

Summer Adult Immersions

Chicago FAQs

Q: What is an Immersion?

A: Immersion classes are week-long courses in improvisation, comedy writing, and/or other specialty areas at The Second City Training Center. Students can choose to take a course for one week, or stay for up to 4 weeks and complete Levels 1 - 4. We also offer a full schedule of advanced Specialty Immersion classes for students who have taken Levels 1 and/or 2 before (or have equivalent experience).

Q: Do I have to take both the Improv and Writing classes?

A: Nope! Students are able to make their own schedule. Students can take a half-day of whichever class they'd prefer, or a full day of both Improv and Writing.

Q: Can I stay for more than one week?

A: Of course. Many of our students take a full two-week course of both Improv/Writing Levels 1 and 2. We also have students who take Levels 1 and 2, and then stick around for an additional week or two to take Specialty classes. If it's more convenient for you, you can also progress through certain levels at different points during the summer.

Q: What's the difference between an Immersion and a regular 8-week class?

A: The majority of classes offered at the Chicago TC are 8-week courses. Students meet once per week for 3 hours for eight weeks. For students who live out of town or don't have 8 weeks to commit to a class, an Immersion is a great option! The courses are very fast-paced and hands-on overviews of our improvisation and sketch comedy writing classes. An Immersion class is 15 total hours of instruction, while a regular 8-week class is 24 total hours.

Q: Who takes the Immersion classes?

A: Everybody! Seriously...everybody. Our Immersion students are incredibly diverse in background: college students, business executives, teachers/professors, parents, construction workers, professional actors, lawyers, dancers....the list goes on and on. Many Immersion students are dedicated to a career in performance, comedy, or writing; and many of them are professionals in other fields who want to apply it to their everyday lives.

- **FOLLOW-UP Q:** But I'm 50 years old. I'm too old for the class, right?
- **FOLLOW-UP A:** No way! Our adult classes are open to students aged 19 and up, and we have a huge range of student ages in all of our classes. The average age of an Immersion student (based on past years) is about 22-45, however we welcome students of absolutely any age.

Q: How do I register?

A: You can register online or call the Training Center to register.

Q: I registered 10 minutes ago and haven't gotten a confirmation. Did I mess up?

A: Probably not—sometimes our system is a bit slow in sending out the confirmation. Eventually, you should receive an email receipt from our system. About a week or so before your Immersion begins, you should also receive a confirmation email from our coordinator confirming your enrollment and containing all the information you need for the summer.

Q: I don't know if I can afford this class. Do you have scholarships or payment plans?

A: We have both! If you want to take a class but need to break up your payments to make it easier on your wallet, that's no problem—we offer a plan that allows you to pay half upfront and half later. Tuition must always be paid in full one week before the start of the session. If you are interested in scholarship opportunities, we do offer a limited number of full and partial scholarships each year funded by The Second City Foundation. The scholarship application (and more details) can be found on our website. Students are welcome to submit an application for any Immersion class. Please note that Immersion scholarships are extremely competitive.

Q: I don't have any experience. Can I still take this class?

A: Of course. The Immersion courses do not have any prerequisites. Students of any and all experience/training levels are more than welcome to enroll.

Q: I'm totally not funny. This class isn't for me, right?

A: Wrong! In improvisation and sketch writing, the funny comes from realistic human reactions and situations. Our instruction focuses not on the "funny", but on the skills and fundamentals you need to be a solid improviser and sketch writer. Once those skills are in place, the funny will happen on its own.

Q: I have tons of experience. Will this class be too basic for me?

A: Many students who take the Immersion classes come to us with a good deal of previous experience in improv, acting, and writing. We find that most of them are still challenged by our classes, as we have a unique perspective on and methods of teaching all of these disciplines. A new perspective on your craft and review of your fundamentals is always beneficial for a performer/writer of any level. If a student has a lot of experience, they may want to consider one of our Specialty Immersions.

Q: What is a Specialty Immersion?

A: The SCTC offers a schedule of advanced, specialized Immersion classes for students who have completed Levels 1 and 2 in previous terms. The Specialty Immersions are different every year and have included Long-Form Improv, Musical Improv, Clowning, Improv for Creative Pedagogy, and more. Be sure to check the website for this year's Specialty Immersion offerings.

- **FOLLOW-UP Q:** I haven't taken Immersions 1 & 2, but these Specialty classes sound awesome. Can I still take them?
- **FOLLOW-UP A:** Students who have a good deal of previous experience/training in improv, acting, or related fields may qualify for the Specialty classes even if they have not taken the Levels 1 & 2 Immersions. To find out if you qualify for a particular Immersion, please send an email with a copy of your resume to Ellen Williams at ewilliams@secondcity.com.

Q: Who teaches the Immersion classes?

A: The best of the best! Immersion classes are taught by the Training Center's core and senior faculty members, as well as members of our resident and touring companies. Our Specialty Immersion class teachers are listed in the descriptions.

Q: How big are the classes?

A: Improv and Writing Immersion classes have no more than 16 students each. Specialty Immersion class capacities vary based on the instructor and curriculum.

Q: If I take an Immersion and then want to take a regular 8-week class, can I skip levels?

A: It depends on what Immersion classes you have taken. Since the Immersions are a short-term class (and less instruction hours than a regular 8-week course), only students who have completed Levels 1 and 2 sessions may skip over the first level of their respective 8-week program class. For example, if a student takes Improv Immersions 1 and 2 and wants to take classes in the 8-week Improvisation program, they may skip over Improv Level A and begin in Improv Level B. If they have taken Writing Immersions 1 and 2, they may begin directly in Writing 2. If a student qualifies for the Improv for Actors program, they may begin in IFA-2.

Didn't answer your question? Contact us at (312) 664-3959!