

# Kaplan International Center



Welcome to Kaplan International Center Chicago, located in the heart of Chicago's downtown area. Chicago is famous for its architecture, museums and theatres, its sporting teams, and its amazing food. America's 'Second City' has all the advantages of a large city, but retains its own individual charm. Chicago attracts visitors 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.

With Kaplan International Center Chicago, you will really be able to make the most of your experience. We offer a full range of programs, from General English to TOEFL® and Academic English, to GMAT® and GRE® for International Students. We are certain that you will enjoy your study and your stay at our center.



Kaplan International Center Chicago



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

Kaplan International Centers in the USA are accredited by the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training. Kaplan International Centers is a member of TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) and NAFSA (Association for International Educators).



#### KAPLAN INTERNATIONAL CENTER CHICAGO

# **Center Facilities**

#### Classrooms

The Chicago center has 18 classrooms, plus an auditorium that holds up to 100 people for orientations and other social activities.

#### **Multimedia Center**

Our computer lab has 15 computers with internet connection and a variety of online language learning resources. We also offer free internet wireless throughout the center.

#### Library

Kaplan has its own language learning 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

Chicago provides visitors with many big-city recreational opportunities. Watch the famous Chicago Bulls basketball team, or see the Cubs play at America's oldest and most famous baseball stadium, Wrigley Field. Chicago's cultural scene is packed with hundreds of shows, exhibits, festivals and special events including a tour of a house designed by celebrated architect Frank Lloyd Wright.



Chicago Lesson



Spacious classroom

INTERNATIONAL

## 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 9:00 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, specific skills, and the hours you are to attend class. You will be assigned the most appropriate class for your level of English.

#### **KAPLAN INTERNATIONAL CENTER CHICAGO**

# **Local Information**

#### **Transport - buses and trains**

Chicago has excellent public transportation and the downtown school is easily accessible by bus or several train lines.

#### **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 a huge variety of food options within a five minute walk of the center. Indian, Mediterranean, Polish, and Asian are all available at reasonable prices. Chicago is also famous for its pizza and hotdogs!

#### **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.

#### **Telephone and Internet**

The school has wireless internet access, internet kiosks and a computer lab. There are several companies offering very reasonable deals on cellphones, and international calling cards are also available.



Kaplan International Center students ice skating



Student lounge



Kaplan International Center teacher and students



Millennium Park Bean Sculpture

### **Sample Activities Schedule**

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

#### Week one

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday	Welcome new students! Neighborhood tour and dinner with your class mates Shopping on the Magnificent Mile Visit the top of Sears Towers Visit the Art Institute museum
Week two	
Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday	Watch a White Sox baseball game! Shed Aquarium Soccer match against the KIC IIT school Free Concert at Millennium Park Beach day! Bike ride along the Lakefront or play volleyball on the beach

## **Cost of Living**

#### Approximate prices in USD (subject to change)

\$6 \$6

\$10 \$2.25 \$2.25

Sandwich:	
Hamburger:	

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

#### 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.

# Or call the Kaplan 24 hour phone 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.



KAPI

Chicago Skyline

INTERNATIONAL

CENTERS