

Education / Training & Careers

ESL is language school's core

McKinsey International College also offers TOEFL instruction

■ It is only one year old, but this world-class international college, is one of the finest places to study English in Canada.

McKinsey International College, The "Language School Inc.," offers a variety of ESL (English as a Second Language) programs as well as TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language).

Ryan Blackwell, the school's director, explains the "core program" of the school is the intensive ESL instruction. This is comprised of: grammar, reading, writing, conversation, listening and speaking. Business English, TOEFL, and the Listening Comprehension programs are branch programs from that main core of ESL study.

Business English, as a program, is designed to provide high-intermediate and advanced students of English with the necessary language skills required to perform successfully in a business atmosphere.

One hundred students participate in four week

modules for an average of four months. The Business English subjects include:

- Meeting and negotiation skills;
- Presentation skills;
- Telephoning skills;
- Writing skills, and
- Project work for each skill category.

The writing unit lasts four weeks and students familiarize themselves with various methods of business writing. Classes are designed to introduce and reinforce the many structures, uses and writing styles involved in resumes, e-mails, memos and business letter correspondence.

The speaking and listening unit is eight weeks and is designed to maximize students' active participation in open, direct and immediate communication. Students will learn to respond quickly and accurately to questions, propos-

als, invitations, conversations, ideas and more.

The Listening Comprehension program is a very interesting learning style, which involves listening to and transcribing daily subjects from TV, radio and movies. The student records over blank spots on the tape with the correct missing word or phrase.

This introduces the student to cultural implications taught through Canadian media, using speaking and listening skills. In class, they ask questions about why the characters said or did such and such and why was that funny or sad.

For eight weeks, two hours per day, The TOEFL program gives students the skills necessary to achieve maximum results for the TOEFL exam for university or college entry.

Every Friday afternoon activities are planned for the students so they can be acclimated to Canada. Trips include Canada's Wonderland, the ROM, Pub Nights, camping and

this summer, BBQ's.

To ensure a smooth transition from the homeland to Toronto, students are placed with Canadian families in the Home Stay program — what better way to improve ones' English quickly and to learn Canadian culture? Students also must only speak English while at the school and while attending school activities, to ensure they get maximum results from the program.

Blackwell is very proud of this small but "family environment" school with its highly credible teaching staff and small class size for maximum learning potential. Teachers have a university degree and certification in TESL, Teaching English as a Second Language, and many have taught in Canada as well as overseas.

For more information on McKinsey, visit the school at 433 Yonge Street, second floor or call 416-977-9800. Their web site is www.micollege.ca.

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Summer camp gives kids a taste of tech

Children and teenagers attending summer camps in Sault Ste. Marie will have the chance to learn how to design their own Web sites and program three-dimensional (3D) computer games.

Computer training company Digital Adventures of Sault Ste. Marie has teamed up with Algoma University College to offer this year's programs, which have added courses in advanced web and 3D game design, both for

children age 12-to-16.

Returning this year are a general computer camp and a Web page design camp for ages 9-to-15, and a video game design camp where children aged 11-to-16 years can learn how to create two-dimensional (2D) games.

Algoma U. connection

The video game design programs are a particularly good match for Algoma University, which plans to introduce a Masters of Science in Computer Game

Technology degree program in co-operation with the University of Alberta in Scotland this September.

"While the computer camps are not directly linked to the M.Sc. program, the intent is certainly to have activities for youth that link up with our computer science and IT fields," said Krista Yetman, Algoma's director of external relations.

"It is also an excellent way to demonstrate part-

nerships and educational options in the area of computer science and information technology."

The camps start in July and registrations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, visit the Web site www.digitaladventures.ca/camps.htm, or call (705) 257-1691. Registrations will be taken in the main office at Algoma University or by calling (705) 949-2301 ext. 236.

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