

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES CENTER PROGRAM  
Lincoln High School  
Portland, Oregon

The International Studies Center is part of Portland Public Schools' magnet program and it is also a course of study available for the Lincoln neighborhood students. The ISC program began in 1976 with 25 students. Currently, there are 750 students in the ISC program, approximately half of the 1460 students enrolled at Lincoln High School. The International Studies Program is an experiential, self-designed program that takes place in classes and both on- and off-campus. Students do not meet as a class on a daily basis, but participate in events and activities throughout the year. It is a credit course and the students receive a letter grade. Our goal is for our students to become global citizens.

Program requirements include: four years of second language study, a fine arts course, six credits of study in world-related social studies and English classes, community service of a global nature, attendance at International Night events, participation in monthly international activities, and completion of quarterly report forms that summarize the student's participation and an end of the year report. Freshmen attend a lunch meeting, run by ISC student leaders, at the end of each quarter to learn more about ISC requirements and opportunities. Seniors prepare and present a seminar on an international topic of their choice and participate in senior exit interviews at the end of their senior year.

Lincoln also is home to a Spanish Immersion program and an International Baccalaureate program.

Lincoln's International Studies and International Baccalaureate coordinators and advisory groups are continually working on ways to connect the two programs, creating opportunities for students to receive credit for the work in both programs. Examples are IB CASS projects that work for ISC community service and IB extended essays that are the topics for the ISC senior seminars. ISC supports internationalizing the IB curriculum with activities such as Hot Topics, Global Pursuit, speakers, etc. This year the IB and ISC programs are co-sponsoring an Adopt a Minefield project, to collect money to clear a field in Cambodia of its landmines.

Students who successfully complete the ISC program receive credit, an ISC seal on their diploma, special recognition at graduation and they wear a special cord at graduation.

What Makes the ISC Program Special

**ISC Student Leaders:** For the first year, we have a class of ISC student leaders who act as an advisory committee and work in many areas of ISC. There is too much for the part time coordinators to do to make the ISC program successful, and these student leaders are helping in many ways to make that happen.

**ISC Lunch Leaders:** 80 enthusiastic ISC sophomores, juniors and seniors meet with freshmen at the end of each quarter to make sure that they understand program requirements, give them new information about opportunities and encourage them to participate in ISC activities and events. They are teaching the freshmen about what ISC is all about.

**ISC Faculty Committee:** 35 teachers, counselors and administrators participate in the ISC program by sitting in on freshmen lunch meetings and senior seminars and advising the ISC coordinators.

**Quarterly Lunch Meetings:** ISC student leaders meet at the end of each quarter with the freshmen as described above. 20+ meetings are going on simultaneously in classrooms around the school. Each meeting is run by 3 or 4 leaders with 12-15 freshmen. Each group works with the same agenda, but the student leaders individualize their presentation by their individual style.

**Community Service:** The service that some ISC students perform is impressive. Some students get very involved and perform many hours. Some of the favorite sites are SOLV, Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism; No Ivy League, removing non-native ivy from trees; tutoring; coaching; refereeing; working at the World Affairs Council and other agencies; participating in campus cleanups; being a counselor at Outdoor School and being a peer mediator at school. The community service requirement can be completed on or off campus.

**International Nights:** Every year the ISC program sponsors evening events for students and their families, including Noche Latina, Adopt a Minefield Project, Mardi Gras, Study/Travel Fair school plays. and more.

**Study/Travel Fair:** Lincoln hosts this evening fair every year that brings many programs to campus so that students and parents can learn about travel and hosting opportunities.

**Global Pursuit:** Teams of students compete to see which one knows the most about international history, geography, politics, sports, music, art, current events, math, science, etc. The competition is fierce and, even though there is no prize, every team really wants to win.

Hot Topics Lecture Series: This lecture series brings speakers to campus to present about international and global topics of concern. Traditionally, this lecture series takes place every Wednesday after school for ten weeks in the winter and spring. This year, in response to the aftermath of Sept. 11 and the war in Afghanistan, Hot Topics lectures took place often on an ad hoc basis all during the fall, during lunch, after school and in the evening. In December, we hosted a morning Teach-In, with 40+ speakers and hands-on and participatory events. Morning classes were cancelled for the Teach-In.

Senior Seminars: All ISC seniors prepare and present a seminar on an international topic of their choice. These seminars are presented during lunch during the month of February, with perhaps ten going on during any one day. Seminars include presentations, demonstrations and lectures. Topics are varied, ranging from yoga to belly dancing to Japanimation to Internet piracy to salsa dancing.

Senior Exit Interviews: These exit interviews allow our seniors the opportunity to reflect on their four years in the ISC program and at Lincoln High School and to consider what they have learned and experienced. At the same time, they can provide us with thoughts and ideas for ways to change and improve the ISC program. The students are given their four year ISC portfolio during this interview.

Community Relations

World Affairs Council of Oregon

Portland State University

Multicultural Resource Center

Middle East Studies Center

Community Service Agencies:

SOLV (Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism)

No Ivy League (Removal of Non-native Ivy)

Operation Easy (Tutoring Program)

AmeriCorps

+ many more