

Frequently Asked Questions

Aspect San Francisco, City Centre School

Background of the school

› When was the school / building established / built?

The building was built in 1970's and the school was established at its present location in 1996.

› Briefly describe the style of the building (modern, Victorian etc...)

The school is located on the 5th floor of a modern brick-and-concrete 10-floor office building. There is a patio on the 6th floor available for all-tenant use.

› Where is it situated in the city? Is it set in its own grounds?

The school is located in the centre of the city, next to the Financial District, China Town and downtown shops.

› Bus links to town – what numbers?

Almost all buses go to the city centre and, consequently, near the school. Students may also use the BART (metro train) or Street Car to come to school, depending on their location.

› How far (miles)?

There are numerous bus stops within 1 to 3 blocks of the school.

› Travelling time by bus?

The average student commute (from host family) is 45 minutes.

› Time on foot (if applicable)?

The average commute from the student residence hotel, on foot, is 10-15 minutes.

› How often?

Buses run all day from 5:30 a.m. to after midnight. Generally they run every 5-20 minutes, depending on the time of day or day of the week.

› Price of bus pass?

\$45.00 for a monthly FAST pass (for those within the San Francisco City limits) with access to all public transport.

› Price one-way to town?

A single fare within the city is \$1.25.

› How far from rail station?

Cal Train is approximately 30 minutes on foot or 10 minutes by bus from the school. The nearest link to Amtrack is 4 blocks from the school.

› How far are the premises from the bank / money exchange bureau?

3 blocks/ less than 10 minutes walk.

› How far are the premises from the nearest post office?

1.5 blocks/ less than 5 minutes walk.

› What kinds of shops are situated near the school and how far away are they?

Many restaurants and shops are within 1 block of the school/ less than 5 minutes walk. Restaurants vary from cafes and take-away to full-service restaurants. Shops include local convenience stores, department stores (eg. Macy's) and speciality shops (eg Nike or Levi's). All of these are within a 3-block radius.

› Please confirm the postal address where students can receive their mail:

Student's name
C/O Aspect
530 Bush Street, suite 500 (5th Floor)
San Francisco, CA 94108
USA

Background to the city

› What is the population of the city?

700, 000 in San Francisco
5+ million in the entire Bay Area (including Berkeley, Oakland, Marin, etc).

› General / historic / touristic / seaside etc?

World-famous tourist destination, as well as dot.coms (Silicon Valley) and education (Stanford, UC Berkeley, etc). Many historic tourist attractions and sights (ex. Alcatraz, Presidio, Pacific Heights, Victorian Mansions) as well as modern surroundings. Also a very busy financial centre.



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School facilities

› How many classrooms in total?

10 classrooms.

› Which other organisations will be there ?

Pacific Arabic Resources (in evenings only).

› Size of the classrooms? (Large, spacious, airy, light, compact...)

7 classrooms can accommodate up to 15 students; 1 can accommodate up to 25; 1 can accommodate up to 10; and 1 can accommodate up to 5. The rooms are bright and light with at least one wall of windows.

› What are the facilities in classrooms?

Whiteboard & CD or cassette player, TV/ VCRs and OHP are also available.

› What kind of desks?

All-in-one chair and desktop; each can be moved individually to suit class needs and size.

› Computer room available?

Yes, all computers have free Internet access for students, as well as software for self-study and classwork.

› Library available?

We have a library in the school with text books, self-study materials, magazines and some paperbacks.

› Is there a canteen?

There is no canteen on the premises due to the location of the school and proximity to local restaurants.

› Are there any vending machines?

There is a vending machine with snacks and a soda machine in the student lounge, as well as a microwave oven for student use.

› Is there a smoking area?

Yes, smoking is only permitted on the balcony.

› Is there a church / mosque nearby?

There is a Catholic church next to the school, and inter-faith cathedral within 5 blocks of the school and a mosque within 10 blocks of the school.

› How many telephones are there and where?

There is a phone in the school which students may use with permission. There are many pay phones on the street, as well as phones in each room in the residence. Host families allow use of phone with some conditions applied.

› Are there any common rooms?

Yes. We have a student lounge (where the vending machines are located) and the library/ study hall is also used as a common room.

› How big are they?

The study hall/ library is used for graduation ceremonies and parties so it is available for use with students. It can hold up to 25 seated, up to 50 if standing.

› What facilities have they got?

The study hall/ library has a whiteboard, TV/ VCR, sofas and chairs. The student lounge has vending machines, microwave oven, tables, chairs and boards.

Sports facilities

› What outdoor sports facilities are there?

Public parks can be used. The Activities Coordinator can help with organising outdoor sports events.

› Is there a gym?

Students can join the local YMCA for indoor sports facilities. There is no gym in the school.

› What is the gym like?

The YMCA gym has a weight room, basketball court, swimming pool, exercise room. It also offers some classes, ie yoga and aerobics.

› Is there a swimming pool?

Yes, the pool is open for laps 3 times each day



Residential accommodation

› How many beds in total?

We have beds available in the student residence hotel which are reserved on a case-by-case basis when the booking is made. This is a residence hotel so there are non-Aspect residents as well.

› How many bathrooms?

All rooms have shared bathrooms (ratio depends on number of guest in hotel- in general, bathrooms and facilities are shared with 3-6 other people).

› How many toilets?

Same as above.

› How many showers?

Same as above.

› Has each room a bed, desk, and wardrobe per student?

Yes. Note that the residence rooms have either a desk or table, TV, as well as mini-refrigerator and microwave oven.

› Is bed linen provided?

Yes.

› How often is it changed?

Once a week

› Are towels provided?

Yes.

› How often are they changed?

Daily.

› Is soap provided?

No.

› When are the rooms cleaned and how often?

Daily (except weekends) throughout the day.

› Is there a laundrette?

Yes (coin operated).

› If there are no laundry facilities on site, where is the nearest public laundrette, and how far away is it?

Residence: There is a public laundrette located across the street.

› Do all bedrooms have locks and a master key?

Yes.

› Is there a safe leaders / the CD could have access to?

Yes, available to rent in the lobby.

› What kind of Security System is there?

Doors are locked at all times and someone is at the front desk 24 hours.

› How far is the accommodation from the canteen?

In the same building.

› Will the students have all three meals in the same canteen?

Breakfast and Dinner are served Monday – Saturday; only breakfast served on Sundays/ holidays. Students are responsible for providing their own lunch.

Excursions

› Where are the excursion pick-up / drop-off points?

Activities generally start from the school and end there as well.



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