

I-House Language Learning Group Information

What are I-House Language Learning groups?

I-House Language Learning Groups are the cornerstone of the I-House Learning Pass Program. Language Learning Groups meet weekly and are taught by volunteer language instructors. Volunteer language instructors facilitate informal and fun conversation-based language sessions. Language learning groups help people improve or maintain their language skills and provide a sense of community, friendship and cultural exchange. Groups accommodate varying levels of language ability but are generally appropriate for those with a basic understanding rather than very beginners. Language learning groups are drop-in and do not usually involve homework, quizzes or tests.

In general, learning groups meet weekly for 1 hour to 90-minutes at a consistent day and time that works for the instructor and for I-House. The time commitment for instructors is approximately 3 - 5 hours a week including instruction, preparation and communication with students. Group sizes range from 5 - 20 people, and can be adapted to the interests of the group and the instructor. Classes take place on-site at I-House either in the Hagan classroom or in the I-House lounge. There is wifi and a monitor in the classroom for viewing and/or listening exercises.

What do Volunteer Instructors do?

I-House language learning group instructors are volunteers who give an incredible service to the I-House community. At the heart of their responsibilities, instructors guide the learning groups by curating engaging conversation prompts, interactive exercises, and providing guidance on grammar, vocabulary, and syntax. Activities can include ice-breakers, reading passages with discussion and/or watching short videos and discussing. Depending on the group size, some teachers choose to break into pairs or smaller discussion groups for various exercises.

Learning group instructors submit a written program proposal, attend an in-person meeting with I-House staff to familiarize themselves with I-House mission and values, undergo a casual interview, agree to the I-House volunteer instructor training procedure, and then sign a volunteer agreement to confirm the details of their

program. Learning group instructors communicate any I-House news to the group and report back to I-House staff about the general status of the learning group. Instructors cannot sell products or promote any particular faith, religion or political position. They can share information about local services that may be of interest to their students.

What support does I-House provide?

Interested instructors will first meet with I-House staff for an introduction to I-House. New instructors observe or shadow at least one session and meet with an experienced instructor to discuss best practices. I-House staff works with the instructor to schedule the class. I-House Davis handles registration and marketing. A staff member is always on-site before, during and after the class to assist with registration, check-in or classroom needs. Instructors can use the I-House copier to copy materials for the group sessions. I-House will maintain an email list of the learning group members and will communicate with the group for any scheduling conflicts or cancellations. If desired, and with the approval of group members, I-House will share the email list with the instructor for communication purposes. In some cases, I-House also maintains a whatsapp group. I-House will conduct an annual online survey to group participants, but can also accommodate other evaluation methods if desired by the instructor.

All volunteer instructors receive a free learning pass to I-House with access to learning pass programs as well as some discounted or complimentary tickets to paid events at I-House during their volunteering period at I-House.

Are you interested in leading a Language Learning group at I-House? Here is how!

Learning group instructors generally have academic, professional or volunteer experience in language teaching or equivalent experience. We are looking for qualified volunteer instructors who can facilitate language learning groups. If you are interested please contact office@internationalhousedavis.org. A staff member will be in touch to schedule an in-person interview.