

### WSP CLASSES

Students have settled into their classes and are making great progress in building their English skills and improving their confidence!

#### Class highlights

##### Career Skills

- Vocabulary building
- Resume review
- Review videos of job interviews
- Interacting with WWU-student volunteers

##### English

##### Communication Skills

- Fluency activities
- Practice using questions
- Interacting with WWU-student volunteers
- Body language and culture

##### Beautiful Bellingham

- Boulevard Park visit
- Interacting with WWU-student volunteers
- Sehome Village visit
- REI visit
- Dollar Store visit

##### WSP Experience Class

- Safety
- Transportation & travel policy
- Using meal plans wisely
- Staying healthy
- Meet Birnam Wood Inclusion Assistant

- **Career Skills:** This week students got more chances to interact with WWU student volunteers by discussing topics related to jobs and careers. In one small group activity, students went through a list of different jobs with a WWU student. The purpose of the activity was to build vocabulary related to jobs and careers and also to get students to think about careers that they might be interested in pursuing. Students also learned the terms “skill set,” “hard skills,” and “people skills” from a PowerPoint presentation prepared by the WWU Career Services Center. They used these terms to discuss skills that they have and then to think about careers in which those skills might be useful. They also finished watching the interview with the executive assistant and listened to more speeches by WWU student volunteers about jobs they’ve had. In addition, they studied an actual resume made by a WWU employee. They also watched a video example of a good speech and of a bad speech; these speeches were used to review the elements of an effective speech and served to introduce some information about the class project that will include creating a resume, giving a speech, and conducting a mock job interview over Zoom.



## Events and Activities

- Weight lifting
- Basketball
- Valentine's Day Party

**English Communication Skills:** During week 2, the students continued learning about body language and gestures that can help improve their communication skills in the United States. This is particularly helpful for making themselves understood with volunteers in class, and during small talk and interpersonal invitations with other Western students. They also practiced their ability to create and ask questions. They practiced asking point / yes no / either or / WH / open-ended and personalized questions and presented their questions and answers with partners in front of the class. This type of activity will be particularly useful when the students have conversations at their upcoming high school and Japanese language classroom exchanges. The students also learned about the English language concept of “onomatopoeia,” and, in pairs, they completed wonderful colorful cartoons using some of the words. Finally, because it was Valentine’s Day, the students played a Valentine’s Day “bingo” game, watched a video, and discussed the differences between Valentine’s Day in America and Japan.



**Beautiful Bellingham:** This week was the students’ first full week of classes. The students reviewed the bus routes in and around the Bellingham area, utilizing both the Whatcom Transit Authority’s website and real-time app. They were introduced to a geography website called Seterra, where they played games identifying countries around the world using English names. They examined local maps of Bellingham, Washington State, and other parts of North America. The students also watched videos on experiences and outdoor adventures in Bellingham, as well as the art and cultural events held throughout Whatcom County. Friday was our first field trip. We traveled close to campus to a shopping area and visited a store REI that sells local hiking maps, outdoor apparel, and camping equipment, for any adventures the students might like to enjoy on the weekends. We also visited a Dollar Store that sells very inexpensive school supplies, books and stickers in English, and other items that might be useful during their stay here in the United States.



- **Experience Class:** Students have been learning more about Western and how to get around the area on public transportation. This is important, as the students are already planning to travel on the weekends. We told them that time flies in WSP so planning ahead is important. Another topic we focused on was wellness as a whole, not just physical health. We talked about cultural adjustment and had a visit from the Birnam Wood Inclusion Assistant, who is tasked with helping students transition into the WWU housing and general campus community.

