teachers is helping students practice their English conversation skills so they are prepared for future travel, study abroad, or talk with international visitors and colleagues. Classes focus on skills like fluent pronunciation and how to have natural conversation flow rather than focusing on grammar or writing rules. American culture topics, like food, music, keep Portland weird, etc. will be included in everyday instruction.

Students will participate in 12.5 hours per week (on average) of class time. In addition, students will practice their English in small group conversation partner sessions with a fluent English speaker, most likely a PSU student. With the additional 4 hours per week of conversation time, students will receive a total of 16.5 hours of focused instruction and English conversation time per week and ~ 50 hours total over the program duration. Please refer to a [sample schedule](#) to get a sense of what the program might look like.

THE PROGRAM INCLUDES FOUR COMPONENTS:

- Daily English Class
- Four group conversation sessions per week
- Extracurricular activities (including volunteering)
- Cultural Excursions in Portland

Extracurricular activities:

Our extracurricular activities are facilitated by our well-trained program assistants who are current or former PSU students and include:

- Tax-free shopping in local mall or vintage stores
- Experiencing Portland Food Culture (Blue Star and Voodoo Donuts, Salt & Straw ice-cream, Stumptown Coffee, and food carts from around the world)

- Visiting other popular Portland places like Saturday Market, the Farmer's Market, Powell's Bookstore, coffee shops, etc.
- Being active around town and having fun!

Housing - Dorms:

For this program, all students may stay in on-campus housing, such as **Ondine Residence Hall**, or can find their own accommodations. The program fee includes dorm stay for 21 nights. If students stay an additional night, we may be able to extend and students need to cover the cost using their credit card.

In the dormitory all students are required to **share a room with a peer** or pay full price for the room. For a virtual tour of the rooms, please go to the website:

<https://www.pdx.edu/housing/freshmen-buildings>

Dormitory facility:

- Double room with private bathroom or suite style bathroom
- Equipment : Bed, pillow, blanket, beddings, towels, toilet paper, desk, chair, closet
- No housekeeping : Toilet paper, sheets and towels must be washed by the students.
- Available Kitchenware provided by ISP: **dishes, utensils and water kettles with a usage fee of \$30.**
- Laundry room available with prepaid laundry card:
 - laundry card can be purchased in Ondine dorms from a machine for \$10
 - money can be put onto the card for washing and drying
 - no laundry soap provided

Meals:

For most of our college programs we do not include meals. However, for this program season, **PSU can only make the Ondine Residence Hall dorms available, which don't have any kitchens.**

We are including lunch at Victor's (PSU cafeteria) in the dormitory price so that the students have at least one meal per day. Students will be able to eat additional meals at Victor's but will need to with their credit card.

There are plenty of other opportunities to find meals on or near campus. Portland is famous for its food carts!

Arrival & Departure:

The program fee does not include airport transportation. **If students would like to be picked up and dropped off, it's an additional \$75 one way.** Students can book airport transportation directly with us by paying for the service online. If it's a larger group from one partner coming on the same flight, we can book a shuttle bus and include the airport transportation fee in the invoice.