

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

GENERAL

What is Knowledge@Wharton High School (KWHS)?

Knowledge@Wharton High School — KWHS for short — is on a mission to provide high school students and educators around the world with a deeper understanding of business and personal finance and to equip them with the skills to excel in the global marketplace. KWHS is not a high school! KWHS operates an online learning library (kwhs.wharton.upenn.edu) that features hundreds of free business journal articles, videos and lesson plans, a comprehensive business glossary and other content to help introduce high school students to business concepts, personal finance and college and career preparation. KWHS also engages students through an investment competition and the Global Young Leaders Academy. KWHS is part of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, a world leader in business education.

What is the KWHS Global Young Leaders Academy?

Organized by [Knowledge@Wharton High School](#) (KWHS), the Global Young Leaders Academy (GYLA) is an intensive two-week summer program for a select group of international high school students. The program, held on the Philadelphia campus of The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, explores entrepreneurship and other business concepts, and allows students time to become immersed in the U.S. culture.

What does Braingain Magazine have to do with the KWHS Global Young Leaders Academy?

Braingain Magazine collaborates with KWHS to organize the Global Young Leaders Academy. Braingain Magazine provides administrative support and KWHS is wholly responsible for reviewing applications and providing all academic content for the GYLA program.

Who is eligible for the KWHS Global Young Leaders Academy?

The KWHS Global Young Leaders Academy is a program for international high school students. Students must be in high school and be at least 15 years of age upon the start date of the program.

What are the 2019 dates for the KWHS Global Young Leaders Academy?

The KWHS Global Young Leaders Academy will be conducted in five 2-week sessions:

Session A - Saturday, June 08th - Saturday, June 22nd, 2019

Session B - Saturday, June 15th - Saturday, June 29th, 2019

Session C - Saturday, July 06th - Saturday, July 20th, 2019

Session D - Saturday, July 13th - Saturday, July 27th, 2019

Session E - Saturday, July 20th - Saturday, August 3rd, 2019

What is the program fee and what does it cover?

The fee for the KWHS Global Young Leaders Academy is US \$5,115 plus a refundable security deposit of US \$500. The fee excludes airfare, visa costs and international travel insurance. It includes:

- Tuition
- On-campus accommodation and most meals (Please make note that meals during travel and field trips are not included)
- Ground transportation during the program
- Medical insurance during the program

What does the refundable security deposit cover?

The refundable security deposit covers the cost of damages to university property caused by the participant during his/her stay at the program (for example: lost Penn Card, lost room key, damaged shower heads) and for any charges (transactional charges, if any) deducted by the bank when you make the payment (Approx. 3% for credit cards and \$25 for wire transfer). Additionally, fees sometimes vary for the university-provided medical insurance (typically US \$115), and the adjusted costs will, if necessary, be deducted from the refundable security deposit. The deposit is refunded 90 days after the end of the program, as the program runs through the summer and we receive a complete report from the University of Pennsylvania after all programs end.

Will students receive a certificate upon completing the KWHS Global Young Leaders Academy?

A certificate of participation will be awarded to all students who complete the program. This is contingent on students attending and participating in all required program activities and maintaining good behavior throughout the two weeks. KWHS reserves the right to withhold certificates if program rules are violated.

Will attending the KWHS Global Young Leaders Academy help me earn admission into The University of Pennsylvania or The Wharton School?

The admission process for the program is completely independent from that of Penn or Wharton. Participation in the KWHS Global Young Leaders Academy does NOT guarantee admission into Penn or Wharton. However, the KWHS Global Young Leaders Academy is a unique opportunity for high school students to experience life and education on an Ivy League campus. The program includes a session on U.S. college admissions to help students understand the nuances of applying to American colleges and universities.

Are scholarships available for the KWHS Global Young Leaders Academy?

Not at this point, but we anticipate the availability of scholarships in the future.

How many students participate in each session of the program? From which countries can students apply?

We typically welcome about 50-60 students per session. The GYLA accepts students from all countries. We have had students participating thus far from more than 30 countries.

Can I arrive late and/or leave early for the program?

No. Due to the intensive nature of the GYLA, we require students to commit to and participate in the full two weeks.

Can I earn college credits by participating in the KWHS Global Young Leaders Academy?

No. The KWHS Global Young Leaders Academy is a non-credit program.

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KWHS GLOBAL YOUNG LEADERS ACADEMY

I don't have standardized test scores, such as the TOEFL, ACT, SAT, or PSAT. Will that hurt my chances of being accepted?

No. Although standardized test scores are often very useful in gauging an applicant's academic achievement and potential, we understand that some students will not have standardized test scores available by the time of application. We do, however, expect applicants who have received standardized test scores to report those scores to us.

When will we receive the program agenda/schedule?

Tentative agenda/schedule details are typically shared two weeks prior to the program start date.

Can I connect with other participants of my session before the program starts?

Yes. We will help you connect to other participants through social media groups and WhatsApp closer to the program start date.

I am having problems with the online application. Whom do I contact for assistance?

If you have a question or query about the program, feel free to reach out to us at wharton@braingainmag.com or +91 9999613734.

APPLICATION

How do I apply for the KWHS Global Young Leaders Academy?

Students apply to the KWHS Global Young Leaders Academy [online](#). Applicants will need the following to be considered for the program:

- A completed online application
- High school transcript
- A 500-word essay
- A completed and signed teacher recommendation form

What is the KWHS Global Young Leaders Academy admission deadline?

We have a rolling admission, and admissions are on a first-come, first-served basis, so applying earlier will increase your chances of acceptance.

Whom should I ask to fill out the teacher recommendation form?

The teacher recommendation form must be from a teacher in an academic subject or from a school counselor. We hope the recommendation will give us insight into the applicant's abilities and why he or she is a strong candidate for the GYLA. Please keep in mind that we will follow up with the teacher/counselor, if needed.

When will I find out if I have been admitted to the KWHS Global Young Leaders Academy?

We review applications as we receive them. You will be notified of the status of your application within 10-14 working days of the submission of the application.

I indicated a certain session that I hoped to attend on my application. Can I change that now?

You can change your session subject to availability.

How do I know that you have received my application?

Applicants can check the status of all application requirements in real time by logging in to their online accounts. Please regularly check the "Alerts" tab on the top right-hand screen of your portal for updates about your application.

TRAVEL

How do I apply for a visa for the KWHS Global Young Leaders Academy? What kind of visa should I get?

If you hold a passport from a country in the [Visa Waiver Program](#) (VWP), you do not need a visa to attend the program. In order to travel without a visa on the VWP, you must have authorization through the [Electronic System for Travel Authorization](#) (ESTA) prior to boarding a U.S.-bound air or sea carrier.

The KWHS Global Young Leaders Academy is a short-term, non-credit program, so international students can come on a [B-2](#) Business Visitor visa for educational travel (a student visa is not required as B-2 permits enrollment in a short recreational course of study, not for credit toward a degree), which will allow them to participate in the KWHS Global Young Leaders Academy, as well as tourist-related activities that are part of the program. It is each student's responsibility to obtain the necessary visas and meet the requirements.

When will my visa letter be issued?

If required, we will provide each selected candidate with a visa invitation letter, which can be used to apply for the B-2 visa. The visa invitation letter will be issued starting January 2019 after receiving your payment and signed forms, but the letter does NOT guarantee successful visa application.

What about travel arrangements? Will we be traveling as a group?

Students have to plan their own travel. Students can either travel to the U.S. on their own or choose to travel with our GYLA group. If traveling on their own, they can meet us at the arrival airport or campus. We will provide shuttle service from Philadelphia airport to and from the campus. Detailed information will be provided post acceptance.

Will someone accompany us for the program?

Yes, Braingain Magazine will send one chaperone per 15 students. KWHS will hire current Penn undergraduate students serving as GYLA Residential Advisors (RAs) for the duration of the program. Braingain chaperones will coordinate program logistics and provide administrative support while KWHS RAs will facilitate academic teamwork and organize residential activities.

Do we need insurance?

Yes, you will be required to purchase a special medical insurance to cover you during your stay on campus. The US \$ 115 that we have collected is the fee towards this medical insurance. Additionally, we strongly suggest

that you also purchase international travel insurance from your home country to cover you during travel and off-campus stays.

In order to get to the program from my country, I need to arrive in the United States a little earlier than it starts and leave a bit later. Do you offer any housing or other type of travel assistance in that case?

No. We do not provide housing before or after the program dates. You can only arrive on campus on the program start date and leave the campus no later than the program's last day. The check-in time is 2 p.m. and the check-out time is 11 a.m.

LIVING ON THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA CAMPUS

Where will I live during the program?

All students participating in the KWHS Global Young Leaders Academy will be provided with accommodations on The University of Pennsylvania campus.

- The dormitories are staffed 24/7 with security personnel. Students will need to swipe their Penn Cards and enter an access code to get inside the building. Students must sign guests in at the front desk. Overnight visitors are not allowed.
- Housing assignments are made randomly; requests like housing in a single room/suite, housing with another student in another room, on another floor or in another building cannot be accommodated.
- Students are placed randomly in single or double rooms in same-sex suites. A suite houses a maximum of four students. Each suite has a shared bathroom and kitchen. Each floor has a shared lounge. All bedrooms are air-conditioned and a single set of bed linen is provided.
- All the accommodations have free washing machines. Students can purchase detergent from convenience stores on campus.
- Lockers or safes are not available. Students need to keep their valuables locked in their suitcases and keep the rooms locked at all times. More detailed information about the dorms and building policies can be found [here](#).

Can parents stay on campus during the course of the program?

Yes. We recommend the [Inn at Penn-Hilton](#) and [Sheraton University City](#). All bookings etc. will have to be done directly with the hotel. Other hotels are also available [here](#).

Can parents and family visit the students during the program?

Since our program is intensive and schedules are pretty full for the two weeks, we strongly recommend that parents limit their outings with students.

How much money should the child carry for field trips and otherwise?

We suggest \$55 per day for the meals. Other than that, spending money amounts are at your discretion. Please note, however, that students should not carry more than \$5,000.

Can I go and visit my family/friends in the U.S. once the program ends?

Yes, once the program ends you are free to travel as you like.

Can students leave campus during the program after classes are over for the day?

No, students cannot leave the campus after classes. If they must leave for some valid reasons, the participant needs to submit a “temporary leave” consent form signed by parents/legal guardians before he/she leaves the program and he or she has to be back by 10:00 p.m. the same day. The participant can only leave the program with an adult’s company. We will NOT approve any “staying with friends” requests.

Do students have a curfew? What are other significant rules? Are students always supervised by adults?

The program takes student safety and security very seriously. We provide 24/7 adult supervision. Students do have a nightly curfew and must be inside their rooms before 10:30 p.m. In order to maintain the safety of students at all times, we also designate a boundary that students may not move beyond without permission or staff escort. The boundary allows students access to most parts of the central Penn campus, as well as a number of shops and restaurants, including the Penn bookstore.

Will students have access to a gym?

Yes. Students (above 16 years of age) can access the Pottruck Gym at Penn for \$221 per person. This cost is optional for students. If they want to add this feature to their trip, the total fee will be \$5,615 plus \$221. The gym includes a swimming pool, a basketball court and a climbing wall. Outdoor tennis and squash courts require an additional fee. Students must have a signed waiver from their parents or guardians to be eligible for a gym membership.

I have personal dietary restrictions. Will I be able to eat in the university dining halls?

Yes. University dining halls offer a buffet style of meals and can cater to personal dietary needs due to allergy restrictions or religious observances. The dining halls also offer a variety of vegetarian/vegan meal selections. We will be in touch with you regarding your dietary requirements once you have been selected into the program.

Will we have access to wi-fi on campus?

Yes. The program provides campus-wide wi-fi.

Can we carry our mobile phones to the program?

Yes. All participants are encouraged to have a U.S. mobile number or international roaming on their mobiles prior to reaching the U.S. You can also purchase a local sim card at the airport or on campus.

Do we need to carry our laptops /I Pads? Will we have access to a printer?

Portable technology (i.e.: a laptop or iPad) is required so you can take notes and complete the group project. However, using technology for unrelated purposes during classes is prohibited. A printing shop is available on campus, and you will need to pay for the service yourself.

What do we need to carry for the program?

A packing list will be shared with the students once they have secured a spot in the program.

Should I carry any medicines?

You should carry any prescription medicines that you are required to take on a regular basis. You should also carry some over-the-counter medicines for colds, headaches, fever, minor pains, as well as band-aids, antiseptic, and the like.

OTHER IMPORTANT RULES AND REGULATIONS

SMOKING, DRINKING AND DRUGS AT THE PROGRAM

Smoking and drinking are strictly prohibited during the GYLA program. Any participant found possessing or consuming contraband substances, including cigarettes, alcoholic drinks and drugs, will be immediately expelled from the program at their own cost. No refund will be provided. The program will have the right to take legal action as they deem fit and as dictated by U.S. laws. Any related violations will be presented to the Admission Office of the University of Pennsylvania, which will greatly jeopardize future admissions to Penn.

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