

Kaplan International Center Chicago

Welcome to Kaplan International Center Chicago, located in the heart of downtown Chicago. We are certain that you will enjoy your study and your stay at our center. In addition to our comfortable classrooms and excellent location, we offer first class facilities including an extensive library of self-study materials.

Chicago attracts residents from all over the world and has a total population of three million people. Our center is located in the “Loop”, right in the center of the vibrant city, surrounded by business, theater, and shopping districts. We are near all major public transportation lines and just a short walk from the parks that line the Lake Michigan waterfront.

There are many opportunities for fun and exciting activities in the Chicago area. Kaplan International Center students can take advantage of a wide range of activities from skiing in Wisconsin during the winter to playing beach volleyball in the summer. You can also join our organized trips to Indiana for apple picking or to Six Flags amusement park. With Kaplan International Center Chicago, you will really be able to make the most of your experience.

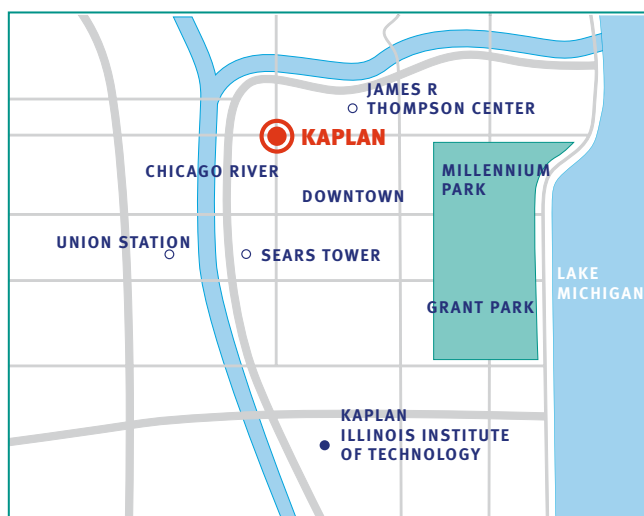
Kaplan International Center Educational Programs in the USA are accredited by the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training.



Kaplan International Centers is a member of AAIEP (American Association of Intensive English Programs), TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) and NAESA (Association for International Educators).



Kaplan Center



Kaplan International Center Chicago
205 West Randolph Street, Suite 200
Chicago, IL 60606
USA

Center Facilities

Classrooms

The Chicago center currently has 18 classrooms. The majority is being used for Kaplan International Center educational programs. Two of the above classrooms are auditorium style, fitting 100 students each. Orientations and important presentations are given here.

Multimedia and IT center

The computer lab has 15 workstations, 4 of which have Internet access. Software and materials used for language learning can be borrowed and used at the center but cannot be taken home. The Chicago center also offers WI-FI Internet access for students who wish to study with their laptop computers.

Library

Kaplan has its own language library. Public libraries are located all over Chicago. The world's largest public library is in the Loop area and is a short walk from the center.

Student Lounge

There is a student lounge available for student use. The student lounge has tables where students can meet during breaks. There is a refrigerator, water cooler and microwave. This room is open during center hours.

Cafeteria

There is no cafeteria facility in the center. However, a variety of delis, sandwich shops and restaurants are within walking distance.

Sports facilities

There are no sports facilities in the center, although many public parks with facilities are found throughout the Chicago area. There are also many private gymnasiums located nearby should students wish to join.

Activities/Social Program

Kaplan International Center organizes many activities for students such as: visits to world famous museums, free outdoor concerts, ice skating at Millennium Park, neighbourhood tours and boating on the lake. Kaplan International Center also plans organized trips to Indiana for apple picking, Skiing in Wisconsin and to Six Flags amusement park.



Chicago Lesson



Spacious classroom

Your first day

On the first day of your course you need to report to Kaplan International Centers's reception desk, which is located at 205 West Randolph Street, Suite 200. Please be there at 9:30 am. (Your first day will be a Monday unless there is a national holiday on the Monday - in which case your first day will be Tuesday).

Your course will begin with an all-day introduction, which will include:

- Staff introductions, visa information, activities information
- Kaplan International Centers information, academic information and tour of the center
- Lunch and Ice Breaker Activity
- CELT Test A and 15 minute writing sample
- Housing orientation

Please bring the following with you:

- Passport and I-94 form (given to you at US Immigration)
- USD 40 book deposit
- I-20 form (if you have an F-1 visa)
- Course Payment/Voucher, if available
- Your address in the USA
- Proof of Health Insurance, if required
- All your Kaplan International Centers documents and a pen and paper for notetaking purposes.

At the end of the day you will receive information about your class schedule, classroom number, study level, elective course, and the hours you are to attend class. You will be assigned the most appropriate class for your level of English.

Local Information

Transport - buses and trains

If you learn how to use public transportation in Chicago, you will be able to go just about anywhere in the city at a low cost. From 8 am to 11 pm constant service is provided by the CTA/RTA, which includes buses, subways, and elevated trains. On weekends and late at night the CTA runs less frequently so there can be long waits. Buses require exact change. You can buy CTA cards at Currency Exchanges, banks and CTA stations, often at a significant savings.

Banks and Post Office

There are many banks close to the center, these include Citibank, Bank of America and Chase bank. The post office is at the Thompson Center, also near the center.

Restaurants and cafés

There is an extensive collection of restaurants and cafés within walking distance of the center. Rivers, Alonti Market Café, BonBon Café, Corner Bakery and Starbucks to name a few!

Department stores and supermarkets

The center is close to the famous 'Magnificent Mile' on Michigan Avenue. Take a stroll down the road and experience world class shopping, dining and entertainment. Stores such as Macy's, Borders, Nine West, Old Navy and Target are also located nearby.

Telephone and Internet Café

Broadband Café and Screenz are two popular internet cafés nearby. Students are advised to use a calling card when calling overseas.

Cost of living

Approximate prices in USD (subject to change)

Sandwich: \$6
Hamburger: \$6

Meal in Restaurant:
Dinner \$30-\$40
Lunch \$10-\$20
Tea/Coffee: \$3.00

Tickets:
Movie: \$10
CTA Bus: \$2.25
CTA Train \$2.25
CTA Transfer \$0.25



Kaplan International Center students ice skating



Kaplan International Center teacher and students



Student Lounge



Millennium Park Bean Sculpture

Sample Activities Schedule

Please note that this is a sample program and activities may change.

Week one

Monday Welcome new students!
Tuesday Neighborhood tour and dinner with a Kaplan International Centers teacher
Wednesday Shopping on the Magnificent Mile
Thursday University admissions seminar
Friday Visit the Art Institute museum

Week two

Monday Watch a White Sox game!
Tuesday Take a free TOEFL Practice Test
Wednesday Teacher Talk: Learn something new about American culture!
Thursday Free Concert at Millenium Park
Friday Beach day! Bike ride along the Lakefront or play volleyball on the beach

Kaplan International Center Chicago



Transfer Information

Kaplan Transfers

You should fly to Chicago O`Hare or Midway Airport. If you have paid for the Transfer Service, a greeter holding a Kaplan sign will meet you outside, after you have claimed your luggage.

Should you have any questions or cannot find the airport transportation company, please call the toll free number to United Limo and Travel Services at 1-888-995-5466.

Emergency Contact Number: 1-916-962-6218

Independent Transfers

Taxis can be taken to your homestay or center. Subways depart from the airport and will bring you into the center of Chicago.

From O'Hare airport, take the blue line train.

From Midway airport, take the orange line train.



Chicago Skyline

Details may change. Published Jan 2010.