While our students routinely engage in experiences that go far beyond the classroom, the immersion program provides many additional options for educational opportunities in international and wilderness environments. This program will leave its mark on each of our students as they engage emotionally in authentic situations and acquire an understanding of, and appreciation for, other cultures or the natural world.

Three themes depict the immersion experiences options. Students may select one or more offerings from the categories that most interest them:

- Cultural/Linguistic Immersion (16 day minimum with a 75% homestay component)
- Cultural/Service Immersion (16 day minimum with a 75% homestay component and a minimum of 60 hours of service)
- Wilderness/Outdoors Immersion (10 day minimum)

“Immersion is our 21st century response to the call set forth by our centuries-old motto, ad lumen – toward enlightenment.” – Donald Austin, Head of School

Newark Academy is committed to preparing students to become compassionate and engaged citizens of the world. Our charge is to emphasize the fundamentals of college preparatory education while preparing our students to be leaders in cultural understanding and global stewardship. Newark Academy’s stimulating environment challenges its students to think creatively, globally, collaboratively and independently.

A Leader in Global Education

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The Immersion Experiences Program

The global initiatives outlined in Newark Academy’s strategic plan demonstrate a commitment to building an inspiring educational program and fostering intercultural understanding and global citizenship. In October 2008, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to accept a recommendation from the 2007-08 Immersion Committee to require each student to engage in at least one significant, off-campus immersion experience during his or her time in the Upper School.

More than mere travel, this immersion experience seeks to engage students in cultural or environmental exploration, developing an appreciation and understanding of diverse cultures, peoples and perspectives in the world. Experiences can last from two weeks to an entire year, depending on individual student situations and interests. The Immersion Experiences Requirement is the result of a thoughtful, multi-year study by various committees comprised of faculty members, administrators, students, trustees and parents.

The Immersion Experiences Program reinforces Newark Academy’s position as a leader in incorporating direct, experiential education into its curriculum. As a result, our students will gain knowledge, broaden their perspectives, and learn the important skill of adapting to new environments. Students whose rigorous classroom work is complemented by such real-world, direct experiences will be poised to succeed in our increasingly global society.

Quick Facts

- The Immersion Experiences Requirement begins with the Class of 2013.
- Students may fulfill the requirement at any time after their eighth grade graduation.
- The program is managed by the Director of Immersion Experiences, Maria Teresa McNeilly-Anta. The director advises, oversees, manages and approves proposed trips with support from the Immersion Committee.
\[\text{“Life’s most powerful educational experiences typically happen outside of the classroom ... in the context of life itself. The most transformative way to inculcate global-mindedness is to give students the educational experience of being immersed in a setting that helps generate an understanding of what it is to be a global citizen.”} \]

– Richard DiBianca, PhD, Upper School Principal

### The Immersion Experiences Requirement FAQs

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>What is Newark Academy’s Immersion Experiences Requirement?</th>
<th>What are some examples of approved programs and types of immersion experiences?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Beginning with the Class of 2013, all Newark Academy students will have at least one immersion experience to include either:  
  - A 10 day minimum wilderness experience or  
  - A 16 day minimum experience in a culture distinct from one's own that includes a 75% homestay component. | There are a multitude of programs that provide excellent immersion opportunities. A comprehensive list will be compiled and distributed as soon as it is available; however, a brief sampling of approved programs is listed below: |
| While many students may choose a linguistic immersion to complement their study of foreign languages at NA, the 16 day immersion option may feature service or cultural exchange as its theme. | **Examples of semester or year off-campus programs:**  
  - Rocky Mountain Semester ([www.hminet.org](http://www.hminet.org))  
  - The Island School ([www.islandschool.org](http://www.islandschool.org))  
  - Maine Coast Semester ([www.chewonki.org](http://www.chewonki.org))  
  - School Year Abroad ([www.sya.org](http://www.sya.org))  
  - The Outdoor Academy([http://www.enf.org/outdoor_academy](http://www.enf.org/outdoor_academy)) |

### How is the requirement fulfilled?

This requirement has many flexible options. Students must fulfill the requirement in a single trip, which may take place at any time after their eighth grade graduation (including summer breaks) through one of the following options:  
- A Newark Academy-designed immersion experience  
- An approved semester or summer immersion program  
- A well-conceived, student-proposed experience

### What are the financial implications?

Newark Academy understands the financial impact this requirement will have on families. The Academy will ensure that a range of affordable options is available.

For more information, contact Ms. Maria Teresa McNeil-Anta, ext. 265

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