

Wellington International Student Experience (WISE)

WISE makes international travel a reality for every Wellington student.

Program Philosophy

Meaningful international travel provides extensive educational benefits such as growth in resiliency and problem solving, while building empathy and a respect for other cultures. With increasing globalization, the development of these skills is critical for success in college and beyond. However, understanding that traditional trip experiences can be cost prohibitive for many students, we have embraced the concept of experiential equity such that the international travel experiences are built into our core upper school program, with no additional cost to tuition.

Each student will have the opportunity to undertake a long-term interdisciplinary project with ongoing faculty mentorship and interaction with community partners in Columbus and abroad. During their 10th grade year, students will be enrolled in the Global Engagement Trimester where they will work to develop an understanding of the logistical and intellectual preparation involved in successful global travel, build intercultural communication skills, and discover connections between contemporary global issues and local realities. Readings and discussions, group activities, and live as well as virtual guest speakers will help students begin to connect with one of the international projects that has been put forth by the faculty.

Examples of some possible trip projects and locations include:

- Sustainability in Scandinavia
- The history and effects of the slave trade in Ghana
- The power of storytelling with the Tandana Foundation in Ecuador
- International Business in the United Kingdom
- Coral reef health and climate change in Curacao

In 11th grade students begin work on their project, making connections with the communities that they will be visiting. Students will then travel to their project destinations during the last two weeks in May, where they will fully immerse themselves in the project, creating greater understanding and gathering information and perspective in order to complete their research project or community initiative. Upon returning to Columbus, students will create presentations for our community during our Global Gala. Some students may choose to continue working on their projects during senior year, folding the project into our existing Independent Science Research or Independent Humanities Research program (see pages 22 and 41).

10th Grade

- Introduction to WISE
- Global Engagement Trimester



11th Grade

- International travel & project completion
- Travel during last two weeks of May
- Global Gala