



THE
INDIANA ACADEMY
FOR SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS, AND HUMANITIES

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM



academy.bsu.edu/international

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International Program Director

Huey Shi Chew is the International Program Director at the Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics, and Humanities. In this position, she serves as the Indiana Academy’s Principal Designated School Official (PDSO), and oversees all components of the Academy’s international student program. She is responsible for issuing I-20 documents, maintaining SEVIS, making admissions decisions regarding international student applications, pursuing student recruitment and program development initiatives, maintaining regular contact with all international students and host families, and overseeing testing, academic advising, and course selection.

Mrs. Chew joined the Academy in July 2023 and has 20 years of experience in supporting international students and faculty in her previous employment. She received her bachelor’s degree in Mathematics and master’s degree in Education in Malaysia and a Specialist in Education (Ed.S) in Higher Education Administration from Pittsburg State University, Kansas.

Her passion of seeing international students grow and succeed in the U.S. has kept her feeling “young.”

This packet contains a wealth of information about the Indiana Academy. Please review it carefully. If you would like more information about our International Student Program, please contact Mrs. Chew at hchew@bsu.edu.

The Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics, and Humanities

Indiana's High Ability High School

The Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics, and Humanities is ranked by Niche as the **No. 1 Best Public High School** in the state (out of 384 schools) and in the Top 50 Public High Schools in the United States (out of over 19,000 schools). In addition, the Indiana Academy is consistently given an "A" rating by the Indiana Department of Education, and our teachers are ranked in the Top 15 Best Public High School Teachers in the United States.

The rankings from Niche (k12.niche.com) are based on rigorous analysis of key statistics and millions of reviews from students and parents using data from the U.S. Department of Education. Ranking factors include state test scores, college readiness, graduation rates, SAT/ACT scores, teacher quality, and high school ratings.



With regard to the State of Indiana, as published by the IndyStar:

According to the Indiana Commissioner for Higher Education, the Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics, and Humanities is tied at #1 in the state for producing college-ready high school graduates. This is among all public and private Indiana High Schools.

<http://www.indystar.com/story/news/education/2017/07/30/how-well-indiana-high-schools-preparing-students-college/453616001/>

Indiana Definition of "High Ability": Those performing at, or shows the potential for performing at, an outstanding level of accomplishment in at least one domain when compared to other students of the same age, experience, or environment.



History and Location

The Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics, and Humanities was founded as a school for high ability students in 1988 by the Indiana General Assembly. The Indiana Academy is accredited by the Indiana Department of Education. It is a member of the National Association of College Admission Counseling and complies with the NACAC "Statement of Principles of Good Practice." We have also been nationally recognized as a premier educational institution for gifted and talented students.

The Indiana Academy is located on the campus of Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. Indiana Academy students have access to numerous Ball State resources including the university's library, museum, theater, pool, gym, dining facilities, civic and department events, internships, and university classes. Ball State University has ranked (<https://www.bsu.edu/about/rankings>) among the best colleges in the Midwest according to the Princeton Review and the Center for World University Rankings considers Ball State to be in the top 7% of universities worldwide. Muncie, Indiana has a population of 70,000 residents and is in the portion of the United States known as the "Midwest." Muncie is often referred to as "America's Hometown," and is noted for its friendly people and typical American lifestyle. The state's capital, Indianapolis, is one hour away by car. Chicago – the third largest city in the United States – is only 4 hours away.

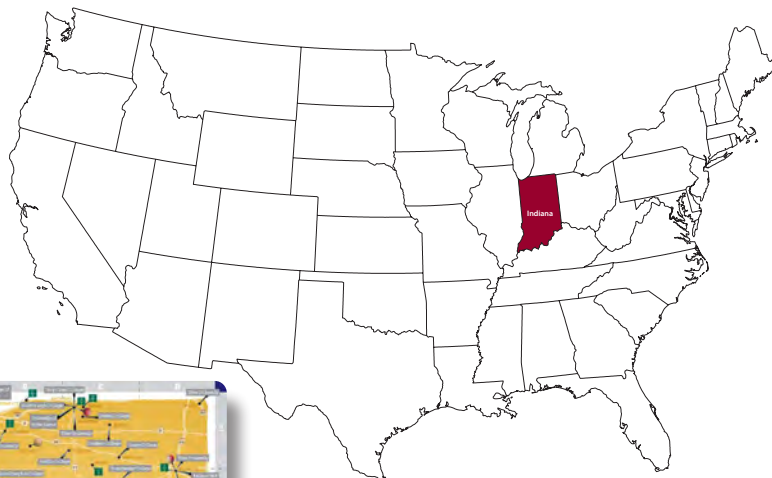
Located on the campus of Ball State University, the Indiana Academy is within walking distance to:

- Ball State's "Village" shopping and dining area
- Restaurants and shops
- Westside Park
- Cardinal Greenway trails
- River walking paths
- Churches
- Banks, ATMs, and U.S. Post Office

Additional Muncie Area Attractions:

- Minnetrista Cultural Center
- Shopping malls
- Bowling alleys
- Batting cages
- Golf and miniature golf
- Movie theater
- National Model Aviation Museum
- Muncie Civic Theater
- Muncie Children's Museum
- Prairie Creek Reservoir

Students may ride the Muncie Indiana Transit System (MITS) bus to get to many of these locations for free!



Indiana Academy Fast Facts

- **Rankings:** Nationally ranked as one of the best public high schools in the United States.
- **School:** One of only approximately 20 statewide public high-ability schools in the United States, with a comprehensive college-preparatory environment.
- **Enrollment:** High-ability students from all over the state enroll in the Indiana Academy for the 11th and 12th grades. Our international students come from all around the world. There are approximately 325 Indiana students and 15- 25 International students.
- **Location:** Center of the U.S. on an American university campus, providing college and residence hall experience while in high school. Access to university resources (library, internships, gym, pool, dining, classes).
- **Class Size:** Average class size is 10 students allowing for high-quality classes between instructors and engaged students. Student-to-faculty ratio is 8:1.
- **Faculty:** Ranked among the best (top 15) in the United States, and #1 in Indiana. Experts in their fields, all of our faculty have masters degrees and around one-third have doctoral degrees.
- **University and college preparation:** 3.83 Average GPA for the Class of 2022. 100% of students matriculate to a 4-year college/university.
- **Courses:** All of our courses are Advanced Placement (AP), dual credit, and college classes. Over 160 college credits are available through dual credit with Ball State University. Students may also enroll in numerous AP classes as well as Ball State University classes (with special permission).
- **Building:** The Indiana Academy buildings contain study lounges, teacher offices, social areas, printers, and unlimited wireless internet for student use.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** Hundreds of activities per year. Volunteering, over 50 clubs, extracurricular activities, intramurals, and IHSAA sports.

SAT Scores

Math:

529	759
United States Student Average	Academy International Student Average

Reading (EBR):

521	659
United States Student Average	Academy International Student Average



International Student Program Overview

Since 2015, the Academy's International Student Program has welcomed students from all around the globe to our campus. We have hosted students from Brazil, China, Germany, India, South Korea, Spain, and Vietnam, and we are continuing to expand our international recruitment to even more countries. This blending of cultures creates a diverse school atmosphere with welcoming and globally-minded students. It is with pride and joy that the Academy continues to grow this program and invites students to live and learn in our exceptional world-class setting.

The Academy accepts a limited number of J1 and F1 students each year. International students who wish to attend the Indiana Academy are reviewed along the following criteria:

- Application
- English Proficiency (IELTS, TOEFL, ELTiS, Duolingo, PTE)
- Academic Performance (grades and teacher reports)
- Interview

Each year, the Academy receives numerous international student applications. Therefore, the admissions process is selective and competitive. Admitted students rank among the brightest in the country and are ready for the academic environment of the school. Upon successful completion of the program, international students are awarded a nationally-recognized Indiana Core 40 with Academic Honors Diploma.

Upon arrival in Muncie, Indiana, students will have time to bond with an American family. Students will then arrive to campus and take part in an orientation program that will help them learn more about the Indiana Academy school and American culture. Students will tour the Academy campus, meet other international and local students, take placement testing for class selection, and meet with an academic advisor to plan the best course schedule.

Some international students may live full time with a welcoming American host family. Others will live in the residence hall, which is excellent preparation for graduation and future life at a university. The residence hall closes once per month for extended weekends. During this time, even residence hall students will travel home with their community families. Both arrangements offer development of independent living skills with exceptional social and cultural opportunities.

The host family and community family experience is a crucial component of the Academy's international student program. This includes a genuine interest in talking, traveling, spending time together, and sharing experiences with their American host/community family members. We consider applicants based on academic strength as well as their enthusiasm to engage, share, and bond with their American family and peers. The Academy accepts students we believe will do a great job academically and socially.

The Academy community strives to create a supportive environment that promotes diversity and intellectual exchange. The merging of cultures benefits American students and educators as well as our international students. International students at the Indiana Academy experience full immersion in the English language and vibrant way of life, new American family and friend groups, outstanding academics and independence. American students at the Academy get to experience a variety of new cultures and different ways of thinking by interacting with others from all around the world.



A blending of cultures is the overall goal of the Academy's International program. American students and international students are fully exposed to new ideas and cultures through this exceptional program, making the world a smaller, friendlier, and more connected place. While we have wonderful differences, we are not so different after all. This program seeks to connect ideas, improve understanding, and develop lifelong respect and bonds between cultures.

We strongly believe our American and international students are the future leaders of the world. The Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics and Humanities provides an environment that allows students to discover their full potential, and create an academic path that is challenging, stimulating, and creative. Together, we celebrate our similarities and our differences as we share, grow, and discover new friendships that will span the globe.

Student Story: Amy (Ga Hyeon)

Hi, my name is Amy! I'm one of the international students at the Academy, and I am from Korea. When I first heard about the Academy, I was fascinated by so many opportunities that could be offered to me by attending it, which made me want to apply. However, at the same time, I was hesitant on deciding whether to actually go or not because I was afraid! I feared that I might fail, not adapt very well, or even end up coming back to Korea without achieving anything. But then I realized that its better to be bold and try than to regret later about how I missed my great chance. And now, I am so glad that I decided to come! By coming here I got a chance to meet my wonderful host families. They were very nice to me and they tried to learn about my culture and to share their culture with me. I also got a chance to meet new friends at the Academy. They are all very passionate about learning and proud to be a part of the Academy.

What I like the most about the Academy is that the school offers so many opportunities in various aspects! First of all, there are so many clubs for students to join. I personally joined Science Olympiad club and competed with students from other schools from around the state. Moreover, I was in the international committee, in which I learned all about the different culture of my friends and got to introduce my own culture to fellow "academites" and teachers. We can also start our own club with a few other students that have the same interest in that area! For example, if a student is interested in biology, he/she can start a club with friends and do many activities. Secondly, there are so many different kinds of classes offered, including all kinds of AP classes as well as Ball State University classes too. The classes can often be challenging. However, I tried my best to accomplish all the classes successfully. As a result, the feeling of achievement and accomplishment is very rewarding!



"Being a host mom to this wonderful, brilliant, kind kid has been one of the very best experiences of my life. I thought I was opening my home and quickly realized it was more like my heart that was expanding exponentially. I'll always be her American mom."

- Host Parent

Student Story: Minghao (Patrick)

I'm Minghao Yan, an exchange student from China. Actually, I was not planning to come to the Indiana Academy at first since this was the first year the Academy recruited international students, and I had never heard of it. However, the first time I saw the information about this school, I was captured by its rigorous and renowned academics and bountiful extracurricular activities. Finally, I decided to come to the Indiana Academy.

I have been studying at the Academy for half a year, and I found that all my expectations have come true. The Academy provides me with a chance to fully explore my ability of all aspects. "Academites" establish all kinds of clubs they are fascinated about and there are also hundreds of wellness programs a year organized by student life counselors to broaden students' horizons.

I have learned how to form and express a strong argument in my liberal arts classes, which I find very useful. The experience of studying with the best students from Indiana and other parts of the world is unique and enjoyable, especially when different thoughts are in a clash. At the Academy, I learn not only from what conscientious instructors would teach me, but from my classmates. Their thoughts always inspire and refresh me to a great extent. I am exposed to great ideas from another part of the world, which are vastly different from people's perspectives in my homeland.

At the Academy, I am also able to pursue my particular interests. As a potential economics major, I can study economics at Ball State with an incredibly low cost compared to normal university tuition. Also, various other dual credit courses are precious opportunities for us to get college level education, while in the meantime, earn college credits in advance. I can also explore my interests in coding by working with other outstanding student programmers in coding club.

As a boarding school, students at the Indiana Academy are bonded closely and can adapt to college lifestyle easily through the experience of living in the residence hall. The social culture at the Academy also helps me integrate into this big family rapidly. "Academites" are always ready to help when I need. I'm very grateful for all my fellow "Academites" who have helped me before. There is always a lot I can learn from my classmates about American culture.

The Academy has given me an authentic American living experience and prepared me for my upcoming university life!

"Our lives were completely changed by this experience."

- Host Parent



"They are by far my most positive, rule abiding, and active students."

- Indiana Academy Staff Member



What is something you really like about the Indiana Academy?

Yifei: All of the students are kind, hard-working, and intelligent. The teachers are always helpful and caring. The school is cozy, welcoming, and is like a big family.

Jingchen: I can set up my own schedule and select the classes that I'm interested in. This helps me work more efficiently and keeps me motivated to work hard.

Lanyuntian: The unlimited opportunities for classes and extra-curricular activities, and the chance to enroll in university classes.

Hanbit: The dedicated faculty. Teachers here genuinely care about you, academically and your overall well-being, and put a lot of effort into creating the best learning environment.

Quifan: At the Academy I can pursue my own interests and increase my academic knowledge. The university-style calendar helps me to adapt to college life.

Xingyuan: If I could choose one word to describe my experience so far, it would be AMAZING because this is the exact high school I wanted to go to; I can chase my dreams here.

"I am looking forward to carrying my amazing memories of the Academy with me to college, my future career, and back home to China. The Academy gave me an excellent environment to study in and a lovely home filled with friends."

- Xuannuo

Why Apply to the Indiana Academy International Student Program?

An immersive experience

- Intense exposure to American culture and the English language
- Thriving and exciting international student program
- 15-25 international students each year
- Students from Brazil, China, Germany, India, Spain, South Korea, Vietnam

Superior Academics and Course Acceleration

- Nationally-ranked public high school, with faculty ranked #1 in the state
- Above and beyond what traditional American schools can offer
- Challenging college-preparatory coursework
- Development of advanced study skills
- Emphasis on high-level critical thinking, hands-on and cutting-edge learning and technology through an expansive curriculum
- Advanced content – all classes are AP, dual credit, college level, or Ball State University courses

Independence and Social Skills

- Time management, organization, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills
- Independence, maturity, and responsibility
- Development of social skills
- Learning to articulate ideas while respecting opposing views
- High behavioral standards



University and College Success Program

The Indiana Academy offers a college-preparatory environment unlike any other high school. By the time Academy students reach graduation, they are superbly prepared for the independence, academic demands, and social and living environment of a college campus.

Colleges and universities from all across the United States, including Ivy League schools, seek out Academy graduates. Each year, 100% of Academy graduates enroll directly into college. Due to excellent preparation, it is not uncommon for Academy graduates to receive offers to several schools. Many alumni will stay in Indiana for their undergraduate degrees, while others leave the state and some study abroad.

The Academy's College and Career Counseling Center provides the following services for our students:

- One-on-one meetings with every student
- Recommendations regarding appropriate college selection
- Guidance on the college admissions process and deadlines
- Financial Aid information and scholarships
- SAT and ACT preparation and testing dates
- University recruiters visit and present to Academy students
- Skype sessions to various colleges
- Ball State University departmental visits
- Alumni collaborations and partnerships



Our graduates have been accepted to numerous prestigious universities:

- Over 300 different colleges in U.S. and overseas – visit <https://academy.bsu.edu/alumni/colleges>
- Prestigious universities: Harvard, Yale, MIT, Oxford, etc.
- Big Ten and State Universities
- Private & specialty colleges: Notre Dame, Butler, etc.

Recent International Student Graduates are currently attending Oxford University (England), Rice University, Penn State, Indiana University, Boston College and The Ohio State University.



Graduation and Prestigious College Admissions

- Class of 2019 (155 students): offered \$13 million in scholarships, accepted \$5.6 million

Graduate Employment

Alumni employers include Eli Lilly, ESPN, Federal Express, Goodyear, Google, Intel, Merck & Co., Microsoft, Subaru, Texas Instruments, Toyota, the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Government, and many others. We have alumni in many career areas including engineering, business (accounting, law, economics, actuarial science, management, marketing, real estate), education at all levels, entertainment (independent film-making – writing, directing, special FX, musicians), all types of medicine and health care (including work at IU, Northwestern, University of Pittsburgh, and Columbia). This is not a complete list. Please contact us directly if you would like more information about our graduates.

Notable Alumni

Visit <https://academy.bsu.edu/alumni/spotlight> to learn more about our graduates' fascinating stories.

Academic Success Program

Excel with a World-Class Education

The Indiana Academy awards the most advanced high school diploma available in the United States – the Core 40 with Academic Honors Diploma. This sets all Academy graduates up for success by the time students finish their senior year of high school.

The Indiana Academy has a proud history of academic excellence. All Academy students are college-bound and receive an advanced education. Every Academy class is college level, Advance Placement (AP), or dual credit. Our classes are taught by nationally ranked faculty who are experts in their fields. With a curriculum that offers over 50 dual credit classes, 5 world languages, 21 elective courses in science, 16 elective courses in English, 9 elective courses in social studies, as well as many other classes, students earn the very best U.S. diploma while being encouraged to explore their individual interests.

Academic advising is provided by the International Program Director. Upon arrival, students are given placement tests in computer applications, mathematics, science, and English to help determine which courses are most appropriate. The curriculum is then designed to meet the requirements of the Core 40 with Academic Honors diploma and the additional graduation requirements of the Indiana Academy. Students are given guidance and support in selecting additional courses based on their academic strengths, career/university goals after high school, and personal interests.

Academic Snapshot:

- University-format class schedule
- Full course catalog available on the Indiana Academy website at <https://academy.bsu.edu/catalog>
- All of the science and math AP courses available in Indiana
- Four levels of physics courses including General Physics, AP Physics I, AP Physics II, and AP Physics C.
- 21 elective courses available in science in addition to all available science AP Courses
- Approximately 50 dual credit courses worth 163 credit hours with Ball State University
- 5 world languages: French, German, Korean, Russian, and Spanish
- Academic credit for students working on creative projects. Examples include writing a novel, fashion design, or developing computer algorithms
- 16 elective courses in English
- 9 elective courses in Social Studies
- Numerous AP level courses
- High level math courses such as Linear Algebra, Multivariable Calculus, and Differential Equations

Faculty:

- 24 faculty members
- All 24 have master's degrees
- 11 have doctoral degrees
- Experts in content area
- Student-faculty ratio 8:1



Advanced Placement Courses (AP)*

English

AP English Language & Composition

Foreign Language

AP Spanish Language

Mathematics – all available

AP Calculus AB

AP Calculus BC

AP Statistics

Computer Science

AP Computer Science

Science – all available

AP Physics I

AP Physics II

AP Physics C

AP Chemistry

AP Biology

AP Environmental Science

Ball State University Dual Credit Opportunities: Reduced Cost University Credit*

The Indiana Academy has a partnership with Ball State University that allows Academy instructors to teach college approved courses. Students who choose to enroll in the dual credit option for select courses will receive high school **and** college credit upon completion of the class, at a significantly reduced price. This means Academy students earn credit towards their high school diploma and also receive a university transcript from Ball State University that they can present when applying to college. In the United States, this makes college applications very competitive and most dual-credit courses can be accepted as progress towards the receiving university's diploma as well.



The cost is either \$25 per credit hour or \$250 per course. Around 50 courses are available through this option. Graduating students from the Indiana Academy average 24 college credit hours (1+ year of university credit). Depending on the student, credits earned can range from 3 – 50+ credit hours.

Computer Science

AP Comp Science

English

Linguistics

Mathematics

Calculus (1 Semester)

AP Calculus AB

AP Calculus BC

AP Statistics

Linear Algebra

Differential Equations

Multivariable Calculus

Personal Finance

Science

General Chemistry

AP Chemistry

AP Biology

Microbiology

AP Environmental Science

The Solar System

Galactic Astronomy

General Physics

AP Physics I

AP Physics II

AP Physics C

Social Studies

American History I & II

West in the World

World Languages

French I, II & III

German I & II

Spanish III

*Courses subject to change

Enrollment in full time Ball State University Courses

With approval from their Academic Advisor, students may enroll directly into Ball State classes. College credit is awarded only for those who pay the corresponding tuition and other fees.

Audit actual Ball State University Courses

Students may also attend Ball State classes for a \$55.00 audit fee. Audit courses earn high school credit. They are listed on the high school transcript as a college course, but no college credit is awarded.

Academic Support and Tutoring

All Indiana Academy teachers hold up to 5 office hours every week. Students are welcome and encouraged to visit teachers one-on-one during these hours to discuss class content or seek additional support with course material.

Free peer-tutoring services are available to help students who may find a particular class especially challenging. This is an organized program where peers approved by teachers can tutor other Academy students. To meet with a tutor, students must simply submit a request.



Academy students traveled to Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming during a 2018 May Term.

May Term

Each spring, after the completion of final exams, Academy students participate in a two-week long specialty course called “May Term.” Students are able to take a unique intensive course, work at an internship site, or travel nationally or internationally. May Term is an excellent opportunity for students to take an in-depth course or workshop in an academic area that is not normally covered in the normal Academy curriculum.

Past international May term trips have included travel to Japan, Canada, Norway, Costa Rica, Germany, China, Switzerland, and France, Ireland, and London – just to name a few. On average, there are 4-5 overseas trips offered to students every year.

Hands-On Career Internship Experience

Academy students may choose to participate in an “Internship” while working toward their Academy Honors Diploma. Internships are optional opportunities for students to learn from productive adults at a work site. Internships are an excellent opportunity for Academy students to improve their college competitiveness and gain real, hands-on experience in potential careers and fields of study. Students can earn one half credit per semester for successful participation in an internship site for 4 hours per week. Or up to one credit hour per semester for working at an internship site for 8 hours per week.

Numerous opportunities exist for students to compete in regional, state or national academic competitions and exams.

- National Language Exams with medalists in each
- Quiz Bowl Team Competitions
- Academic Super Bowl (state finalists in English, Math, Science and History)
- Business Professionals Association – Proceed to National Competition
- Model UN
- Science Olympiad
- National Leadership Conference in Medicine
- Various state music competitions
- National Merit Scholars
- Envirothon
- HOSA (Future Health Professionals Association) – 1st and 2nd place in state and regional competitions
- Senator Richard Lugar Symposium



Students participate in a Greek-themed “public trial” of Plato.

Wellness and Character Development Program

The Indiana Academy has a proud history of educating well-rounded and exceptional student scholars. Activities outside the classroom are also very important. The Academy emphasizes academic excellence as well as service to others and the larger society. These activities further develop exceptional graduates, who are involved and competitive when they apply for university admission. All students participate in Character Development “Wellness” hours, and Service activities.

Wellness

The Indiana Academy is committed to providing students with an environment that encourages healthy lifestyles. The Wellness program at the Academy operates from the standpoint that when any part of an individual is out of balance, it affects the health of the whole.

The Academy recognizes basic wellness dimensions that contribute to a healthy, well-rounded individual. These areas focus on the following categories: cultural, diversity, emotional/spiritual, physical, and vocational experiences. The Wellness program requires each student to complete fifteen (15) credits over the course of the two years at the Academy. These credits must be completed to fulfill a graduation requirement. Each semester Academy staff offers over 120 Wellness activities for students.

Academy School Service

Cooperative living and shared responsibility is fostered through the Academy Service program. A total of fifteen (15) Academy Service hours must be earned in service to the school. The average graduating class of approximately 150 students will complete over 4,000 hours of Academy Service.

Community Service/Volunteering

Every Academy student is strongly encouraged to participate in Community Service/volunteering in the local area. Community Service is a non-paid experience in an approved activity that is beneficial to others, the community, and society. The average graduating class completes over 6,000 hours of community service.

- Hospitals
- Zoos
- Humane Society/ SPCA
- Literacy Projects
- Soup Kitchens
- Day Cares
- Salvation Army
- Coaching Sports Teams
- Libraries
- Physician Offices
- Museums
- Camps (as Staff Member)
- Nursing Homes
- Non-secular Facilities
- Educational Outreach
- Government/Social Services
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Schools
- Homeless Shelters
- Goodwill
- Habitat for Humanity
- Academic Tutoring



Students volunteer during the United Way “Day of Action”

Student Life

The Setting

Located on the Ball State University campus, the Indiana Academy is within walking distance of the university gym, museum, pool, library, post office, dining facilities, athletic games, University Theater, and much much more. While on a university campus, the Academy has its own community separate from the university population. The Academy is located in Wagoner Hall, the Indiana Academy House, Burriss Laboratory School, and part of Elliott Hall. All of these buildings are located on the same block, at the southwest corner of the Ball State campus. Courses are taught in Burriss Laboratory School while a few are taught in University classrooms.

The Academy Building – Wagoner Hall

Location: Wagoner Hall is located immediately adjacent to Burriss Laboratory School and the Elliott Dining hall, and serves as the residence hall and social/study hub for Academy students.

Social areas: The common areas of Wagoner Hall are excellent areas to connect and spend time with other Academy students. Wagoner Hall contains the residential rooms, study and social lounges, mailboxes and lockers, teacher and administrator offices, printers, nurse's office, academic guidance and tutoring, and unlimited wireless internet for student use.

All students, whether homestay or residence hall students, are welcomed and strongly encouraged to study together and socialize in Wagoner Hall during daytime hours.

Residential floors: Some students will be homestays, while others live in the residence hall. The Indiana Academy offers a residential experience unlike any other school. Residence hall students share a room with one other student and may choose to room with other international students or with American students.

Each room in the residence hall is approximately 12' x 16'6" (18.4 m²) and has a wall heating unit. The windows are covered with curtains. Furniture includes: two twin beds, two wardrobe closets with overhead shelf and storage areas, two desks with chairs and attached dresser drawers, two wastepaper baskets, two vanity and shelf units, one smoke detector, and computer outlets. There are quiet hours for studying, printers, laundry rooms, showering and restroom facilities, unlimited wireless internet, and lounges on the residential floors.

Student Life Counselors live on the floors with students, to provide structure and assistance throughout the year. All Student Life Counselors have at least a college bachelor's degree and receive extensive training on student support, mentoring, and supervision. Additionally, Student Life Counselors are accessible to students to address concerns and problems and to foster academic achievement. Residential floors are secured 24 hours/day and students abide by Residential Life rules and curfews every day. Two nurses and a mental health counselor are available full time in Wagoner Hall to support Academy students as well.

Meals: Students living in the residence hall are provided three meals per day at any of Ball State University's various food courts as part of their meal plan. Homestay students pack lunch from home or purchase meals on campus at their own expense.



Extracurricular Activities – Outside the Classroom

Build Lifelong Connections and Friendships

The Indiana Academy is a place where you can be who you are meant to be. You will meet some of the most interesting people you will ever know and have conversations about everything imaginable. Through shared experiences of studying, laughing, learning, and succeeding, Indiana Academy students begin as strangers but graduate as lifelong friends.

- 50+ clubs
- Sports and Intramurals
- Band, Jazz Band, Orchestra
- Every year, 250+ activities provided by residence hall staff and guest presenters
- Social activities (Dances, Amusement Park trip, Festivals, Carnival, and more)
- Special interest groups, from the Environmental Club to Business Professionals of America and Future Healthcare Professionals
- Student Parliament
- Cultural recreational opportunities abound on the Ball State University campus
- Open gym recreation time
- Special Events: Amusement Park, Dances/Prom, Carnival Weekend, “Academy Awards,” Club Fair, Talent Show

Clubs

Indiana Academy students participate in over 50 different clubs per year. Here are some of the clubs that have been formed at the Academy:

- Realms of Mangoria
- Japanese Club
- Mafia Club
- Food Club
- Pixar Club
- Appreciation Club
- Tea Club
- Academy Bible Study
- Paws for a Cause
- Detective Academy
- Knitting and FRIENDS
- Disney Club
- LifeSmarts
- Music Club
- Academy Spectrum
- Vinyl Club
- Futsal Club
- French Club
- Business Professionals of America
- Science Olympiad
- International Committee
- Magic the Gathering Club
- Chess Club
- Spanish Club
- Sunshine Society
- Environthon
- Third Wave
- A Cappella
- HOSA
- Model UN
- Arabic Club
- Running Club
- Average Joe’s
- Chinese Club
- Cosmetology
- UGC
- Community Service Club
- Indiana Academy Inquirer
- Improv
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Math and Physics Club
- Dance Club
- German Club
- Latin Club
- Current Events
- Table Tennis Club
- IASMH Inquirers
- Black Ops Club
- Theoretical Physics Club
- Richard Simmons Club
- For The Love of Music



Sports Teams

- Cross country
- Soccer
- Tennis
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Track
- Swimming
- Baseball
- Golf

Intramural activities change each year but may include the following:

- Ultimate Frisbee
- Indoor Soccer
- Sand Volleyball
- Swimming
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Yoga
- Tennis
- Ping Pong
- Softball
- Bowling
- Frisbee Golf

“The past two years have been such a fun adventure for us.”
- Host Parent



Frequently-Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: Can I play on a sports team while attending your school?

A: Yes. Additionally, international students may participate in band, choir, theater plays, academic teams, and up to 250 additional school activities and clubs.

Q: How are classes selected?

A: The Director of International Programs will support and guide you in class selection based on your personal college and career goals.

Q: When does the school year start and end?

A: Our school year begins in August and ends the following May (10 full months). However, the Academy has a “break” once per month for long weekends and vacation periods. During this time, there are no classes, and students spend quality time with their host families bonding and connecting.

Q: If I work hard and meet U.S requirements, can I earn an Indiana Core 40 with Academic Honors Diploma from the Indiana Academy?

A: Yes!

Q: Does the Indiana Academy accept students on J1 and F1 visas?

A: Yes.

Q: Will someone help me with college visits, college applications, SAT and ACT tests, etc?

A: Yes. Our College and Career Counseling Center staff are always available to help students with all of their college applications, entrance examinations, and other related issues.

Q: What is security like in the residence hall?

A: Student Life Counselors live on the residential floors with Academy students. The residential floors have restricted access only. The Academy front desk is also staffed 24 hours a day. The Night Office Manager makes periodic rounds throughout the building every night. Being on a university campus also ensures 24-hour security from the Ball State University Police Department to promote a safe and secure environment for all students.

Q: How much does it cost to attend the Academy?

A: Program costs vary based on several factors.

Q: What is the process to apply to the Indiana Academy international student program?

A: Contact Huey Shi Chew, International Program Director at hchew@bsu.edu. She is happy to guide you through the application process and answer your questions.

Huey Shi Chew, International Program Director • hchew@bsu.edu • 765-285-8130