

# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENT AND  
SCHOLAR SERVICES

*Office of International Programs*



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## FAMILY RESOURCE GUIDE

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# EDUCATION

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## K-12 EDUCATION

If you are coming to the U.S. with children, you need to consider which school your child will attend. In the US all children are required to go to school beginning the year that the child turns 5 years old if the child's birthday is before or on September 1st. For example, if your child turns 5 years old on July 31, 2007, then he will start school in September, 2007. If your child turns 5 years old on December 12, 2007, then she will begin school in September, 2008.

Most often children will go to school in the school district where they live. Transportation and tuition are free. In Minnesota children can attend a school outside of their district. However free transportation is not available outside your district. When registering your child for school you must have the child's birth record and immunization records (see immunization section). Each school district may require additional documentation. To find out which school district you live in, contact your city hall.

### *List of terms*

**Kindergarten** – a school or class for children usually from four to six years old.

**Elementary school** - a school which includes Kindergarten through fourth, sixth, or eighth grades. Each school is different.

**Middle school** - a school which usually includes grades five-eight or six-eight.

**High school** - a school which usually including grades 9-12 or 10-12.

**Public school** - a free tax-supported school controlled by a local governmental authority.

**Private school** - a school that is established, conducted, and primarily supported by a nongovernmental agency. Tuition is not free and you may have to arrange your own transportation.

*The following are options for schools in your area:*

### **Minneapolis Public schools**

For a list of Minneapolis public schools and other basic information go to [www.mpls.k12.mn.us](http://www.mpls.k12.mn.us)

### **St. Paul Public schools**

For a list of St Paul public schools and other basic information go to [www.stpaul.k12.mn.us](http://www.stpaul.k12.mn.us)

## **Bloomington Public Schools**

For a list of Bloomington public schools and other basic information go to [www.bloomington.k12.mn.us](http://www.bloomington.k12.mn.us)

## **Edina Public schools**

For a list of Edina public schools and other basic information go to [www.edina.k12.mn.us](http://www.edina.k12.mn.us)

If you are trying to find a school in another school district go to [google.com](http://google.com) and search for Minnesota Public Schools.

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION**

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) is a special program offered through Minnesota public schools for all Minnesota families with small children. ECFE has different programs within each school district which involve children and their parents in various activities. If you live in Minneapolis and want to learn about ECFE class listings, class description, registration, payment, special events and calendar, please visit the following website: <http://ecfe.mpls.k12.mn.us/>

You can also access information about ECFE for your area by going to Google search “community education”. From there you will be able to find the ECFE in your area.

## **ESL - ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE**

ESL classes are a perfect opportunity to improve your English skills, meet new people and learn something new about the culture. As a spouse or dependent of an international student or scholar you may choose from the following options:

### *ESL classes at the University of Minnesota*

The University of Minnesota provides a wide range of ESL classes. You may consider checking university classes and programs. To find a list of classes go to <http://onestop.umn.edu/onestop> and check under class search

English Language Program  
323 Nolte Center, Lynne Ackerberg  
Tel: 612-624-1183  
E-mail: [acker005@umn.edu](mailto:acker005@umn.edu)

Courses are offered in all skills: speaking, pronunciation, listening, writing, grammar, and reading. These advanced level classes for academic credit are designed to meet the needs of undergraduates, graduate students, postdoctoral researches, and spouses who want to upgrade their English to be more effective. Classes can be found in the Course Schedule under English as a Second language (ESL 3101, 3102, 3201, 3202, 3302, 3501, 3502, 3551)

### **Conversation programs**

Tandem Plus  
Language Center  
Tel: 612-626-6050  
E-mail: tandem@umn.edu

This program provides an opportunity to practice language skills and to explore culture. Partners meet informally, but on a regular basis, and spend half of the time speaking English and the other half speaking the student's native language. Once matched, partners determine when, where and how often to meet. Program matches are made shortly after the start of each semester.

Partners in English  
Teaching and Learning Services, Caroline Rosen  
Tel: 612-625-3017

Program gives priority to matching graduate students and scholars. It offers participants an opportunity to practice conversational English. Sign-up is an on-going basis.

### ***ESL programs in the Twin Cities***

Global language Institute  
College of St. Scholastica  
340 Cedar St. Suite 25  
St. Paul, MN 55101  
Phone: 651-209-3522  
E-mail: info@gli.org  
Website: www.gli.org

Global Language Institute has programs for high school or university students, international business executives or someone in need of improving their English skills for personal or professional reasons.

### *ESL Language Centers*

University of St. Thomas  
Mail CHC203  
2115 Summit Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55105  
Phone: 651-962-5990  
E-mail: [info@gli.org](mailto:info@gli.org)  
Website: [www.gli.org](http://www.gli.org)

### *Nonprofit organizations*

The Minnesota Literacy Council (MLC)  
756 Transfer Road  
St. Paul, MN 55114-1404  
Phone: 651-645-2277 or 800-225-READ  
Website: <http://www.themlc.org/>  
Fax: 651-645-2272

The Minnesota Literacy Council (MLC) is a nonprofit, statewide organization that provides literacy services to adults, children, volunteers and community programs around Minnesota. MLC offers ESL classes as well. MLC provides direct adult literacy services in Minneapolis at Hiawatha Lake Learning Center, Northeast Learning Center, and North Side Learning Center and manages a wide range of other direct service literacy programs in the Twin Cities area. Please visit “Adult Learning Sites” or “Children’s Services” sections for more information about these and other programs.

### **MINNESOTA EXTENSION AGENCY**

The University of Minnesota Extension Service is committed to delivering high-quality, relevant educational programs and information. Their statewide network of researchers, educators, and volunteers addresses critical needs by focusing on issues where research-based education can make a difference.

The Minnesota Extension Agency’s website contains information on raising children and living in Minnesota. Please visit their website to see their extensive offerings: [www.extension.umn.edu/index.html](http://www.extension.umn.edu/index.html)