

Join the Learning Revolution Turn Learning Upside Down



We're the first **Learner-driven Community** in Asia.
Our learners are on a **Hero's Journey** to find a calling
that will change the world.

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Acton Academy Kuala Lumpur. First in Asia. **Our Story**



“Can students teach each other, instead of having teachers?”

Acton Academy Kuala Lumpur had its roots in late 2014 when two friends tried to answer the above question by doing experiments. They learnt that children are far more capable than they imagined. An entire classroom with no teachers was possible, and every child was engaged. Could we scale this further?

It turns out that there was already a group of revolutionaries doing just that—Acton Academy. We applied in 2016 and became the first Acton Academy in Asia. Our goal: to create the ideal environment for own children. An environment that prepares them to be self-driven independent learners who will pursue a life of meaning for a future that is beyond our imagination.

Nigerian proverb "It takes a village to raise a child" rings touches us. In just a few years, we grew to serve a broader community of families. We invite you to join us in this grand adventure of creating that village. That ideal village where each of us are on a Hero's Journey to find a calling to change the world.



ACTON

Acton Academy

A Global Revolution

Acton Academy is a global network of learner-driven communities.

2009 - Jeff & Laura Sandefer started Acton Academy with seven learners in Austin, Texas.

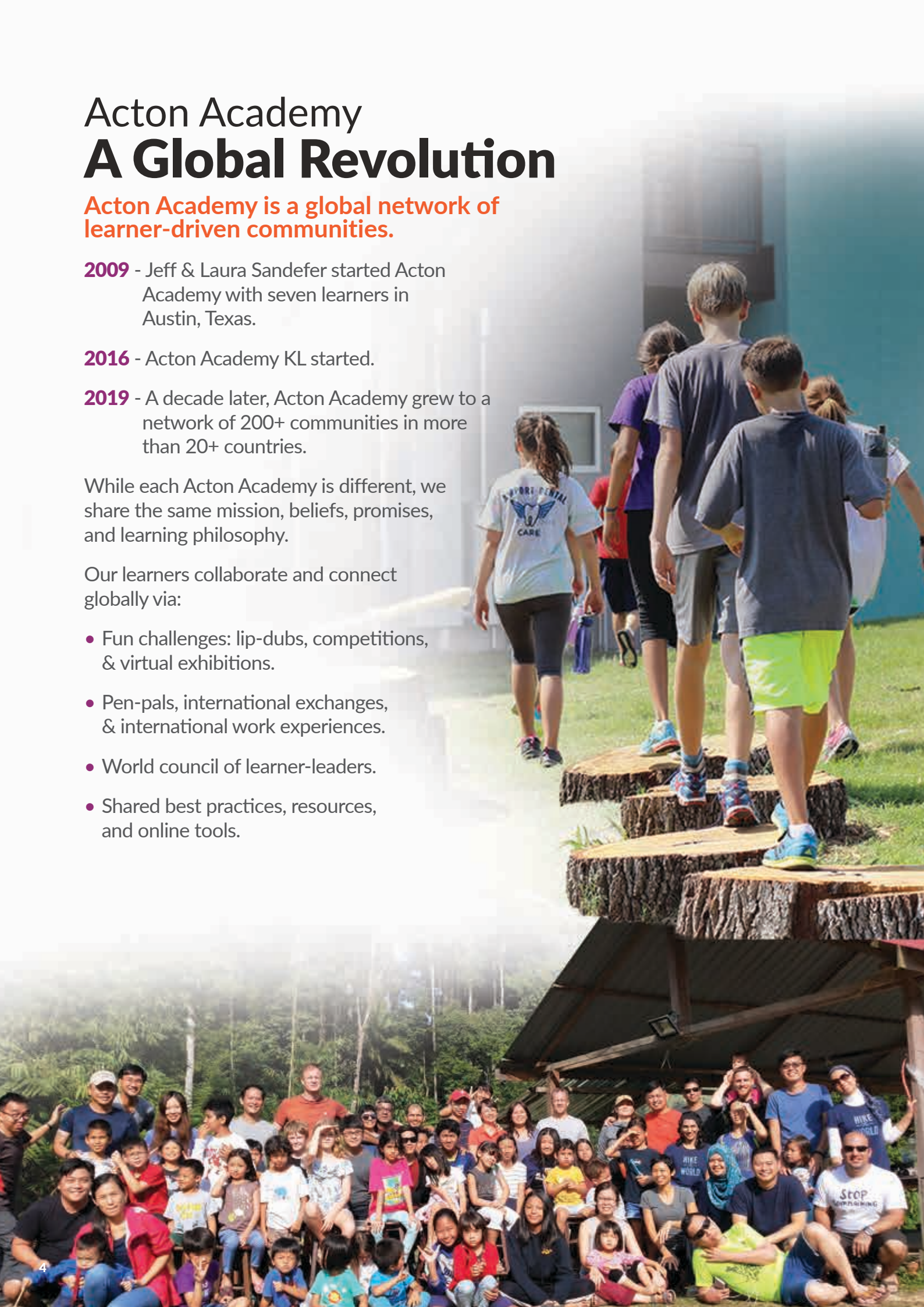
2016 - Acton Academy KL started.

2019 - A decade later, Acton Academy grew to a network of 200+ communities in more than 20+ countries.

While each Acton Academy is different, we share the same mission, beliefs, promises, and learning philosophy.

Our learners collaborate and connect globally via:

- Fun challenges: lip-dubs, competitions, & virtual exhibitions.
- Pen-pals, international exchanges, & international work experiences.
- World council of learner-leaders.
- Shared best practices, resources, and online tools.



Our Mission

Acton Academy's mission is to inspire each person who enters our doors to find a calling that will change the world.

Our Beliefs

We believe:

- Each person has a gift that can change the world in a profound way.
- In a closely connected family of lifelong learners.
- In learning to learn, learning to do, and learning to be.
- In economic, political, and religious freedom.

Our Learning Philosophy

We believe that:

- Clear thinking leads to good decisions,
- Good decisions lead to the right habits,
- The right habits lead to character, and
- Character becomes destiny.

Our Promise to your Child

Through Socratic Guiding & Experiential Learning, he/she will:

- Begin a Hero's Journey.
- Learn to be a curious, independent, lifelong learner.
- Develop a deep respect for economic, political and religious freedoms.
- Cherish the arts, wonders of the physical world and the mysteries of life on Earth.
- Discover his or her most precious gifts and learn to use them to solve difficult problems.



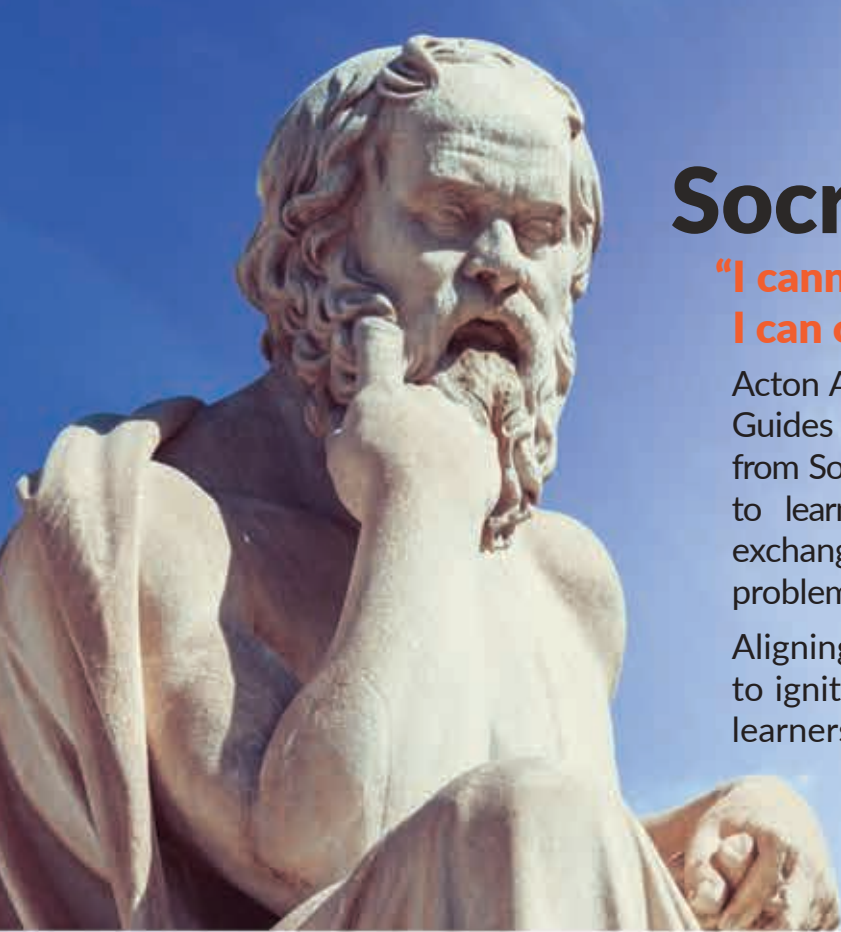


A Learner-Driven Community

Our Learner-driven Community is run mostly by our learners, who we call **Eagles**.

- They are self-directed and in charge of their learning.
- They create a community together by relational covenants and promises.
- They commit to holding each other to high standards.
- They take increasing responsibility and ownership of their studios.





Socratic Guiding

“I cannot teach anybody anything. I can only make them think.”

Acton Academy has no teachers. Instead, we have Guides and use the Socratic Method, originated from Socrates, the Greek philosopher. He responded to learners' questions with new questions. This exchange honed students' critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Aligning to our Learning Philosophy, we question to ignite **Clear Thinking**. This questioning guides learners to act, develop habits, and character.

Acton Academy Turning Learning Upside Down

Traditional School



- Rows of desks and a teacher at the blackboard.
- Memorization and testing of rules and facts.
- Report cards measure your success.
- One teacher lectures to many students.
- Worksheets just like our grandparents used.
- School like a factory with bells, shifts, and one-size-fits-all.

Acton Academy



- Collaborative work like at Google or Facebook.
- Acquisition and application of real skills in projects.
- Personalized goals are set, and progress is transparently tracked.
- Everyone's a teacher; everyone's a student.
- Professional tools for art, engineering, & storytelling; Cutting-edge adaptive tech for Core Skills.
- School like a journey, with big goals, mentors, tools, and a destination you care about.



The Hero's Journey

Every human yearns for powerful stories.

The Hero's Journey is a classic story structure that is shared by stories worldwide – Star Wars, Harry Potter, Disney movies and many myths.

A hero goes on an adventure, enter into a special world, facing challenges and trials. He overcomes them and then returns home transformed.

The Hero's Journey is the founding narrative of Acton Academy – the "why" behind all the passion.



Each of us is just an ordinary person; But if we're willing to say Yes to New experiences and keep moving forward, even when it's hard, it hurts, and it includes failure, then we are—all of us—heroes on a journey.

Laura Sandefer, co-founder of Acton Academy





Acton Learning Design: **Experiential Learning**



Learn to Learn

Socratic
Discussions and
self-paced
challenges equip
children to be
independent
lifelong learners.



Learn to Do

Hands-on Quests
for Science,
Entrepreneurship
and the Arts prepare
children for
Apprenticeships and
real-world challenges.



Learn to Be

The Hero's Journey,
relational contracts
and real-world
consequences
transform difficult
decisions into
virtuous habits.



Mixed-Age Learning Studios

Ages 4–7
**Spark
Studio**



Ages 7–11
**Discovery
Studio**



Ages 11–15
**Adventure
Studio**



Ages 15+
**Launchpad
Studio**



Ages 4-7 | Spark Studio



Spark a unique, curious, and independent spirit.

The Spark Studio is a nurturing space where Eagles embark on a journey of discovery, exploration, and positive character traits.

- 🧸 **Montessori** manipulatives build language and math skills.
- 🌀 Indoor and outdoor loose parts and hands-on projects provide **play-based learning** opportunities.
- ❤️ Studio life creates **habits of independence** through conflict resolution, studio clean-up, timekeeping, etc.

Adelle takes on challenges with courage now. From not speaking much to having her own voice. From hiding her problems to bravely facing them. From being nagged to taking ownership of her learning.

~ Audrey, parent of 5-year-old Adelle



Ages 7-12 | Discovery Studio



Discover a deep love of learning and social interaction.

The Discovery Eagles own the studio space. They start the process of self-governance by creating and upholding a covenant.

- 🧑‍🎓 **Personalized Core Skills** — self-paced reading, writing, math, and computer science. Build good learning habits.
- 🔧 **Hands-on projects** provide exploration into the arts, sciences, history, and the natural world.
- ❤️ **Socratic discussions** hone critical thinking skills. Townhall, studio responsibilities, and character badges cultivate leadership skills.

Entry Requirements: Basic reading skills



At the Children’s Business Fair, I learned that mistakes can happen.

~ Adam Skyler, 8-year-old Eagle

I like learning at Acton more because they give us choices, and we decide for ourselves.

~ Clara, 9-year-old Eagle



Age 11-15 | Adventure Studio

Work hard, develop real-world skills, and adventure out into the real world.

The Adventure Eagles run their studio. They face exciting opportunities and responsibilities by:

- 🐛 **Mastery-based** reading, writing, math, and computer science. Eagles learn to calculate, write, and think more deeply.
- 🍷 Work on difficult Quests, **real-world** simulations and ethical dilemmas.
- ❤️ Eagles find their calling by exploring gifts, passions, and **apprenticeships**. They develop a positive self-identity surrounded by a supportive community.

Entry requirements: Complete the Onboarding Quest, a 40-hour self-paced challenge to demonstrate independence and get “onboarded” to Acton Academy.



Acton showed me that I don't need someone else to take charge of my own learning, whether its a teacher or a curriculum.
~ Dhanya, 13-year-old Eagle



Typical first Apprenticeships:

Eagles learn how to narrow their search for an apprenticeship and approach employers on their own.

They became burger assemblers, coffee shop baristas, cashiers, childcare support, industrial designers, electrical component assemblers, stage assistants, scriptwriters, etc.

The only requirement — work with someone who is passionate and committed to their work.



No one spoonfeeds us, we have to spoonfeed ourselves.
~ Aqeesha, 14-year-old Eagle



Ages 15-18 | Launchpad Studio

Launch out into the world with a vision and a calling that could change the world.

Launchpadders get ready for real-world success by gaining valuable skills. They master them through apprenticeships, deliberate practice, and launching real start-ups, businesses, and projects.

- 🐞 They customize their **learning plans** to prepare for their Calling in the real-world.
- 🍷 Apprenticeships increase in length and complexity. By the time a learner leaves Launchpad, they have a **portfolio** of real-world work to prove what they can do.
- ❤️ Launchpadders surround themselves with **mentors** in the fields they are passionate about. The mentors' perspective provides clarity of vision about their Callings.

Mentors: World-class entrepreneurs, artists, scientists, and heroes. Anyone who engages their field with passion and mastery.



Acton's vision for education is the big picture. What Acton pushes for is real-world application in order for anyone not just to find their calling, but to find true happiness in their lives.

~ Brien, 16-year-old Eagle



How do we measure progress?

Joy + Rigor = Mastery

Deep learning brings a special sense of joy, but the mastery required for a Hero's Journey goes even further, requiring commitment, discipline and hard work towards a worthy goal.

Embracing rigor is part of saying 'yes' to a Hero's Journey.

Measuring Mastery

Laura, the wise co-founder of Acton Academy shared:

First of all, be assured of one thing: you are completely qualified to assess your child's intellectual and moral growth. No teacher certification or education degree necessary. You are smart. You are experienced. You know your child better than anyone in the universe.



We measure progress and feedback in a variety of ways:

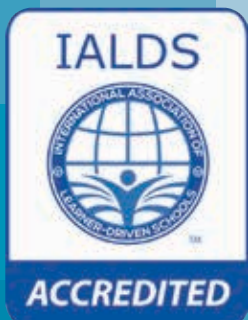
- Learning Badges
- Learning Exhibitions
- Online Dashboards from learning software programs
- S.M.A.R.T. Goals Tracking
- Peer Review & Apprenticeship References
- Student Portfolios
- Standardized Tests

There are also studio systems to measure effort, character, and excellence. Eagles are empowered to prove their worth to the real world.

Accreditation & Qualifications

Acton Academy is accredited by the **International Association of Learner Driven Schools (IALDS)**.

Acton Launchpad graduates receive **an accredited US high school diploma**. They also researched their Next Great Adventure — a list of stepping-stone apprenticeships, desired college, or a real-world adventure like starting a business. They adapt and take the qualifications necessary to serve their journey and calling.





Learning Exhibitions

At the end of each project session, Eagles organize **Public Learning Exhibitions** to showcase their work to the outside world. They also gather real-world feedback to reflect and pinpoint areas for improvement in the future.

Exhibitions include:

- Diagnosing medical cases for the Medical Biology Quest.
- An art exhibition and auction for the Art Quest.
- A chemistry quiz and big cookout for the Chemistry & Cooking Quest.
- Publishing online games for the Programming Quest.
- The Children's Business Fair for the Entrepreneurship Quest.

We welcome you to come and experience these Exhibitions!



The Next Great Adventure



What lies beyond Launchpad & Mastery?

Our founding cohort of Adventure Studio learners are progressing into Launchpad. They have enriched their lives with foundations of reading & math, apprenticeships, hands-on learning experiences, and exposure to real-life heroes.

They are charting out the milestones and preparation needed for their **Next Great Adventure**. Their individual aspirations varies — wildlife photographers, concept artist, childcare entrepreneur, information systems engineer (with a side gig as a YouTuber), and so on.

There are **bucket lists** too: traveling the world, skydiving, fighting for basic human rights, or simply cultivating deep family relationships.

Each of them developing their unique talents and gifts, to answer the deep calling within. They will change the world.



Daily schedule

Spark Studio	Discovery Studio	Adventure Launchpad
8:00 Drop-off / Free Time		
8:30 Outdoor Play	8:30 Morning Launch (Discussion)	8:30 Core Skills. Goal setting, math, writing, reading, civilization discussion. w/ flexible breaks.
	8:45 Core Skills. Goal setting, math, Writers' Workshop, reading, PE on Tuesday & Thursday	
9:45 Snack Break	9:45 Snack Break	9:30 Morning Launch (Discussion)
10:00 Morning Launch (Discussion)	10:15 Core Skills (continued) / Quest, Projects	9:45 Core Skills (continued) PE on Tuesday & Thursday
10:15 Worktime / Playtime		
11:35 Lunch / Free Time	12:00 Lunch / Free Time	11:45 Lunch
12:05 Reading Time	12:30 Mid-day Launch	12:40 Quest Launch (Discussion)
12:25 Playtime / Worktime (continued)	12:45 Quest, Projects / Game Time	12:55 Quest, Projects.
2:00 Studio Maintenance 2:15 Closing Circle 2:30 Pick-up	2:00 Studio Maintenance 2:15 Closing Circle 2:30 Pick-up	2:40 Studio Maintenance 2:50 Closing Circle 3:00 Pick-up

Note: The daily schedule is subject to change

Calendar

We follow a US cycle with adjustments for the Malaysian public holidays. The school year starts in September each year, and end in July the following year.

Each academic year has three terms and each term has two sessions. So, each year consists of six sessions, and each session is six weeks long.

Fees

The fees for the 2024/2025 year are:

Spark : RM7,500 per term
Discovery : RM8,500 per term
Adventure & above : RM9,500 per term

and a refundable deposit equal to one-term fees.

Fees exclude external sports programs and excursions. We also offer sibling discount and financial aid.



Why Acton Academy?

Do you remember how it felt, to be 6-years-old?



The world is full of possibilities. And you are full of curiosity. Alive, and a natural learner.

Perhaps even convinced that you are a superhero. What if you are right?

What if children are far more capable than we ever imagined?

Here are the key benefits of choosing Acton Academy.

♥ Curiosity and Love of Learning.

Eagles share learning with each other in a tightly-knit community. Our learning design is engaging.

There is no studying to the test. Instead, it combines the best of 21st century learning—hands-on projects, adaptive learning software, and Socratic discussions.

It honors the curiosity of children and develop their love of learning to create lifelong learners.

🐞 Self-driven Independent Learning.

Eagles learn how to learn because they are trusted to own their learning.

There is a supportive environment with the right tools to nurture good learning habits.

At Adventure Studio, Eagles become capable of setting long-term learning goals, and navigate challenges on their own.

Most of our Eagles are progressing two to three US grades above their natural age.





👋 Passion & Purpose.

Eagles explore their passions through hands-on Quests and real-world simulations.

Older Eagles discover purpose through real-world experiences and apprenticeships.

Eagles accumulate a broad portfolio of life and learning experiences that will help prepare them for their Next Great Adventure.

🌀 Freedom & Personal Responsibility.

Experiencing the natural consequence of bad choices is hard, such as being unprepared for a public exhibition, over promising work, or simply not cleaning up. However the longer-term consequence of shrugging responsibility and not knowing one's limits can be far worse.

Eagles cultivate their sense of responsibility, which leads to independence and good character.

Because of that, Acton Academy Eagles are entrusted with plenty of **Freedom**, which is the **#1 reason** why Eagles want to be here!



I gained tons of life skills and thrived in the alternative learning environment. One of my favorite things at Acton is the visiting experts from the different fields we are learning about, and listening to their stories.

~ Morris, 14-year-old Eagle



Recommended to parents who believe in their children. Also recommended to skeptical parents who feel their children needs structure. You will be pleasantly surprised.

~ Jumana, mother of 9-year-old Husaina



My son told a white lie which most people would simply brush off. But how Acton handled it was beyond my expectations. My husband and I were very impressed saying that this experience was more vital than any academic achievement, especially at his age.

~ Sze Yin, mother of 6-year-old Dilhan



Is Acton Academy the right fit for my family? **Yes it is, if your family:**

- Believes the traditional school system no longer prepares children for the modern world.
- Believes in the entrepreneurial spirit.
- Are creators and creatives.
- Are out-of-the box thinkers.
- Are trailblazers and trendsetters.
- Values freedom and wants their children to develop a love of learning.
- Wants the benefits of child-directed learning.
- Emphasizes family time.
- Believes children should have additional time to pursue their passions beyond traditional after school hours.
- Wants flexible schedules for travel and family obligations.



Acton inherited a child with low self esteem stemming from a schooling system that was reluctant to allow him to explore. Now, he is experiencing learning as an adventure and he misses school during the holidays.

~ Sheetal, mother of 12-year-old Arjun



The hands-on approach and focus on real-life experiences opens the children up to the endless possibilities that lie ahead of them, inspiring them and unlocking their potential

~ Laila, mother of 8-year-old Ayub





Children's Business Fair

The Acton Children's Business Fair inspires children to discover their inner entrepreneur. The largest entrepreneurship event for kids in North America, this one-day market gives children the opportunity to showcase their very own businesses. Acton has run it here in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia since 2017 with great success.

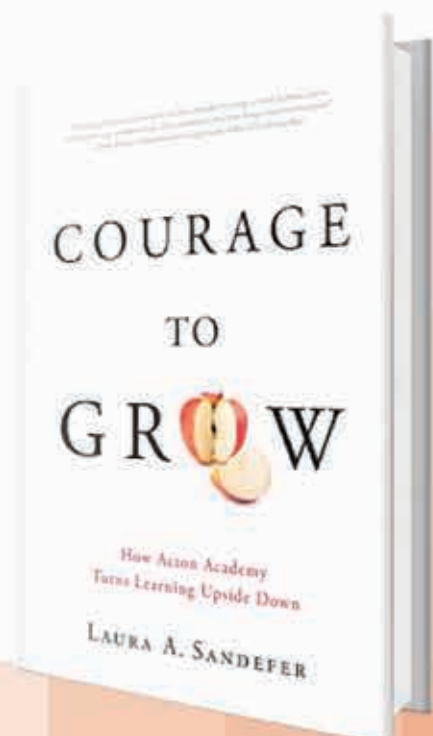
Courage to Grow A story of Acton Academy

"Acton Academy is one of the most important education developments in the world. The story behind the ideas, the school, and the movement is a must read."

Tom Vander Ark, CEO of Getting Smart, previously executive director of education for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

"Acton Academy is on the leading edge of what it means to give students agency of their own learning. What Laura has created is truly remarkable."

~ Sal Khan, Founder of Khan Academy



Begin your Family's Journey!

10,000 sq ft of studio spaces +
9,000 sq ft of roof top green open spaces,
and walking distance to Bandar Utama Community Center.



Application Process



- Step 1**
Research
Visit Us / Come to Learning
- Step 2**
Submit your Application
Tell us more about your background, learnings, and more.
- Step 3**
Immersion Audition (1-week)
After we have received the completed application, your child is invited to experience Acton Academy. The Immersion Audition is an excellent way for your child to experience learning at Acton.
- Step 4**
Enrollment Decision
Once enrolled, your child has flexible start dates.

Engage us for a conversation



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