



Interession 2025

Program Catalog

OVERVIEW

IMSA's 2025 Intersession runs primarily January 6-10, and 13-17. Some Travel Study programs may begin or conclude outside those dates.

Sessions will be facilitated in four different modalities:

- **On-Site @ IMSA:** In-person at IMSA's campus in Aurora, IL.
- **Virtual:** Full program will held via Zoom.
- **Local:** Partly or fully off-campus with no overnight stays.
- **Travel Study:** Fully off-site and will require one or more nights of overnight stay due the distance from campus. Travel Study applications are closed. Information on 2026 Travel Study programs will be released during the Spring 2025 semester.
- **Lecture Series:** 30-60 minute talks held daily from 1:00-2:00pm, Monday-Thursday each week. All students on-campus each day will be expected to join a Lecture Series event of their choosing; therefore, these will not be requested in advance. A full list of the Lecture Series offerings will be provided prior to Intersession.

Review this catalog prior to making requests, and note all of the details of the sessions you plan to request, including prerequisites and fees.

Student Requirements

Intersession is an IMSA graduation requirement; all IMSA students are required to participate. All students are expected to return to live on campus for Intersession following Winter Break, unless the student's confirmed Intersession programs are approved to be completed fully or partially off-site.

For 2025, the minimum requirement for all students is to be enrolled in the equivalent of full-time programming. This can equate to either of the following:

- Enrolled in a single (1) Full-Time – Two Weeks program that meets during the morning and afternoon periods each week (ie: Blocks A, B, C, and D – see “Session Times/Dates” section below)
- Enrolled in multiple (2+) programs that equate to a full-time schedule over two weeks.
 - Example: Enrolled in a Full-Time – One Week program during week one (Blocks AB), and enrolled in Part-Time Morning (Block C) and Part-Time Afternoon (Block D) programs during week two.

Students will be scheduled for programming during Blocks A, B, C, and D to ensure a full schedule.

Students may request additional sessions beyond the minimum. Enrollment in additional sessions will be dependent upon schedule fit and seat availability.

- **Travel Study Students:** Travel Study programs are considered Full-Time – Two Weeks, and this satisfies the full Intersession requirements. Students in the programs *should not*

return to campus prior to the departure of the program, and should return to campus after the program no earlier than the weekend before the start of the Spring semester (Friday, January 17).

Session Times/Dates

Session durations are listed in the catalog. The Intersession weeks are divided into four blocks: Morning – Week 1 (Block A), Afternoon – Week 2 (B), Morning – Week 2 (C), Afternoon – Week 2 (D). Sessions that span across multiple blocks will have all of the corresponding block letters in the request code. (ie: A Full-Time – Week 1 session that runs during Block A and Block B will have a request code that begins with AB).

SESSION TYPE	REQUEST CODE LETTERS
Full-Time - Two Weeks (Jan. 6-10 & 13-17) Meets January 6-9 and January 13-16 from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM AND 2:20 PM - 4:20 PM, and 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM on Intersession Expo Days (Friday, January 10 and Friday, January 17).	ABCD
Full-Time - Week 1 (Jan. 6-10) Meets January 6-9 from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM AND 2:20 PM - 4:20 PM, and 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM on Intersession Expo Days (Friday, January 10)	AB
Full-Time - Week 2 (Jan. 13-17) Meets January 13-16 from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM AND 2:20 PM - 4:20 PM, and 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM on Intersession Expo Days (Friday, January 17).	CD
Part-Time - Morning Week 1 (Jan. 6-10) Meets January 6-9 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM each day, and 9:00 AM - 10:20 AM on the Intersession Expo Day (Friday).	A
Part-Time - Afternoon Week 1 (Jan. 6-10) Meets January 6-9 from 2:20 PM – 4:20 PM, and 10:40 AM - 12:00 PM on the Intersession Expo Day (Friday).	B
Part-Time - Morning Week 2 (Jan. 13-17) Meets January 13-16 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM each day, and 9:00 AM - 10:20 AM on the Intersession Expo Day (Friday).	C
Part-Time - Afternoon Week 2 (Jan. 13-17) Meets January 13-16 from 2:20 PM – 4:20 PM, and 10:40 AM - 12:00 PM on the Intersession Expo Day (Friday).	D

Program Fees

Some sessions include program fees. Students and families must be aware of the fees associated with the sessions selected during the request process. If a student is placed in a session with a fee, the student/family will be responsible for paying the fee by no later than December 20, 2023. Additional information on how to submit payment will be available when student Intersession schedules are released.

- **Financial Assistance:** Limited financial assistance will be available for qualifying students/families (Tier 1 and Tier 2) who are enrolled in sessions with program fees. The assistance will be provided automatically; there is no application process.

Intersession Requests

All IMSA students are required to complete the Intersession Request form, including students in Travel Study programs. The form can be found here: <https://forms.gle/LtWAodGSr9TbFkC28>

- **Student Request Timeline:** Requests will be accepted through 11:59 pm on Wednesday, November 20, 2024. Note that **requests are NOT first come, first serve**; see the next section for details. Student who do not submit requests will have a schedule built for them based on available seats.
- **Request Form Directions:**
 - *Student Information:* The request form first asks students to input their name, Student ID#, and IMSA email address. Please double-check all of this information to ensure it is correct before submitting the form.
 - *Primary Requests:* Students are asked to submit their “Primary Requests”; these are the sessions that would make up the student’s ideal schedule, should we be able to grant these requests. **The primary requests must be for the equivalent of a full-time schedule.**
 - *Backup Requests:* Students must provide at least eight (8) backup options of sessions different from the Primary Requests. The backup options must provide multiple options for each time block (A, B, C, D). Your backup selections will be used should we not be able to enroll you in enough primary requests to meet the Intersession minimum enrollment expectations. If your primary requests AND backup requests are all not possible, the Principal’s Office will determine a schedule based on available seats.
 - *Selections are Final:* Please note that selections on this form are FINAL. Once students submit the form, selections cannot be changed.
- **Request Fulfilment Process:** To provide equitable opportunities for request fulfilment, requests will NOT be granted on a first come, first serve basis. Rather, all students will have the opportunity to submit the request form during the request timeline. A request fulfilment order will be generated randomly among each class (senior, junior, sophomore), and students will be granted one request at a time starting with the senior class. The intention is to provide opportunities for all students to get some or all of their Primary Requests. Students who do not submit the request form prior to the deadline will be provided a schedule based on what sessions have seats available.

- **Schedule Notification:** Students will receive notification of their individualized Intersession schedule by no later than 11:59 pm on Wednesday, November 27, 2024.

Dungeons & Dragons and Stories

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Full-Time - Two Weeks (Jan. 6-10 & 13-17)	ABCD104

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

In this intersession students will be able to learn how to play Dungeons & Dragons (D&D), will write a short adventure, and will play D&D.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - Session promotes DEI values and perspectives, Socioemotional - Session supports student social and emotional well-being

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

\$10

FACILITATOR(S)

Eric Hawker Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Steve Dutcher Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Mike Dean Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Exploration of IMSA's Upcoming AI Credential

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Afternoon Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	D210

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

IMSA has received funding from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) via its first-ever statewide Computer Science Equity Grant to develop and deliver an initiative aimed at making CS widely accessible with a focus on artificial intelligence. This program will be designed as a comprehensive, self-paced, modular framework where high school students and educators receive an AI credential upon completion. In this intersession, students will have the opportunity to pilot the AI modules and provide feedback.

CATEGORIES

Academic Support - Session provides academic support toward IMSA curriculum, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - Session promotes DEI values and perspectives

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Charity Freeman Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

FRC Titan Robotics #2022 Competition Intersession

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Full-Time - Two Weeks (Jan. 6-10 & 13-17)	ABCD106

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

The FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) is an annual international competition where IMSA partners with mentors to design, build, and program a robot for the competition. Intersession week is the first week after the challenge is announced and an ideal time to design and begin building the robot. In the intersession, students will strategically analyze the competition to distill optimal design concepts. Utilizing these concepts, they will collaboratively design, draft, and prototype multiple robots and components in the search for an optimal design. This intersession is mandatory for all members of the IMSA FRC Robotics team, and only current members can participate.

CATEGORIES

Professional Development - Session provides explicit career-focused insights and applications

PREREQUISITES

Must be on the Titan Robotics #2022 FRC Robotics.

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Grant Bell Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Pixel Power: Crafting NES (Nintendo) Games for Beginners!

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Full-Time - Two Weeks (Jan. 6-10 & 13-17)	ABCD108

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

Join us for an exciting two-week journey into NES game programming! Perfect for video game enthusiasts, this hands-on class lets you unleash your creativity as you design your very own retro game. Learn the basics of coding, sprite creation, and level design while bringing your ideas to life. Whether you're a gaming fan or just curious about programming, you'll discover the thrill of creating something unique. By the end, you'll have a playable NES game to show off and a deeper understanding of what makes classic titles so beloved. Don't miss this chance to step into the world of game development where your imagination is the only limit!

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines

PREREQUISITES

Completed CS100: Computer Science Inquiry or scored a 4 or 5 on the AP Computer Science Principles or AP Computer Science A exams

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Dan Campbell Current IMSA Faculty or Staff
Phyllis Shen Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Your Missing CS Semester

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Full-Time - Two Weeks (Jan. 6-10 & 13-17)	ABCD109

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

During a traditional Computer Science education, chances are you will take plenty of classes that teach you advanced topics within CS, everything from Operating Systems to Programming Languages to Machine Learning. But one essential topic that is rarely covered and is instead left for students to pick up on their own is computing ecosystem literacy. The topics covered in this intersession are not taught as part of the CS curriculum: students are never shown how to use these tools, or at least not how to use them efficiently, one that could make students' lives significantly easier. Students will take full advantage of powerful tools such as command shells, virtual machines, version control, data wrangling, daemons, text editors, VPNs and GitHub.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines, Academic Support - Session provides academic support toward IMSA curriculum, Professional Development - Session provides explicit career-focused insights and applications

PREREQUISITES

Completed CS100: Computer Science Inquiry or scored a 4 or 5 on the AP Computer Science Principles or AP Computer Science A exams

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Ashwin Mohan Current IMSA Faculty or Staff
Kavithaa Suresh Kumar Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

FTC TITANS #17576 Robotics Intersession

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Full-Time - Two Weeks (Jan. 6-10 & 13-17)	ABCD103
Full-Time - Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	AB103
Full-Time - Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	CD203
Part-Time - Morning Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	A103
Part-Time - Afternoon Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	B103
Part-Time - Morning Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	C203
Part-Time - Afternoon Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	D203

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

This intersession will be a required closed session for all FTC Robotics team members that intend on participating at FTC Competitions this school year. In this session team members will gain robotics knowledge relevant to the FTC game tasks and will design, prototype, and finalize a competitive robot to be used for the duration of the 2023-2024 FTC Robotics season.

CATEGORIES

UN Sustainable Development Goals - Session relates to the UN SDGs and/or IMSA's commitment to the UN SDGs.

PREREQUISITES

Must be an FTC Team Member

PROGRAM FEES

None.

FACILITATOR(S)

Grant Bell Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Independent Research & Inquiry

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Full-Time - Two Weeks (Jan. 6-10 & 13-17)	ABCD102
Full-Time - Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	AB102
Full-Time - Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	CD202
Part-Time - Morning Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	A102
Part-Time - Afternoon Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	B102
Part-Time - Morning Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	C202
Part-Time - Afternoon Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	D202

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

The Independent Research & Inquiry sessions provides students to begin or continue research, work, and/or service that is unrelated to SIR. For SIR, see the "Student Inquiry and Research (SIR) Continuation" session. Students may apply for the Independent Research & Inquiry to continue research associated with Independent Study, IN2 programs, courses, student programs, and more. Students may also request to use the time for experiential work (ex: service learning, internships not through IMSA) and community service. Students requesting to participate in the Independent Research & Inquiry session will be expected to provide details about their anticipated work and their targeted outcomes during the week(s) of Intersession. Additionally, students will need adhere to requested check-ins in order to continue in the session. Students requesting to participate in research that requires the involvement of a member of faculty, staff, or external partner are expected to request and be granted approval as part of the request to participate in this session.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines

PREREQUISITES

Students requesting this session must complete the following form prior to the Intersession requests deadline: <https://forms.gle/FkxnxXHvoGPGdvKP7>

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Principal's Office

Student Inquiry & Research (SIR) Continuation

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Full-Time - Two Weeks (Jan. 6-10 & 13-17)	ABCD101
Full-Time - Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	AB101
Full-Time - Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	CD201
Part-Time - Morning Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	A101
Part-Time - Afternoon Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	B101
Part-Time - Morning Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	C201
Part-Time - Afternoon Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	D201

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

Students who are currently enrolled in SIR may apply to pursue their research more intensely for some of Intersession. Proposals will be accepted for on-campus SIRs, also, such as Dr. Thurmond's Drug Discovery SIR. Students may apply for part-time or full-time research for one or two weeks but will need to be clear exactly what they will be doing during that time and show evidence of the work they have accomplished. Students who wish to travel to their lab may do so with their advisor's permission, pending approval and availability of funds.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines

PREREQUISITES

Students must be currently enrolled in SIR AND students requesting this session must complete the following form prior to the Intersession requests deadline:

<https://forms.gle/itmqqEawKuWHQGrw5>

PROGRAM FEES

Program Fee dependent upon transportation request(s)

FACILITATOR(S)

Peter Dong Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Cowboys as Cold Warriors

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Full-Time - Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	AB104

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

Saddle up, dudes, sharpshooters, pilgrims, and film buffs! In this week-long course, we'll analyze twentieth century westerns as primary sources of Cold War history and ideologies. From the late 1940s through the 1960s—the “Golden Age” of the genre—westerns accounted for roughly 25% of all American films made, making them a worthwhile window into the culture of the era. Westerns did more than show cattle queens battling rustlers, daring bank holdups, and shootouts at the OK Corral—they mirrored America’s post-World War Two need for safety and conformity, as well as widespread fears of commies, snoops, subversives, and the increasing likelihood of nuclear annihilation. During this course, we will screen and discuss at least five Hollywood films, from *My Darling Clementine* (1946) to *Red Dawn* (1984) and one “Red Western”—a Soviet-style critique of American democracy and capitalism made behind the Iron Curtain yet set in the American West.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Shawn Bailey Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Sheila Wille Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Emmett Till Truth and Racial Reconciliation Tour

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Full-Time - Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	AB105

MODALITY

Local

DESCRIPTION

Reconciliation begins by telling the truth. This program is designed to teach students how to engage and facilitate dialogues on race, while thinking critically about their own racial socialization according to Harro's Cycle of Socialization and recognizing how others come to understand their own race stories. The family of Emmett Till will take students on a guided tour of local landmarks from Argo to Chicago and share their truths about how his life and death impacted them personally and sparked our nation's Civil Rights Movement.

During the trip, students will attend a Meet & Greet with Ollie Gordon and Wheeler Parker, cousins of Emmett Till featured in ABC's 3-Part docu-series Let the World See and other members of the Emmett Till Family to ask questions about Emmett Till's story and its impact on racial justice in America.

CATEGORIES

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - Session promotes DEI values and perspectives,
Socioemotional - Session supports student social and emotional well-being, UN Sustainable Development Goals - Session relates to the UN SDGs and/or IMSA's commitment to the UN SDGs.

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Amberly Carter Current IMSA Faculty or Staff
Adrienne Coleman Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

I Laugh, You Laugh, We All Laugh!

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Full-Time - Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	AB106

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

In this intersession, each morning we'll watch comedy from different time periods and genres to think about and discuss what makes them funny. For example, what makes one person laugh when another might roll their eyes or even take offense? How is comedy written? What role does laughter have in human society and culture? In the afternoon, students will put what they've learned into action as they make the entire class laugh with their own comic productions following the genre of the day. Comedy examples for discussion will be introduced by both teachers and participants.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines, Academic Support - Session provides academic support toward IMSA curriculum, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - Session promotes DEI values and perspectives, Socioemotional - Session supports student social and emotional well-being

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Joe Golab Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Paul Gaszak Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Introduction to Quantum Error Correction

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Full-Time - Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	CD212

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

Quantum computation (QC) and information (QI) are relatively young fields, conceived less than half a century ago. In the subsequent decades, those fluent in computer science, mathematics, or physics have seen an increased demand for QC and QI talent across industry and academia. Still, quantum computation retains an inherent constraint--"quantum noise"--a susceptibility to errors caused by quantum mechanical phenomena. Thus, the study of Quantum Error Correction (QEC) was born, giving way to a series of mathematical, algorithmic, and physical techniques used to identify and correct any such errors. After taking care of some group theory and linear algebra preliminaries, we develop some major tools of QEC, such as the Knill-Laflamme subspace condition and the stabilizer formalism, via an abstract, mathematical perspective. We then discuss some contemporary research results, arriving at Operator Quantum Error Correction (OQEC) developed by Poulin et al. in 2006.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines

PREREQUISITES

Linear algebra or basic matrix operations recommended, but not required.

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Dheeran E. Wiggins Alumni IMSA Student
Micah Fogel Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Media Production 101

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Full-Time - Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	AB108

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

In this session, students will about script writing/storytelling, live media production, post production and showcasing original, creative works. Students will learn through hands on training and experience with professional recording equipment and editing software. Students will be tasked with working in teams to create a short final production that will be showcased during the Expo.

CATEGORIES

Professional Development - Session provides explicit career-focused insights and applications

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Bill McGrail Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

MI3 Credit Recovery

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Full-Time - Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	AB109

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

Each student who is taking MI3 this fall semester is required to earn passing grades in each of the four units (logs, polynomials, rational functions, and trig) in order to be ready for MI4 and thus earn a passing grade in MI3. A student who has not passed ONE of these units by the end of the fall semester may enroll in this session to re-learn the material they missed and attempt that unit's exam again. A student who has not passed TWO OR MORE units has too much material to cover to be ready for MI4 and is not eligible.

CATEGORIES

Academic Support - Session provides academic support toward IMSA curriculum

PREREQUISITES

Currently (F24) enrolled in MI3; Has, by the end of the fall term, not passed exactly ONE of the MI3 unit

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Micah Fogel Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

One World, One Health

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Full-Time - Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	AB110

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

Biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, food production, demographics, migration/immigration, trade, and invasive species are expanding new patterns of infectious disease transmission among animals and humans. One World, One Health is an approach to understand how these and other global processes influence and determine animal and human health.

CATEGORIES

UN Sustainable Development Goals - Session relates to the UN SDGs and/or IMSA's commitment to the UN SDGs.

PREREQUISITES

JR / SR standing

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Rajeev Vaidyanathan IMSA Partner

An Introduction to Quantitative and Automated Trading

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Full-Time - Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	CD204

MODALITY

Local

DESCRIPTION

In this session, students will learn the basics of trading in futures markets, starting with answering basic questions such as “what are futures” and “who trades them and why”. Students will delve into basic trading strategies and risk management, and how these have evolved in the era of electronic trading. Through case studies covering some extreme market events, students will discover what can happen in the markets as existing assumptions are quickly thrown to the wayside. The session will culminate with students working in teams to develop an automated strategy.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines,
Professional Development - Session provides explicit career-focused insights and applications

PREREQUISITES

Students must have taken or be enrolled in a calculus sequence. Preference will be given to Seniors and to students with programming (Python, in particular) experience

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Matthew Gietl Alumni IMSA Student
Tim Gietl Alumni IMSA Student

CCE Professional Development and College Prep Series

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Full-Time - Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	CD205

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

Want to enhance your professional development skills and college preparation? Hear from speakers ranging from prestigious college admissions advisors to IMSA alumni who share your experiences? CCE (Council for Campus Equity) is presenting a week of workshops, panels, and sessions designed to build knowledge on skills such as resume building, interpersonal, college applications, and higher education to provide a resource for students who may not have prior support in navigating these processes. Students will be able to produce multiple outcomes that achieve their personal goals such as creating a successful resume, having scholarship, college lists, and draft essays. This intersession is primarily targeted for CLED students, but all are welcome to participate.

CATEGORIES

Academic Support - Session provides academic support toward IMSA curriculum, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - Session promotes DEI values and perspectives, Professional Development - Session provides explicit career-focused insights and applications, Socioemotional - Session supports student social and emotional well-being, UN Sustainable Development Goals - Session relates to the UN SDGs and/or IMSA's commitment to the UN SDGs.

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Rodrigo Sanchez Current IMSA Faculty or Staff
Sydney Hunter Current IMSA Student

Chinese History at the Movies

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Full-Time - Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	CD206

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

Content: In this intersession, students will view and analyze selections of Chinese language historical films, as well as read and discuss some theories of analysis surrounding these films and the historical realities of what is being depicted in them. We will look at both the original historical sources for the first emperor of China, while also watching different film adaptations of said figure, analyze the differences between historical fact and movie fiction, and interpret the significance of these changes.

Scope: My tentative list of movies at this time would be The Emperor and the Assassin, Hero, Mulan, Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon, House of Flying Daggers, and/or Shanghai Noon. We would read relevant primary and secondary sources.

Outcomes: Students can create a short film of their own, write a screenplay, or write an analytical essay exploring some themes and issues that we discussed in the context of the intersession.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines

PREREQUISITES

Completed HSS100: American Studies

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Patrick Buck Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Coffee & Culture - Innovation from Bean to Cup

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Full-Time - Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	CD207

MODALITY

Local

DESCRIPTION

Students will have the opportunity to learn about innovations around the coffee industry through four different modules: (1) History & Culture (2) Roasting Techniques (3) Coffee across the STEM fields and (4) Brewing Innovations. Each day students will have the opportunity to learn through hands-on engagement. Activities will range from assisting with roasting to developing different blends of brewed coffee to exploring how engineering principles can be applied to develop new innovations.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

\$75

FACILITATOR(S)

Amy Rogers	IMSA Partner; North Central College Coffee Lab Manager
Gerald Thalmann	IMSA Partner
Andrew Reif	Current IMSA Faculty or Staff
Steve Goldblatt	Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Gene Titans - Adventures in Biotechnology

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Full-Time - Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	CD208

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

In this intersession you will learn the theory of various techniques in biotechnology and perform many of them in the lab. Techniques include transformation of E. coli with plasmid DNA, purification of DNA, restriction enzyme digestion, designing primers for PCR, and agarose gel electrophoresis. You will summarize and present your data on the last day.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Angie Ahrendt Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Introduction to Studio and Field Photography

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Full-Time - Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	CD209

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

Would like to learn to be a better photographer? Than this is the session for you? Students will learn all about digital photography. Student will also get hands-on experience with professional level cameras, lenses and studio lighting equipment. Students will be tasked with working on field photography and studio photography assignments to build a small portfolio to exhibit during the Expo.

CATEGORIES

Professional Development - Session provides explicit career-focused insights and applications

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Bill McGrail Current IMSA Faculty or Staff
Sydney Hunter Current IMSA Student
Brent Phillip Rodrigo Current IMSA Student

The Pulsar Search Collaboratory - An Introduction to Astronomy Research

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Full-Time - Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	CD210

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

Have you ever wondered how research in astronomy is conducted? Is it possible for high school students to participate in astronomical research? This intersession will provide an introduction to a range of fascinating astronomical topics, including exoplanets, pulsars, and the process of stellar evolution. We will also explore key methods used in astronomical research, offering students a glimpse into how discoveries are made in these fields.

After this introductory overview, students will have the opportunity to engage with the Pulsar Search Collaboratory, analyzing previously unexamined data in our own search for pulsars. No prior knowledge is required, and students are not obligated to pursue further research in this area. However, for those interested, this intersession could serve as a valuable introduction to the world of astronomy and research.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Matthew McCutcheon

Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

The Tactics of Volleyball

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Full-Time - Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	CD211

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

In "The Tactics of Volleyball" we will help teach students intelligent, well-rounded volleyball. This will include watching professional gameplay, participating in volleyball drills, and participating in scrimmages, games, and two tournaments (with a trophy presentation at the end). Our Intersession will be packed with exciting games and a great opportunity to learn or improve your volleyball skills!

CATEGORIES

Socioemotional - Session supports student social and emotional well-being

PREREQUISITES

Students will need to have a sports physical to enroll.

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

TBD	IMSA Faculty or Staff
Tommy Blough	Current IMSA Student
Max Schwartz	Current IMSA Student

Dram Club- Winter One-Acts

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Afternoon Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	B104

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

We will be producing a set of student directed one-acts from auditions through performance in this 2 week session. Sessions will include auditioning, rehearsing, doing tech, etc. throughout the two weeks with a conclusion of 2 performances for students and parents at the end of the 2 weeks.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - Session promotes DEI values and perspectives

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Julie Dowling Current IMSA Faculty or Staff
Leslie Mersman Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Finding Art

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Afternoon Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	B105

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

Many artists, writers and musicians throughout history have found and repurposed material that already exists rather than the outright creation of something from nothing. In this Intersession, students will learn to exalt and elevate the everyday into works of art that challenge accepted understandings of beauty, representation, perspective, and craft.

We'll explore artists, writers, and musicians who've adopted similar strategies and consider the creative and ethical implications of their work. From Duchamp's readymades and Warhol's pop art to sampling in music and recirculating internet memes; we'll consider the meaning of art that is found, transformed and re-contextualized. We'll take field trips to a flea market to find potential material for our own creations and the Art Institute to see famous examples of the concepts we are studying. In the second week, students will create their own found art pieces to be included in an art exhibit at the end of Intersession.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines,
Socioemotional - Session supports student social and emotional well-being

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

\$10

FACILITATOR(S)

Joseph Marshall Current IMSA Faculty or Staff
Joyce Symoniak Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Knots for Warmth and Enjoyment

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Afternoon Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	B106

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

This intersession will teach you how to crochet. Have you ever thought about “making things”, but haven’t found a good time to actually “get started”? Or are you already a DIY lover, but haven’t been able to explore knitting or crochet? If so, this intersession is perfect for you. We will learn about basic crochet techniques, and then make a few items such as scarves, hats, and even stuffed animals and sweaters.

CATEGORIES

Socioemotional - Session supports student social and emotional well-being

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

No fee, but each student will need to bring a crochet hook, and a skein of yarn on day one and every day of the intersession. Commonly used hook size: I/9 (i.e. 5.5mm). Commonly used yarn weight: worsted (i.e. weight category 4)

FACILITATOR(S)

Lingyi Meng	Current IMSA Faculty or Staff
Evan Brummet	Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Machine Learning for Audio Signals

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Afternoon Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	B107

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

We will study how audio signals are represented and how to convert audio signals in a form for Machine Learning (ML) applications. We will study what libraries are available to convert audio signals into a form that can be used for ML applications. We will look at applications such as audio classification, speech recognition, audio de-noising, music instrument classification, and mood classification.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines,
Professional Development - Session provides explicit career-focused insights and applications

PREREQUISITES

Students need prior knowledge of Python.

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Phadmakar Patankar Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Neurophysiology with Micro:bits

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Afternoon Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	B108

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

Students will acquire an appreciation for nerve function in normal as well as disease states. In addition, students will gain hands-on experience with a Micro:bit microcontroller, making physiological measurements.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Mark Carlson

Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Lassandra Walker

Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Sarah O'Leary-Driscoll

Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Intro to Fiber Arts: Knitting, Crocheting, and Sewing

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Afternoon Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	B109
Part-Time - Afternoon Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	D209

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

Small group of students with two instructors learning knitting, crocheting and sewing by completing hands-on projects.

CATEGORIES

Socioemotional - Session supports student social and emotional well-being

PREREQUISITES

Students are encouraged to enroll in both sessions, as different content will be covered each week. However, students may opt to enroll in one or both sessions.

PROGRAM FEES

\$10

FACILITATOR(S)

Susan Kempf Current IMSA Parent
Robin Schroeder Current IMSA Parent

Relax Through Fitness and Meditation

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Afternoon Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	B110
Part-Time - Morning Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	A119

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

Are you stressed? Do you want to learn new techniques to help reduce your stress? Well, come see us and do so through meditation, mind body fitness, and group fitness.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines, Academic Support - Session provides academic support toward IMSA curriculum, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - Session promotes DEI values and perspectives, Socioemotional - Session supports student social and emotional well-being, UN Sustainable Development Goals - Session relates to the UN SDGs and/or IMSA's commitment to the UN SDGs.

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

David Lundgren Current IMSA Faculty or Staff
Mary Myers Current IMSA Faculty or Staff
Jessica Amacher Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Essential Leadership Skills for Introverts

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Afternoon Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	D204

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

This course in leadership skills is designed to introduce you to many essentials for effective participation in and stewardship of clubs, causes, and companies. Learn to use your introversion to your advantage, and learn how to operate in other ways when needed to be a better leader. We will cover techniques you can use to be self-aware, establish your presence, build long-term relationships, form persuasive arguments, stay on-message on either side of an interview, govern responsibly, maintain an open mind, and create positive culture. We will also cover some nuts and bolts of running an organization of any size, including how to define its goals and strategies, track financials, measure progress, mitigate risks, and address problems in ways that restore and strengthen trust.

CATEGORIES

Professional Development - Session provides explicit career-focused insights and applications,
Socioemotional - Session supports student social and emotional well-being

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Pranav Kiran Parekh Alumni IMSA Student

If You Build It: Urban Planning Through City-Building Games

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Afternoon Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	B111

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

The phrase “if you build it, they will come” – a misquote from the 1989 sports fantasy film *Field of Dreams* – has achieved broad utility in its relatively short lifetime. Literally, it is the disembodied call that prompts an Iowa farmer to build a baseball diamond in the middle of his cornfield. Figuratively, it is an aphorism to follow one’s dreams in the face of opposition or ambivalence. In economic terms, though, demand rarely follows supply, and building baseball stadiums in cornfields is not typically a recipe for success. But it does raise an interesting question: why are things built where they are? In this Intersession, you will learn the basics of urban planning by playing city-building games such as *Cities: Skylines*, *Anno 1800*, or *Manor Lords*. From building infrastructure and managing supply chains to establishing transportation networks and enacting public policy, you will get to try your hand at building a city from the ground up. While the best lessons are learned through trial and error, we will supplement our studies with readings from notated urbanists and discussions of current events. But in the end, the ultimate test of your city will be: if you build it, will they come?

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines,
Socioemotional - Session supports student social and emotional well-being

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

Students are expected to purchase or already own a copy of *Cities: Skylines* (I or II) prior to the start of Intersession. Additionally, it is recommended (but not required) that they purchase one or more of the following games: *Anno 1800*, *Manor Lords*, *Transport Fever* (I or II), or *Workers & Resources: Soviet Republic*. All games are available on Steam and can be purchased at deep discounts during their Autumn Sale (Nov 27 - Dec 4) and Winter Sale (Dec 19 - Jan 2).

FACILITATOR(S)

Daniel Collins Alumni IMSA Student
Michael Hancock Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Let's Meditate!

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Afternoon Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	D206

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

Come meditate! In this session you will learn basic techniques of meditation and explore meditation practices from cultures and traditions around the world.

We will learn about the history of meditation. We will study art, poetry, and music from diverse traditions. Most importantly, we will meditate together.

My intention is to give you powerful, universal techniques to be present, happy, and calm all the time.

CATEGORIES

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - Session promotes DEI values and perspectives, Professional

Development - Session provides explicit career-focused insights and applications,

Socioemotional - Session supports student social and emotional well-being

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Sam Walder Alumni IMSA Student

Podcast & Puzzle!

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Afternoon Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	D207

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

Join Ms. Klimek for a relaxing intersession putting together puzzles of your choosing from the Klimek collection and listening to insightful and uplifting podcasts geared towards mental well being. Puzzle independently or with friends and chat about your podcast takeaways and ideas for positive actions the podcasts inspire.

CATEGORIES

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - Session promotes DEI values and perspectives,
Socioemotional - Session supports student social and emotional well-being

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Desirae Klimek Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Trick-Taking Card Games

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Afternoon Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	D208

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

We will play Euchre, Spades, Oh Hell and possibly Whist. All games are trick taking which include counting cards and calculating probabilities. They will require strategical and logical thinking. Students will be active in learning and playing games. We will discuss and employ strategies specific to these games but are common to any trick taking game.

CATEGORIES

Socioemotional - Session supports student social and emotional well-being

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Evan Brummet Current IMSA Faculty or Staff
Lingyi Meng Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Meditation: A multidisciplinary study of mind, brain, and consciousness

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Evening Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	EVE101

MODALITY

Virtual – This session will fulfil the requirement for the D Block on the schedule, or it can be taken as an additional program.

DESCRIPTION

This intersession invites you to look inward and investigate the nature of your own being through the practice of meditation. In doing so, you will encounter some of life's most fundamental questions, and also learn how to cultivate seeds of happiness, compassion, and wisdom. Throughout the week, we will traverse across academic disciplines, bridging the realms of philosophy, neuroscience, psychology, medicine, and spirituality. We will engage in thought-provoking discussions, readings, and media that introduce basic principles and styles of meditation, as well as how they relate to greater ethical, scientific, and spiritual understanding. Importantly, this course will extend beyond just ideas and will involve a variety of brief (5-10 minute) periods of optional guided meditation. By the journey's end, you will gain a profound appreciation for the theory and practice of meditation, and how its application can have far-reaching impacts on both our inner and outer worlds.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines,
Professional Development - Session provides explicit career-focused insights and applications,
Socioemotional - Session supports student social and emotional well-being

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Yaseen Jamal Alumni IMSA Student

Back to the Future: Futurism, Futurology, Futurama (Week 1)

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Morning Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	A104

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

This two-week half-day course explores the history of predictions about the future, and the distinction between "futurism" as an intellectual practice and "science fiction" as an imaginative one. Together, we'll develop an understanding of why predictions are so difficult to make, why chance plays a huge role in being "right," how a science fiction author's aims differ from the aims of a futurist, and how fun thinking about what could be might turn out to be mere fantasy. This course will definitely take students back to the future, no time machine necessary. When registering, please note: Students must enroll in both weeks of the course, as week 1 provides essential background for week 2's project-based model, wherein students will present their own visions of the future, informed by historical documents, popular media, emerging technologies, and more.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines

PREREQUISITES

Students must also enroll in the "Back to the Future: Futurism, Futurology, Futurama (Week 2)" session.

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Eric Smith Current IMSA Faculty or Staff
Tracy Townsend Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Back to the Future: Futurism, Futurology, Futurama (Week 2)

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Morning Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	C204

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

This is week number 2 of the two-week half-day course that explores the history of predictions about the future, and the distinction between "futurism" as an intellectual practice and "science fiction" as an imaginative one. When registering, please note: Students must enroll in BOTH weeks of the course, as week 1 provides essential background for week 2's project-based model, wherein students will present their own visions of the future, informed by historical documents, popular media, emerging technologies, and more.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines

PREREQUISITES

Students must also enroll in and complete the "Back to the Future: Futurism, Futurology, Futurama (Week 1)" session.

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Eric Smith Current IMSA Faculty or Staff
Tracy Townsend Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

From Amoebzoa to Zygentoma: Biology's Alphabet Soup

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Morning Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	A105

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

Have you ever wondered what makes life tick? Are you interested in learning about a new area of biology? This intersession offers an immersive journey where the student explore the wonders of life from the inside out! We will dive into the diverse worlds of anatomy and physiology, ecology, entomology, and microbiology. Whether the student is a budding biologist or just loves to learn, this intersession promises to be an exciting exploration of life's hidden stories through the field of biology. This intersession will be run by several current and former Science Olympiad captains and aligns with the current event slate, but is not officially associated with Science Olympiad and anyone is allowed to join!

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - Session promotes DEI values and perspectives, Professional Development - Session provides explicit career-focused insights and applications, Socioemotional - Session supports student social and emotional well-being, UN Sustainable Development Goals - Session relates to the UN SDGs and/or IMSA's commitment to the UN SDGs.

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Annabelle Zhang	Alumni IMSA Student
Aahana Das	Current IMSA Student
Aarushi Das	Current IMSA Student
Ian Chung	Current IMSA Student
Sue Fricano	Curent IMSA Faculty or Staff

Independent Reading

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Morning Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	A106

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

Want to read more but there's never enough time? Now there is. Bring your own reading materials - fiction, nonfiction, history, poetry, graphic novels, almost anything - and spend a few hours each day reading. The only limitation is that your reading cannot be in preparation for a class or test. Research shows that independent reading – defined as “self-selected reading of a continuous text for a wide range of personal and social purposes” – enhances your reading comprehension ability, development of vocabulary, general knowledge, and empathy for others. In one study, students who frequently engaged in reading for pleasure scored higher in reading than peers who did not. When struggling readers engage in independent reading and receive opportunities to discuss books, they make gains in reading achievement. Independent reading is also good for your mental health – a British study in 2009 found that leisure reading can reduce stress by up to 68%.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines, Academic Support - Session provides academic support toward IMSA curriculum, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - Session promotes DEI values and perspectives, Socioemotional - Session supports student social and emotional well-being

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Adam Kotlarczyk Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

M + A = Squared

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Morning Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	A108

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

Students will have the opportunity to create a Fine Arts (Visual Arts or Music) Portfolio or Journal. They will learn to construct the physical binder of the materials as well as will develop a personal plan for the contents. On-going stress relief and fun is found within the creative process of drawing, painting, playing, performing and composing music, as well as through stream of consciousness thoughts, exploration and experimentation. In addition, if fully developed, the Visual Arts or Music portfolios can be used to demonstrate Arts proficiency, during the College Admissions process.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - Session promotes DEI values and perspectives, Socioemotional - Session supports student social and emotional well-being

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Joyce Symoniak Current IMSA Faculty or Staff
Mary Beth McCarthy Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Shaping Up Geometry

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Morning Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	A109

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

Is your geometry a little rusty? Did your geometry class get cut short or did the geometry portions of the course get removed from the curriculum for some reason? Did you just forget too much of it? This is the place to brush up on the essentials for a smoother ride in your future MI and calculus coursework! We'll focus on some of the most highly used topics, including similar and congruent triangles, parallel lines and congruent angle pairs, and of course, basic trigonometry! Come improve your logical thinking skills, deductive reasoning, analytical reasoning, and problem-solving skills and be ready to roll for next semester and beyond.

CATEGORIES

Academic Support - Session provides academic support toward IMSA curriculum

PREREQUISITES

None; However, scores on the alternate part 2 of the placement test will be considered. Some sophomore students may be required to enroll based on their performance on the geometry portion. Other students are welcome to join.

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Janice Krouse Current IMSA Faculty or Staff
Paul Rummelhoff Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

TALENT "INC" ENTREPRENEURSHIP BASICS

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Morning Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	A110

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

INC Intersession is a week-long introductory course for students unable to participate in INC. It provides the same content as INC in a faster-paced, condensed manner. The introductory course consists of content-based lectures and interactive activities to teach all of the entrepreneurial concepts needed to develop a business idea. IMSA emphasizes an entrepreneurial spirit in its student body and provides many opportunities at IN2 for students to advance their startups. However, IMSA does not have resources to guide students to start their business from scratch. Realizing this, Total Applied Learning for ENTrepreneurs (TALENT), a student-led co-curricular program sponsored by IN2, developed a curriculum for three separate programs. INC is the first of this series, INC Intersession is the second, and both are prerequisites for the second-semester program, THINK.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines, UN Sustainable Development Goals - Session relates to the UN SDGs and/or IMSA's commitment to the UN SDGs.

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Steve Goldblatt Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Current IMSA Students

Aarav Lala, Abhinav Anne, Dhivija Challa, Laksh Patel, Neev Patel, Sohun Kashyap, Noah Kim, Sai Ganbote, Samuel Biruduganti, Sumaer Gupta.

Topics in Applied Mathematics

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Morning Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	A111

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

This session is for enthusiasts who are curious to sample a few of the many topics in applied mathematics that may be explored further in college, graduate school, and business. We will take a recreational approach to understand concepts in game theory, dynamical systems, constrained optimization, and matrix methods; and we will apply these concepts to solve mathematical problems or estimate solutions in a variety of fields, drawing on examples from competitive strategy, finance, biology, and physics.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines

PREREQUISITES

Comfort with matrix operations and derivatives of polynomials. (Many of the problems can be solved using only algebra and geometry, and we will cover multiple ways to approach the same problem using different kinds of math.)

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Pranav Kiran Parekh Alumni IMSA Student

Freedom of Speech/Expression and Critical Thinking 101

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Morning Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	A112
Part-Time - Morning Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	C212

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

The notion of the Freedom of Speech (FOS), or sometimes the Freedom of Expression (FOE,) are often mislabeled or misconstrued. Even, at times, seen as negative. However, the evolution and understanding of this concept and rights attached are fundamental to the health of a democratic society. The goal of this course will be to engage students in the actual development and use of specific court cases and examples of the FOE/FOS in the United States in since the 1910s. This will be achieved by in-class reading followed by discussion, debate and external speakers. Participants will come away with a sharpened awareness of their personal rights as a free and empowered citizen. All work will be completed in class and students need only bring an open mind and the courage to think critically.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines, Academic Support - Session provides academic support toward IMSA curriculum

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Lee W. Eysturlid Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

From the Bookleggers' Vault; or, Choose Your Own Adventure

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Morning Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	A113
Part-Time - Morning Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	C213

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

Learners in this course will gain unprecedented access to the legendary English book room, rivaled only by Jedi Temples, the Hogwarts Library, and the Library of Alexandria as a sacred repository of universal esoteric and literary knowledge from the known realms. Under the Keeper's watchful eye, those deemed worthy will reverently peruse the shelves for hallowed texts not locally used in advancing the human condition in recent memory--or perhaps ever. These sadly neglected but not forgotten tomes will vie for the attention of our young acolytes, who shall, with the Keeper's assistance, select at least one of these untaught writings for forenoon study over half a fortnight. After the company has made its selection, remaining time together will be devoted to reading, discussing, and recording for posterity the outcome of our shared inquiry and collaborative endeavors.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - Session promotes DEI values and perspectives, Socioemotional - Session supports student social and emotional well-being

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Michael Hancock Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

IMSA STEMbassadors: For the Love of Teaching and Learning

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Morning Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	A114
Part-Time - Morning Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	C214

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

Are you an enthusiastic lover of STEM? Do you prefer to lead, rather than follow? Do you love learning and working with younger kids? Or maybe you've wanted to join STEMbassadors (a STEM educational extracurricular program at IMSA) for a while, but your schedule just won't allow it? Then this is the intersession for you! Participants will take a deep dive into inquiry, instructional methods, and classroom management during this half-day course--even getting the chance to facilitate a field trip of 4th graders from West Aurora! By the end of the week, all participants will be ready to teach a STEM Program for students in grades 3-8! (Please note, by signing up for this intersession, you are also committing to teaching or group leading at an actual Saturday STEM Program during the Spring semester, where you will be able to earn Service Learning hours.)

CATEGORIES

Service Learning - Session provides an opportunity for students to support a community or organization

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Cassandra Armstrong

Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

David Hernandez

Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Mini Battlebots

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Morning Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	A115
Part-Time - Morning Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	C215

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

Create the ultimate battlebot to win honor, glory, and prizes! In this intersession, students will design and construct lightweight robots to battle one-on-one, inspired by the fairyweight division of battlebots. A series of workshops will help guide each student through the mechanical and electrical engineering skills necessary for building and controlling miniature battle bots. Each student will start with a standard electronics kit and will then manufacture custom parts by learning to operate 3d printers and CAD software. Experience is not required, and the workshops will assume no prior knowledge. The intersession will be concluded with a tournament, with awards and prizes for design, documentation, and tournament performance.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines

PREREQUISITES

This program runs for two weeks, part-time. Students must be enrolled in both sessions, A115 and C215.

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Susan Fricano	Current IMSA Faculty or Staff
Deen Kareem	Current IMSA Student
Hunter Mathews	Current IMSA Student
Shrishant Hattarki	Current IMSA Student

Swimming for a Lifetime of Fitness

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Morning Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	A116
Part-Time - Morning Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	C216

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

During this Intersession, we will focus on basic stroke technique for the four competition strokes, freestyle, butterfly, backstroke, and breaststroke, as well as side stroke and elementary back stroke. At the end of each session, we'll play water games such as volleyball and water polo. Come join us and improve your swimming skills and learn how to stay fit for life. Equipment needed: swim suit and goggles.

CATEGORIES

Socioemotional - Session supports student social and emotional well-being

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Brooke Schmidt Current IMSA Faculty or Staff
Samantha White Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Who wants to be a Millionaire

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Morning Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	A117
Part-Time - Morning Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	C217

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

As a parent of two young adult children I have spent over 40 years saving and investing money for their development, our retirement, and the future well being of our family. Young people today have a great asset on their side- that is TIME! Planning and making sound financial decisions over an extended period of time can make for a comfortable stress free lifestyle. During this intersession we will touch on the basics of saving, investing, compounding, stocks, bonds , retirement account options, use of credit, mortgage applications and much much more. I will be presenting a number of basic concepts in these areas, with actual examples in the various areas. Furthermore, I have partnered with Charles Schwab and Wintrust bank and representatives will be providing presentations in their respective areas followed by answering student questions. Finally I will be giving out some investment and budget scenarios for the students to present back their plan on how they would manage these investment and budget scenarios and their reasons why.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines,
Professional Development - Session provides explicit career-focused insights and applications

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

John Wood IMSA Partner

Teaching and Learning in the Age of Generative AI

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Morning Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	A118

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

Since ChatGPT and other generative AI products exploded onto the scene two years ago, students and teachers have faced a wave of new challenges and possibilities. Will AI be a force for good that personalizes learning and expands our sense of what it's possible to learn and do in school? Or will it sap learning of its meaning, replace truth with illusions, and get in the way of students' humanity? In this intersession, we'll design the present and future of school in the era of generative AI by pursuing hands-on experiments and using what we learn to create videos and resources to help students and teachers at IMSA and beyond understand how to teach and learn ethically when AI is in the mix. Beyond learning about AI and its impacts, students will think critically about school and practice their communication and multimedia production skills.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Eric Rettberg Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Chinese Artistry: Calligraphy, Painting, & Paper Cutting Mastery

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Morning Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	C205

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

This session will explore the rich artistic traditions that have shaped Chinese culture for centuries. This immersive experience delves into three key art forms: calligraphy, painting, and paper cutting, providing participants with a comprehensive understanding of their history, techniques, and cultural significance. Participants will embark on a creative journey that will introduce them to the graceful strokes of Chinese calligraphy, where they'll learn to wield the brush with precision and appreciate the elegance of characters. In the painting segment, attendees will unlock their inner artists as they discover the secrets behind traditional Chinese landscape and floral paintings, incorporating techniques like ink wash and color blending. Furthermore, the session will delve into the intricate art of paper cutting, showcasing the delicate craftsmanship and symbolism behind this ancient folk art. By the end of the session, participants will have honed their skills and gained a profound appreciation for Chinese artistry, leaving them with their own beautiful creations and a deeper cultural understanding of China's artistic heritage. This session promises to be a transformative and enlightening experience for all who attend.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - Session promotes DEI values and perspectives, Socioemotional - Session supports student social and emotional well-being, UN Sustainable Development Goals - Session relates to the UN SDGs and/or IMSA's commitment to the UN SDGs.

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

\$25

FACILITATOR(S)

Sophie Wang Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Christine Zhang Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Intro to Group Theory

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Morning Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	C206

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

This session introduces the abstract algebra and beauty of mathematical groups. To get a sense of what a group is, consider the simple example of adding integers. You need a set (the integers), a rule for combining any two elements of the set (addition) which results in an element of the set, and a few other properties that we usually do not think about too much but that are very important. In this course, we'll define those important properties, abstract both the concept of a set (not necessarily integers) and the combination rule (not necessarily addition)... and see what interesting, amazing, and beautiful patterns emerge. Along the way, we will survey fundamental concepts in group theory (such as binary closed operation, identity, group, subgroup, homomorphism, isomorphism, kernel, and coset), develop an intuitive understanding of what is going on, and see how seemingly different things can essentially be the same.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines

PREREQUISITES

No specific coursework requirements. Join if you have an aptitude for math and are interested in exploring abstraction.

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Pranav Kiran Parekh Alumni IMSA Student

Music Performance-Classical, Broadway, Cultural, or Contemporary

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Morning Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	C207

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

Instrumentalists and vocalists needed- Participants will develop and polish their performance skills through practice, dialogue, and individualized coaching sessions. Tips for professional performance techniques will be discussed. Students will have solo/ensemble opportunities in a variety of musical genres. The final goal will be a public featured performance on Friday. if you are currently enrolled in a music course, this can also serve as an opportunity to prepare music for the IHSA Solo/Ensemble Contest and/or future concerts.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - Session promotes DEI values and perspectives, Socioemotional - Session supports student social and emotional well-being

PREREQUISITES

Intermediate to advanced performance ability

PROGRAM FEES

\$0 (for no pianist accompaniment); \$30 (for pianist)

FACILITATOR(S)

Laura Coster

Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Mary Beth McCarthy

Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

Songwriting

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Morning Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)	A120

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

This class offers a brief introduction to the craft of songwriting. We will examine the interplay of words and music, harmony and accompaniment that have made this art form so influential for thousands of years. As part of the course, students will each write a song (lyrics, music, and arrangement) in any style they choose, receive individual support and feedback in the composition process, and perform and record their song.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines

PREREQUISITES

Students should be proficient at an instrument (which may include voice) and should be comfortable reading and writing music.

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Peter Dong Current IMSA Faculty or Staff
Daniel Collins Alumni IMSA Student

Writing to Make Generative AI Useful (Prompt Engineering)

SESSION TIME(S)

Session Time / Duration	Session Request Code
Part-Time - Morning Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)	C218

MODALITY

On-Site @ IMSA

DESCRIPTION

AI's challenges in education have been well-known since ChatGPT launched in 2022. Teachers now assess student work with a new uncertainty, while students face an atmosphere of suspicion. But what honestly creative possibilities do these technologies offer? Early enthusiasts championed "prompt engineering" to improve AI outputs; yet to humanists, good prompt engineering may simply be good writing. This course will explore ways to guide AI with clear, imaginative writing, crafting images, text, and code that acknowledge their AI origins. Students will develop projects using AI in creative ways and share their creations and reflections at the intersession expo.

CATEGORIES

Academic - Session provides additional insight and inquiry into academic disciplines

PREREQUISITES

None

PROGRAM FEES

None

FACILITATOR(S)

Eric Rettberg Current IMSA Faculty or Staff

SESSION OVERVIEW

BLOCKS ABCD Full-Time - Two Weeks (Jan. 6-10 & 13-17)

Student Inquiry & Research (SIR) Continuation	ABCD101
Independent Research & Inquiry	ABCD102
FTC TITANS #17576 Robotics Intersession	ABCD103
Dungeons & Dragons and Stories	ABCD104
FRC Titan Robotics #2022 Competition Intersession	ABCD106
Pixel Power: Crafting NES (Nintendo) Games for Beginners!	ABCD108
Your Missing CS Semester	ABCD109

BLOCKS AB Full-Time - Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)

Student Inquiry & Research (SIR) Continuation	AB101
Independent Research & Inquiry	AB102
FTC TITANS #17576 Robotics Intersession	AB103
Cowboys as Cold Warriors	AB104
Emmett Till Truth and Racial Reconciliation Tour	AB105
I Laugh, You Laugh, We All Laugh!	AB106
Media Production 101	AB108
MI3 Credit Recovery	AB109
One World, One Health	AB110

BLOCKS CD Full-Time - Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)

Student Inquiry & Research (SIR) Continuation	CD201
Independent Research & Inquiry	CD202
FTC TITANS #17576 Robotics Intersession	CD203
An Introduction to Quantitative and Automated Trading	CD204

CCE Professional Development and College Prep Series	CD205
Chinese History at the Movies	CD206
Coffee & Culture - Innovation from Bean to Cup	CD207
Gene Titans - Adventures in Biotechnology	CD208
Introduction to Studio and Field Photography	CD209
The Pulsar Search Collabratory - An Introduction to Astronomy Research	CD210
The Tactics of Volleyball	CD211
Introduction to Quantum Error Correction	CD212

BLOCK A Part-Time - Morning | Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)

Student Inquiry & Research (SIR) Continuation	A101
Independent Research & Inquiry	A102
FTC TITANS #17576 Robotics Intersession	A103
Back to the Future: Futurism, Futurology, Futurama (Week 1)	A104
From Amoebzoa to Zygentoma: Biology's Alphabet Soup	A105
Independent Reading	A106
M + A = Squared	A108
Shaping Up Geometry	A109
TALENT "INC" ENTREPRENEURSHIP BASICS	A110
Topics in Applied Mathematics	A111
Freedom of Speech/Expression and Critical Thinking 101	A112
From the Bookleggers' Vault; or, Choose Your Own Adventure	A113
IMSA STEMbassadors: For the Love of Teaching and Learning	A114
Mini Battlebots	A115
Swimming for a Lifetime of Fitness	A116
Who wants to be a Millionaire	A117
Teaching and Learning in the Age of Generative AI	A118

Relax Through Fitness and Meditation	A119
Songwriting	A120

BLOCK B **Part-Time - Afternoon | Week 1 (Jan. 6-10)**

Student Inquiry & Research (SIR) Continuation	B101
Independent Research & Inquiry	B102
FTC TITANS #17576 Robotics Intersession	B103
Dram Club- Winter One-Acts	B104
Finding Art	B105
Knots for Warmth and Enjoyment	B106
Machine Learning for Audio Signals	B107
Neurophysiology with Micro:bits	B108
Intro to Fiber Arts: Knitting, Crocheting, and Sewing	B109
Relax Through Fitness and Meditation	B110
If You Build It: Urban Planning Through City-Building Games	B111

BLOCK C **Part-Time - Morning | Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)**

Student Inquiry & Research (SIR) Continuation	C201
Independent Research & Inquiry	C202
FTC TITANS #17576 Robotics Intersession	C203
Back to the Future: Futurism, Futurology, Futurama (Week 2)	C204
Chinese Artistry: Calligraphy, Painting, & Paper Cutting Mastery	C205
Intro to Group Theory	C206
Music Performance-Classical, Broadway, Cultural, or Contemporary	C207
Freedom of Speech/Expression and Critical Thinking 101	C212
From the Bookleggers' Vault; or, Choose Your Own Adventure	C213

IMSA STEMbassadors: For the Love of Teaching and Learning	C214
Mini Battlebots	C215
Swimming for a Lifetime of Fitness	C216
Who wants to be a Millionaire	C217
Writing to Make Generative AI Useful (Prompt Engineering)	C218

BLOCK D Part-Time - Afternoon | Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)

Student Inquiry & Research (SIR) Continuation	D201
Independent Research & Inquiry	D202
FTC TITANS #17576 Robotics Intersession	D203
Essential Leadership Skills for Introverts	D204
Let's Meditate!	D206
Podcast & Puzzle!	D207
Trick-Taking Card Games	D208
Intro to Fiber Arts: Knitting, Crocheting, and Sewing	D209
Exploration of IMSA's Upcoming AI Credential	D210

EVENING Part-Time - Evening | Week 2 (Jan. 13-17)

Meditation: A multidisciplinary study of mind, brain, and consciousness	EVE101
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