



# Abiding Savior Lutheran School

International Student Handbook

23262 El Toro Road, Lake Forest, CA 92630 • (949) 830-1461  
abidingsavior.com •  abidingsaviorlakeforest •  abidingsavior



## Welcome

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The administration and staff of *Abiding Savior Lutheran School* are delighted that you are considering our school as a potential educational partner while your son / daughter study is studying here in the United States. It has been our privilege to host many International students throughout our school's history; we are anxious to share our superior academic programs, our welcoming student body, and our comforting Christian faith with your family, as well.

## About Abiding Savior

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*Abiding Savior Lutheran Church* considers its school an essential part of its mission and ministry, focusing on children and their families. Our mission is to Communicate Christ's love to everyone, everywhere – and our love for Him through building Christ-centered global leaders. The school continues to fulfill this vital mission. Through the successful integration of International students studying on campus through the United States government's I-20 / F1 Visa program, Christ's love is being communicated into a global context well beyond the Lake Forest community. *Abiding Savior Lutheran School* has proven itself to be an exceptional educational institution, accredited by the *Western Association of Schools and Colleges* (WASC) and by the *National Lutheran Schools Accreditation* (NLSA) program.

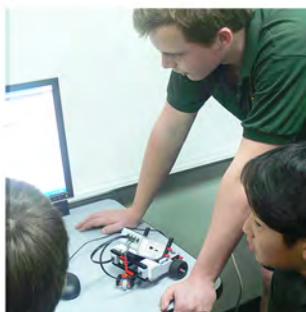
# About the Abiding Savior International Program

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*Abiding Savior's* International Program has been in place for well over ten years. In those years, the International Program has proven itself successful for its students' ultimate educational goals. Specifically, we have found that motivated International students who continue their educational journey with us over the course of several years are well-prepared to compete for, and attain, positions in the premier, most prestigious private high schools in Orange County and around the United States.

The International Student Study Program offered by *Abiding Savior* is a full-immersion program that provides an enriching experience for your student. Limited numbers of International students are admitted each year.

International students do not receive "English as a Second Language" (ESL) courses; their growing competency in the English language comes about naturally, in the course of their day-to-day activities. Students do receive personalized assistance with their assignments through interaction with their teachers and peers. Junior High students participate in the English Learners' Lab, a one-to-one program that meets twice a week. To maximize their success in our program, students need a good command of spoken and written English, the desire to improve upon their skills, and a willingness to work hard.



# Application Process for International Students

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## Step One: Apply

- Please visit the International Student page on our website:  
*<https://abidingsavior.com/school/international>*
- Review the application requirements
- Complete and submit the ASLS International Application Packet.
  - This form can either be downloaded and filled out or printed and completed by hand.
  - A list of all additional documents is provided in the checklist.
- Print two (2) copies of the completed application. Keep one (1) copy of the application for your records, and submit the second copy to the *Abiding Savior* International Admissions Department.
- Instructions for submission of the completed application:
  - Email Option: Complete, sign, and email the required forms to [dluca@abidingsavior.com](mailto:dluca@abidingsavior.com).
  - Mail Option: Complete, sign, and mail all required forms to:  
***Abiding Savior Lutheran School***  
**Attn: International Admissions Department**  
**23262 El Toro Road**  
**Lake Forest, CA 92630**
  - Submit in Person option: Please email or call the International department to make an appointment for a visit.



# Application Process for International Students

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## Step Two: Application Review

- Upon receipt of the *ASLS* International Application Packet and the required documents, a file will be created and reviewed by the International Student Admissions Counselor and the Administration. Once the application is reviewed and the applicant is determined to meet *Abiding Savior's* admissions criteria, the student's parents / guardians will be contacted through e-mail by the Admissions Office in order to set up a personal interview with the school's principal. The interview can be arranged as either a face-to-face conversation (if the student lives nearby) or via Skype or Facetime (if the student is living abroad). The interview is designed to get to know the applicant and assess his / her English proficiency.

*Abiding Savior* reserves the right to deny any application who does not meet the criteria for acceptance.

## Step Three: Notification of the Applicant

- Following the interview, *Abiding Savior Lutheran School's* principal will determine the applicant's enrollment status. The final decision regarding any applicant's enrollment at *Abiding Savior* remains with the school's principal. Following this decision, *Abiding Savior* will notify the applicant of his / her enrollment status via e-mail.

## Step Four: Registration

- Once an applicant has been accepted for the following school year, the parents / guardians must pay two fees: a one-time International Student fee (which covers postage, clerical work, etc.) and the yearly Registration fee.

Following the receipt of these fees, the *Abiding Savior* Admissions Office will begin creating and registering the applicant's I-20 paperwork forms, as required by the *United States Department of Homeland Security*. Once completed, it will be sent via U.S.P.S mail to the applicant's home address, as it is listed on the application documents.

# Application Process for International Students

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Applicants and their parents will then make an appointment at their nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate for an interview. Applicants must carry their I-20 document with them to the interview. A fee for the F-1 Visa will be charged by the embassy or consulate before it releases the Visa. Upon the successful completion of their embassy / consulate interview and the submission of the fee, applicants will receive an F-1 Visa for their passport and permission to enter the United States as a student.

- Once the embassy / consulate interview is successfully completed, the student's parent / guardian needs to register the applicant as a student at *Abiding Savior*. This is done via the *Gradelink* website. Information about how to register via *Gradelink* will be made available to new students and their families after their acceptance.
- Upon their receipt of their F-1 Visa, the applicant must pay the entirety of their yearly tuition.
- Please Note: Students who withdraw, transfer, or are asked to leave *Abiding Savior* prior to the completion of the First Trimester (twelve weeks) can request a pro-rated tuition refund. Following the First Trimester, however, no tuition refunds will be provided for any cause.

## Step Five: Arrival in the United States

- According to *United States Department of Homeland Security*, International students with an F-1 Visa may arrive **no earlier than one month prior** to the first day of school, which typically occurs during the last week of August. Students should plan on arriving in Southern California, therefore, no earlier than the end of July. Students who plan to visit the United States with a B-1 Visa (typically provided for vacation trips to America) will need to leave the country and come back under the provisions of their F-1 Visa. Prior to the beginning of the school year, *Abiding Savior* will host an orientation meeting on campus. During this time, staff members will meet with each International student and his / her family personally to answer any questions, to provide time for shopping in the school's uniform store, and to make certain that all documents are submitted and fees are paid.

# Thank You!

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Thank You! We know that there are many great schools in South Orange County from which to choose. We appreciate your consideration of *Abiding Savior Lutheran School* as a potential partner for your child's educational needs. *Abiding Savior* offers a challenging and stimulating program, taught by gifted educators, all the while surrounding our students with God's love. It's an unbeatable combination!

