

LEARN ENGLISH IN CANADA.



WYNCEMNA
VANCOUVER



WYNCHEMNA'S PHILOSOPHY

Wynchemna's philosophy is that one should have fun acquiring a second language. We accomplish highly effective learning through a combination of classroom instruction and recreational activities. Wynchemna is a total immersion programme.

Total immersion means that the students speak English at all times, not only in the classroom, but also during the recreational activities, on the bus to and from activities, in the living quarters, while walking to the cafeteria, during their free time, and any place where there are other Wynchemna students as well as with local Canadians, who treat non-native speakers with kindness and good cheer. For the entire residence, each participant is immersed in English throughout the day, and acquires comprehensive language both through formal instruction and through participating in the everyday happenings. The students are youths, and though they are here to learn English, they are also here to enjoy themselves in a new and an exciting environment. Wynchemna believes both can be achieved simultaneously. In doing so, the youths gain great comfort and enormous familiarity with English.



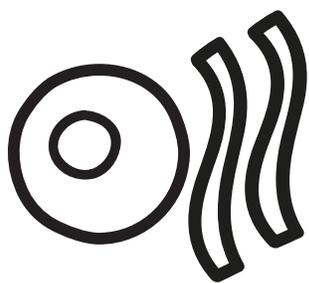
AIRPORT

The Wynchemna teachers will be waiting for the students at the Vancouver airport. Wynchemna teachers are easy to spot at the airport with their colourful staff t-shirts and they will be holding a sign with the names of each new student. If there are any problems, please go to the sign **International Arrivals**. At the end of the programme, the teachers will, of course, take the students back to the airport and help them at the "check in."



ACCOMMODATION

The living accommodation is situated at the University of British Columbia (UBC). It is right at the heart of Vancouver. It has a wide range of recreational and educational facilities that are surrounded by lush forests and beaches. It is a friendly campus for students and those who join the programme discover that the campus is a stimulating place to learn and a relaxing place to reside.



BREAKFAST

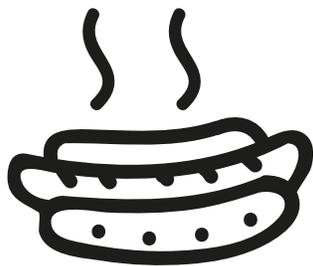
Breakfast is a buffet style with a wide range of choices of food for the students. The morning meal is a time to enjoy the food and relax where students can discuss events from the previous day or talk about their school system back home. During breakfast, teachers go over the schedule for the day, for example, what time the bus leaves for the Vancouver Aquarium in the afternoon and what students will need for Stanley Park in the evening.



LESSONS

A placement exam is organized on the first day of classes. Wynchemna places each student in the class where s/he will feel most comfortable. The classes are very small.

Wynchemna tries to mix nationalities while keeping the students with the same level of English in one class. If a student finds a class too difficult or too easy, s/he can speak with the teacher and change to another class. Each student will have at least two different teachers every day; one teacher will concentrate on speaking and listening skills while the other teacher will concentrate on reading and writing skills.



LUNCH

For the mid-day meal, participants select from a variety of soups, salads, vegetables and main dishes: meat, fish and vegetarian. Lunchtime is a good opportunity for students to meet others from different nationalities and make new friends. One teacher sits at the table and asks students from different countries to come and join her/him. This encourages the students to continue practicing their English skills

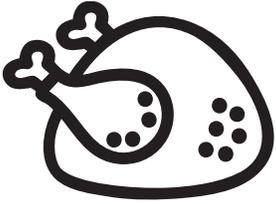


AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

During the activities, students from different countries are mixed to facilitate immersion. On the bus, the teachers ask the students to sit with someone whom they have not yet met. Here is the chance to meet someone whom you don't know from breakfast or your language lesson. What's more, this informal contact may become an amazing friend you keep in touch with for years! Speaking and hearing English all day allows students to make the best possible progress. Immersion continues even after the classes and lunch.

For example, during kayaking lessons, the kayak instructors teach you how to kayak in English. They are certified in their field expertise, as are the other instructors for the specific instruction recreational activity. The teachers will be there to assist you if you do not understand the sailing instructors. Therefore, students learn English not only from the teachers, but also from Canadians whom they meet during their stay in Canada.





SUPPER

Evening meals are similar to lunch; students and teachers eat supper together. Supper is usually at different food locations around Vancouver, which depends on the evening activity.



EVENING ACTIVITIES

Evening activities involve many different experiences for the students: skating, cycling, bowling, Stanley Park, inline skating, etc. Perhaps you have never done a particular activity and you do not think you want to try it, but this is your chance to try something new. Try it before you say no. Wynchemna asks students to try every activity at least once before they decide they do not like it. Wynchemna also asks students who are good at an activity to help students who are not. For example, if you know how to skate, and another student does not, perhaps you can help teach her or him. The teachers from your classes are also there to show you how to skate. Give new activities a chance and you will enjoy yourself. Everything is attitude and how you seize the opportunity.





BEDROOMS

Girls are in one area and boys are in another area. Wynchemna tries to place students who speak different languages together so that the students have to speak English with one another. The thrill of meeting someone new is a great chance to practice your English. If you come to Wynchemna with a friend, s/he will probably be less than a minute away in another room. You are more than welcome to go and visit your friend. Every student is in the same position. Who is going to share the bedroom with me? Will this new student like me?

Go up and introduce yourself. You may come from different countries, but you have a lot more in common than you think. Ask your new roommate what kind of music s/he likes? Teach your new friend a card game. Teachers will always announce a time when students have to be in their apartments and students then have half an hour (30 minutes) to chat with roommates before going to bed. Younger students usually have a 22:00 apartment time and older students usually have a 23:00 apartment time, which gives the students time to have a shower, watch some TV, read a book, play some games with a roommate or just chat.

THE ENGLISH REMINDER

Fun - and - important. Of course it is easy to speak your native language, but that is not the reason you are in Vancouver and Canada. You are here to learn some English, learn about Canadian culture and meet people from different parts of the world. The one language that everyone understands is English. How would you feel if eight people in the bus began laughing, but since they were not speaking English, you could not understand the joke? English is the only language that everyone speaks and understands.

It is requested that English be spoken in the residences, at breakfast, during classes, in the hallways, on the bus, during the activities, etc. In other words: EVERYWHERE. As a little reminder, the teachers collect 25 Canadian cents (a quarter) from the students if English is not spoken. Teachers give back quarters to the students if a lot of English is spoken. At the end of the course, the money is used for a party.

So, heh, you are only here for a few weeks, give it a try and speak English. Once you are back home, you will realize how much fun you had in Canada and how much English you learned.





CAMPING TRIP

Wynchemna supplies the sleeping bags, tents, and other camping equipment during the one-week tour in the Whistler area and Vancouver Island. Each student can take a knapsack or backpack for the camping trip. Suitcases will be left at the residences. Students can take a shower every second day when we visit the hot springs or a pool during the camping trip. Students are expected to help prepare meals with the teachers as well as help wash the dishes and load and unload the bus.

PASSPORTS, AIRPLANE TICKETS, MONEY

Students need money for stamps, post cards, pens, batteries, film and souvenirs. Students should give their pocket money, airplane tickets and passport to the co-ordinator upon arrival in Vancouver. Pocket money will be given out at various times during the week.

VISITS

If you plan to visit your daughter or son at Wynchemna, please notify us as soon as possible because we are often away from the residences doing various recreational activities. If a relative or friend would like to visit your daughter or son, we need written permission from the parents that their daughter or son is allowed to visit with this person.

CLOTHES AND WASHING

Students can wash clothes at the residence for \$3 per load. Wynchemna will supply the washing detergent for the students, and the teachers will show the students how the washing machine works.

WEATHER

Generally speaking, the weather is nice and very dry and sunny in Vancouver during the summer, although the weather might change quite rapidly. It could be hot, dry and 28 C one day and the next day windy and 18 C. Vancouver is on the Coast, and there might be some rainy days. Be prepared for anything!

AGE GROUPS

Wynchemna tries it best to group students in apartments, classes and activities according to age, but please note that on occasion we might have to mix different age groups together.



RULES

We ask students to follow these simple rules:

1. **Obey the laws.**
2. **Co-operate with the Wynchemna teachers and staff.**
3. **Be friendly and respect the teachers, staff, fellow Candians and other students from different countries.**
4. **Take care of your health.**

Any serious breach of these rules will result in the immediate dismissal of the student. Wynchemna also expects students to participate in all classes, meals and activities, help carry for example soccer balls to the bus, to be on time for all scheduled events and to generally help in the smooth operation of Wynchemna.

The Wynchemna teachers want to have fun with the students, but getting them out of bed in the morning or trying to find these missing students when the bus is ready to leave for sailing disrupts the smooth flow of Wynchemna, and; therefore, these students will be given a warning.

If the problem persists, then these students will be helping with the recycling or other odd jobs. If this problem continues, Wynchemna will inform the agent or parents and action will be taken immediately to resolve the situation.

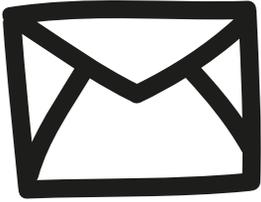


PLEASE NOTE...

We highly suggest that no cell phones, handheld gaming devices, iPods, speakers, headphones, or other electronic equipment are brought to Wynchemna. If students decide to bring these things along anyway, Wynchemna is not responsible if items are lost, destroyed or broken by other students or unforeseen activities; for example, water fights.

No electronic equipment is allowed on the bus (for example, cell phones, head phones, iPods, speakers etc.). Students are expected to speak and talk with each other and the teachers while riding the bus. Cell phones must be turned off during breakfast, language lessons, lunch, bus rides, recreational activities and supper.

If there are any problems with cell phone use, Wynchemna will take the cell phone away from the student and give the cell phone back to the student on the last day of the course.



MAIL

We encourage you to write your daughter or son. Students are always happy to receive mail from family, friends or relatives. You can write your daughter or son at the following address:

Conferences and Accommodation at University of British Columbia
The Wynchemna Group
Student's Name
5961 Student Union Boulevard
Vancouver, British Columbia
V6T 2C9, Canada



TELEPHONE

It is difficult to phone your daughter or son at the residences because we are often off campus, participating in various recreational activities such as canoeing, kayaking, golfing, going to the movies, etc.; instead, we suggest that your daughter or son phones you.

Wynchemna will give each student one long-distance telephone card for free. The student can call for approximately 20 minutes with this phone card. In case there is an emergency, you can always call the following telephone number: (403) 282-1698 or email: wynchemna@gmail.com



WYNCHEMNA'S LIST OF THINGS TO BRING ALONG:

- Passport
- 6 pairs of socks
- 5 T-shirts
- 3 shirts
- 3 sweaters
- 3 pairs of long pants
- 2 good pairs of running shoes
- 2 towels at least
- 2 pairs of shorts
- 2 pairs of pajamas
- 1 swimming suit
- 1 sun hat
- 1 warm jacket
- 1 rain jacket
- Pocket money (between 300 and 500 Canadian Dollars)
- Lots of underwear
- 1 alarm clock
- 1 watch
- 1 toothbrush and toothpaste
- 1 comb or brush
- 1 shampoo
- 1 sun cream (sunscreen factor 30)
- 1 pair of sunglasses
- 1 camera
- 1 flashlight
- 1 knapsack
- 1 suitcase (a backpack would be best)
- 1 dictionary
- Adapter for 110 volts

Just remember not to pack too much... think about the souvenirs you are going to take back home! This list is a suggestion of things to take along. If you do not have everything on the list, it might be necessary to buy these things. It would be a good idea to have your name written on your belongings just in case you misplace them; that way lost items can be returned to the student. Please remember not to take expensive clothes that might be damaged during the recreational activities.