



## INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

AOA is a pre-kindergarten through High School, co-educational, college preparatory boarding and day school in Willoughby, Ohio, located on America's North Coast. We are located in the small town of Willoughby with a population of only 25,000. AOA offer boarders the best of all worlds: the safety and comfort of small town living combined with all the urban amenities available by being close to Cleveland, a major Ohio city.

With 25% of our students representing numerous countries, our campus is truly a global village with some of the best and brightest students from down the street, across America, and around the world. This means international students will be in the company of a diverse student population with varying ages, ethnicities and cultural backgrounds. We are proud of our global environment that includes students from all over the USA, China, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Hungary, Iraq, Mexico, Russia, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain and Taiwan. Local guardians are NOT required for our international students.

If you are an individual with many interests, we have a vast array of academic and extracurricular offerings to meet your needs. Visit our website at [www.andrewsosborne.org](http://www.andrewsosborne.org) and take one of our virtual tours found at the top of the information box on the left hand side of the home page. Here you can take a 360 degree tour of our beautiful campus, the academic buildings, the dormitories, and our amazing Equestrian Center.

**How to Apply** - All of the forms required can be found at our website and downloaded from the Admission section titled "How to apply". Andrews Osborne Academy accepts applications from international students who either already have the English skills to take regular, mainstream courses OR who are serious about improving their English skills through our ESL programs so that they can eventually become mainstreamed in the AOA community. While we require all of our domestic students to visit our campus for a personal interview, we will accommodate international students who live outside the country with a Skype or telephone interview. **We cannot accept new students into Grade 11 or Grade 12 if they require ESL.**

### AOA requires:

- an application
- copy of your passport
- three letters of recommendation
- transcripts
- a personal interview OR a Skype or telephone interview
- a one-page essay written by the applicant on any topic
- and the following test results:
  - If English is your first language, **SSAT** or **ISEE** test results are required. Your academic schedule would include all mainstream coursework with no ESL classes.
  - If English IS NOT your first language, **SLEP** or **TOEFL** test results (minimum requirements listed below) are required. SLEP results are accepted for admission to Grades 7-8 only. TOEFL is required for Grades 9 through 12. Depending on your level of English language skills, you may be required to take ESL courses (described below) or you may be required to participate in our five-week summer ESL program before school starts. In some instances, you might be required to start at AOA at a grade level lower than the grade to which you applied.

Grade	Minimum SLEP	Minimum TOEFL ibt
7	40	26
8	45	39
9	<b>Must have TOEFL</b>	52
10	<b>Must have TOEFL</b>	68
11	<b>Must have TOEFL</b>	83
12	<b>Must have TOEFL</b>	100

**I-20 Form** - If you are accepted as a student, we will send you a letter of acceptance and an Enrollment Contract. When this contract is signed and returned with the required deposit, we will process an I-20 Form for you. The I-20 will be sent to you via UPS along with a letter of support and interview tips.

**Transportation** – The closest airport is Cleveland Hopkins International Airport (CLE) which connects with all of the major airports in the USA. Someone from AOA will meet you at the airport the first time you arrive. We also arrange for airport transportation for our students and families whenever it is needed.

**Holidays and School Breaks** – The dorms close for three breaks during the academic year:

- Thanksgiving in November (usually for Wednesday-Sunday during the 4<sup>th</sup> week in November),
- Winter Break (last two weeks in December) a
- Spring Break (usually the last two weeks in March).

Although our dorms close and all boarders must leave, our international students have options. Many choose to visit a relative or family friend that is located in the USA during these times. Some students travel home during the two-week breaks. Others will spend the break with the family of a day student who has become a friend. We also can arrange for a host family either locally or elsewhere in the USA for a fee (less than the cost of a ticket home). Camps are available and we will help with these arrangements. During Spring Break, the school offers a 10-day trip to Europe or to Costa Rico. The cost is usually under \$2,500 and the remaining break time is spent in the dorms.

**English as a Second Language** - If you are an international student in Grades 7-10 who requires ESL, we have an exceptional program.

- **ESL** is taken in place of regular English. The class consists of two periods of ESL with three levels from Intermediate to Advanced. Classes are designed to improve English speaking skills through the study of vocabulary building, grammar; reading comprehension and writing. Students advance through the three levels as their English skills improve.
- **ESL Physical Science** - Through our years of experience, we have learned that many international students may have difficulty with science courses strictly because of language. Therefore, we have developed a Physical Science course that teaches only the language and vocabulary of science disciplines. One academic quarter (9 weeks) each is dedicated to biology, chemistry and physics. One quarter is then devoted to the language of working in a science laboratory. This has proved to be an excellent base for then continuing in advanced science courses.
- **Humanities** – Because History is also language intensive, a Humanities course has been developed at two levels as an introduction to U.S. History. This course is designed to quickly acquaint the international student with U.S History with an emphasis on developing writing skills. It is integrated with the ongoing studies in the ESL classes.
- **Writing laboratories** - Because good writing skills are essential to success at AOA as well as at universities, we have designed a class to teach students how to write both essays and papers. It is particularly helpful for international students.
- **Math** – International students take mainstream math classes
- **Electives** – International students have opportunities to take elective courses.
- **Credit** is earned for all of these ESL courses. The ESL program has proved to be extremely valuable in preparing students for American universities. All international students are required to be mainstreamed into the regular curriculum by their senior year.

**Boarding** – AOA’s boarding program is outstanding. There are seven dormitories on campus that are all large homes holding only eight to twenty-four boarders. The residential staff members live in apartments in the dorms and are responsible for the security, health, and wellbeing of their boarders. In overseeing the daily life in the dorms, they keep boarders on schedule for school, sports and lessons, account for their whereabouts, and coordinate boarders’ needs with school staff and parents. While the majority of the dorm rooms are doubles housing only two students, there are a few triples or quads. Bathrooms are shared.

**Weekends** – Our boarding students still get to do all those things that teenagers worldwide enjoy, like sleeping late on the weekend, hanging out with friends, catching up with homework, or playing a game of pickup basketball. A full schedule of optional activities is designed to be fun and keep boarders busy. These include local shopping, bowling, movies, social activities on campus and an endless list of things to do available within 30 minutes of the school. These include the world renown Cleveland Orchestra, professional theater (Cleveland’s Playhouse Square is the second largest theater district in the USA outside of NYC), museums, professional sports teams (NBA, MLB and NFL), upscale shopping and restaurants, ethnic markets and restaurants, skiing and snowboarding, white water rafting, and camping, as well as all of the entertainment provided by lakefront living. School transportation is provided for these activities and our faculty and staff serves as chaperones.

**Academics** – Andrews Osborne Academy has a rigorous academic curriculum with regular, honors and AP courses. The emotional and social wellbeing of our students is as important as their academic success; and we encourage the development of leadership skills through public speaking, sports, and active participation in the life at AOA. 100% of AOA’s graduates go on to study at the universities of their choice.

**Arts** - We have an excellent fine arts program that includes visual art, voice, musical instrument ensembles, and drama. Our students routinely participate in local juried art shows where they regularly win scholarships and cash prizes. The choir performs for school and community events. Both our voice and instrument musicians perform in competitions with other local schools and we do two major stage productions a year: a drama in the fall and a musical in the spring.

**Fine Arts Association** - We are also quite fortunate to have an independent organization, Fine Arts Association, located right on campus within easy walking distance of the dorms. Students have endless opportunities to pursue fine arts interests. They can take private lessons in drawing, painting, ceramics, voice, dance, drama, yoga, Pilates or any musical instrument. You will quickly see there are unlimited opportunities to pursue fine arts interests. You can take private lessons in drawing, painting, ceramics, voice, dance, drama, yoga, pilates or any musical instrument. Students are also welcome to audition for stage productions put on by the Fine Arts Association. To learn more, visit their website at [www.fineartsassociation.org](http://www.fineartsassociation.org)

**Sports** – Our very active sports program includes basketball, cross country, golf, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming, volleyball and tennis. This season, our top two tennis players remained undefeated. One is from China and the second from France. All students are required to join one sports team each year.

**Equestrian Program** – While participation in our Equestrian program is optional and not required, students interested in learning to ride or those who are advanced riders looking to hone their skills will find AOA’s program to be one of the best in the country. Our school has gained recognition as one of the most extensive and challenging equestrian programs in North America. It doesn’t matter whether you have never had the experience of riding horses or whether you are an advanced rider, we can meet your needs from group lessons to private training. We have a world class Equestrian facility with two indoor rings as well as three outdoor rings. We also have two of the premier trainers in the USA. Our Interscholastic Equestrian Team competes with schools from across North America and is consistently ranked among the top in the country.

**Health Insurance** – All international students are required to have health insurance that will cover them in the United States. Families have the option of purchasing health coverage through any insurance company or provider that they choose. However, if evidence of health insurance is not provided by the family, the school will order health coverage for the student through an independent health care provider. The cost is usually in the \$600-\$700 range per academic year and this amount will be billed to the family by AOA. This health insurance will be ordered by the school strictly as a convenience for the family. The school makes no guarantees regarding the health insurance plan and the school does not assume liability for any of the coverage provided by this plan.

**Uniforms** – AOA has a uniform dress code of khaki pants, plaid skirts, polo shirts and a school sweater. Any plain khaki (tan) dress pants can be worn (no extra pockets, patches or zippers). Polo shirts and sweaters can be purchased in the Campus Shop and we will order skirts for you. Black or brown dress shoes are required for school (no tennis or gym shoes). Uniforms will cost between \$100 - \$300, depending on quantities purchased.

**Costs and Payment** – The Comprehensive Fee for the 2010/2011 Academic Year is \$35,600. There is also a class fee of \$750 (\$1,000 for seniors) that covers extracurricular activities like class field trips and sports. The Comprehensive Fee includes the following:

- tuition
- room and board
- textbooks
- technology (computer labs, campus email and internet services)
- I-20 processing
- ESL instruction and support

The student will need additional discretionary spending money for personal incidental items throughout the academic year. Payment for fees can be made by cash, check, credit card (visa or mastercard), or by wire transfer.

**Contact Information** - If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Donna Miller either by email or phone as follows:

**Donna Miller, Associate Director of International Admissions**

Andrews Osborne Academy

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