



GORDONSTOUN

International Summer School



where everyone smiles in the same language



FOREWORD by His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh



Modern methods of transport and communication have made it possible for the first time for more and more people in all parts of the world to travel great distances quickly and safely and to meet each other. Indeed it has become quite usual for people employed in business and the professions to spend much of their time in foreign countries.

The Gordonstoun Summer Language and Adventure Course provides a splendid opportunity for boys and girls from other parts of the world to experience life in a foreign country, and to make a start to learn, or to improve their knowledge of, English. They will be able to do this against a background of Scotland's magnificent scenery with all it has to offer in sports and recreations.

I don't suppose any future business or diplomatic appointment in a foreign country will be quite the same as this Summer School Course, but at least everything will be done to make this first introduction to the strangeness of a foreign country as happy and rewarding as possible.

His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh



Gordonstoun International Summer School Staff. Our excellent staffing ratio ensures careful attention across the wide range of activities.

from the DIRECTOR



My first experience of Gordonstoun International Summer School was in 1985, working as a young member of staff the summer after I left school. I loved it so much that I returned for as long as I could in that capacity - and it gives me enormous pleasure to be the Director of GISS now, quite a few years later!

As a young person, a single experience can be life changing – and one of the things that makes GISS so special is the breadth of these experiences on offer. The chance to spend a week sailing around the stunning West Coast of

Scotland and walking and climbing in the Highlands; a chance to play multiple sports both indoors and out, to experiment with creative arts and making music, to perform on stage; experiences which can expand your sense of who you are, what you're capable of and what you might like to be; and all whilst speaking English and making diverse and lifelong friends.

Of course it is very important that these adventures are embarked upon from a secure, personalised and caring environment. As part of Gordonstoun, the students have access to all the school's excellent campus facilities, in a beautiful, secluded and safe part of Scotland, and we maintain a high staffing ratio of one staff to two students, ensuring that each student is individually nurtured, supported and challenged every step of the way.

Parents typically reflect that their children return home not only with improved skills in their study subject, but also with more confidence, maturity, independence – and a wealth of new and international friendships.

Gordonstoun International Summer School has been successfully operating for over 40 years, providing a safe, happy and stimulating environment where students from all over the world come together to learn, have fun, have their horizons broadened, and to make friends. Both parents and young people can be completely confident that their expectations of an amazing summer school will be met, and that the students will have the best weeks of their lives....

We look forward to welcoming you to Gordonstoun International Summer School.

Claire MacGillivray

Claire MacGillivray
Director

“GISS was really fun; I met a lot of amazing people and made a lot of friends. The staff are so much fun and helpful. I loved it and don't want to leave”

Coco, Hong Kong



“The best camp ever, really everything was sooooooo good. I love GISS”

Selin, Switzerland



GORDONSTOUN

Gordonstoun stands in 180 acres of woodland, within walking distance of sandstone cliffs and sandy beaches on the beautiful coast of the Moray Firth in Scotland. Six miles away is the historic city of Elgin. Lossiemouth nearby is well known for its picturesque harbour, fine golf courses and beautiful beaches.

THE BACKGROUND

Gordonstoun, founded in 1934 by Dr Kurt Hahn, the originator of the 'Outward Bound' philosophy of education, is one of the most famous boarding schools in Britain. The school has among its past pupils members of the British Royal family together with boys and girls from other royal and prominent families from around the world.

The Gordonstoun mission statement is:

“Gordonstoun prepares each student through learning by diverse experience for a full and active role as an international citizen in a changing world”.

Hence great importance is attached to international understanding and a quarter of the School's pupils come from overseas. The Gordonstoun International Summer School has also adopted the same mission statement.

The surrounding countryside with its beaches, forests and hills is ideal for teaching young people to enjoy their environment. The sea and the mountains offer those challenges of adventure and team work which are so important in this modern world.



“It was an amazing, once in a lifetime opportunity that I am so glad I took. I now have so many new friends and a greater understanding of the world and other countries”

Phoebe, USA



“It is not just Summer School, it is an adventure where you make a lot of new friends and try activities you will never do anywhere else”

Yousef, Egypt





COURSE OVERVIEW

Gordonstoun International Summer School is held in July and August. Courses last three and a half weeks, and are for young people – both boys and girls – aged eight to sixteen inclusive. The busy programme takes place in a lively, friendly, family atmosphere; and staff, instructors and student leaders all work together to prove the truth of the Gordonstoun motto ‘Plus est en vous’ – ‘There is more in you than you think’ to everyone who attends the Summer School.

“A lifetime experience that I will recommend to everyone”

All the teachers and instructors at the Summer school are professionally qualified in their areas of expertise, and they have experience in teaching and training young people from all parts of the world. Assistant staff members and student leaders complete the staff ratio of one member of staff to two students, allowing the aims of each course to be achieved by all students, with careful and often individual supervision.

Students receive instruction in English as an Additional Language unless they are fluent in English in which case they can choose one of the following: Information Technology, Literature and Creative Writing or Spanish Language.

Arts and Crafts, Technology, Music Making, Drama, and a wide range of indoor & outdoor sports are all integrated into the programme, alongside the Adventure Programme and Ocean Cruising, with recreational and other optional activities also on offer.

ACADEMIC STUDY

Students choose ONE of the following courses and upon arrival are given a placement test, enabling them to be placed in the appropriate class:

ENGLISH LANGUAGE (E.A.L.)

Three levels of EAL classes are taught – elementary, intermediate and advanced. In these classes, both audio-visual and more traditional methods are used to cover written, grammar and spoken English. The intention is to improve the students’ ability to express their ideas and thoughts in English, and to understand and respond to English speakers, both in speech and writing.

For more advanced students there is the opportunity to read great literature in the language in which it was written, and to examine current affairs, whilst beginning to develop and to justify their own opinions and points of view in conversation and writing.



LITERATURE AND CREATIVE WRITING

Students with a strong command of the English language are encouraged, through this course, to explore and develop their skills in literary criticism through a close analysis of a range of texts – from poetry, to prose extracts, short stories, and selected scenes from plays. They then attend workshops on how to develop their own creative writing skills, considering how best to create a powerful opening to a piece, how to use effective imagery in their writing, how to create tension and suspense, the demands of different genres etc. All of which is illustrated by the literary texts they have already considered.

SPANISH

As with English language, Spanish is offered at advanced, intermediate and elementary levels. The emphasis in this course is on conversation. Students will learn how to communicate effectively in day to day life, with greetings, requests, apologies, enquiries and thanks.

Advanced students will also have the opportunity to further develop their conversational and written skills.

COMPUTING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

This course can be tailored to the student’s ability and also to their area of interest. A range of options are offered from basic IT skills to advanced web design and programming. The IT skills include word processing, spreadsheets, image manipulation and presentation software. The web design and programming offers HTML web design, python programming and JavaScript. There is an element of fun competition throughout the course, working in teams to create websites and programming to create games.

“It is the best international school in the world”



SPORT

“It was the best 3 weeks of my life; I had an amazing time”

The academic sessions are balanced by a varied and interesting programme of other activities. All instruction is in English which assists the mastering of the language. The Summer School has full use of Gordonstoun’s comprehensive facilities – a fully equipped sports centre with an indoor heated swimming pool, four squash courts, a fully equipped gym, an all-weather, floodlit astro turf pitch, 12 tennis courts and a 400m running track.

Consequently a wide range of sports and team games are available, including Badminton, Basketball, Soccer, Hockey, Volleyball, Tennis, Squash, Pop Lacrosse, Swimming and Athletics. There is also a carefully overseen introduction to rock climbing on Gordonstoun’s indoor climbing wall and the opportunity to practice skills and develop teamwork on the schools exciting and challenging obstacle course.

This wide range of options allows all the young people to improve their skills, ability and understanding in as wide a range of disciplines as possible, managed by a team of staff who can ensure the training they undergo is enjoyable whilst also being appropriate to their experience and ability.

At the end of each course, student clans compete in a sports day and swimming gala, events which provide an exciting climax to this Summer School’s sports programme.



CRAFTS AND RECREATION

CREATIVE ARTS

Using Gordonstoun’s Design and Technology Workshops and Art Centre, tuition is provided to all students in the creative arts. They work with wood, leather, glass, metal and enamel, creating Jewellery, boomerangs, designing t shirts, making silk paintings, ornamental clocks, candles and decorative mobiles; thereby either consolidating and developing their existing skills and experience, or introducing them to entirely new ways of working in multiple creative disciplines. And giving them something to take home in the process!

DRAMA

All students take part in Drama Sessions, encouraging self- expression, interpersonal skills, team work along with being both engaging and entertaining; and culminating in ‘Showtime’ at the end of the course.



MUSIC MAKING

The emphasis in Music Making is teamwork and enjoying creating music together. It encourages all our students to explore the widest possible range of musical activities – from learning the guitar or the drums, to composing their own piece of music electronically – ensuring that there is something here for everyone, whether they are an existing musician or not. We also provide guidance for anyone wishing to practise their own instrument during the course.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

We also provide an extensive range of optional activities, including laser clay target shooting, horse riding, golf, cookery, ten-pin bowling, go-karting, laser tag, archery, trips to the cinema or circus and even shopping.

LEISURE & VISITS

Between activities, during options sessions and in houses at the end of the day, there will be opportunity to relax and spend time with new found friends. Monitored television and internet access will be available at certain times, along with weekly discos and socials events. Visits are part of the curriculum giving an insight into modern and historical Scotland and places visited may include:

- The City of Elgin with its historic ruined Cathedral and museum.
- Beautiful scenic drive to the West Coast along the banks of Loch Ness, with possible sightings of the Loch Ness Monster!
- Inverness Castle in its historic setting on the banks of the River Ness.
- Cawdor and Brodie Castles - both of which are in easy reach of the school.
- The beautiful West coast of Scotland, with its mountains and glens and rugged Highland landscape.

“Come with me next year it will be so much fun. We can go together”

Aaliyah, UAE

OCEAN CRUISING AND EXPEDITIONS

Gordonstoun's tradition includes education through experience in adventurous activities and ocean sailing – and this part of the course is often the highlight for many of our students, as they spend six days on the Adventure Programme on the West Coast of Scotland.

This programme includes canoeing, rock climbing, abseiling, kayaking, coastering, gorge walking, canyoning, mountain biking and sailing around the Western Isles in the International Summer School's fleet of ocean-going yachts.

During the Ocean Sailing, students are involved in all activities both above and below deck, as appropriate to their age and experience. And throughout the six days, students are looked after and instructed by a team of highly trained staff, very experienced in teaching and managing young people in these locations and environments.

Even our youngest students see the adventure programme as a special time, which builds their confidence and broadens their horizons.

“It’s been heaven. GISS brings out the best in people and gives the best experience they have ever dreamed of”

Gaurav, India



“It was great: you need to visit this place. You will speak English much better, make new friends and have a lot of fun”

Darina, Russia

PRIZES

The James D. Thomas “Spirit of Gordonstoun” Quaich is presented to the student who epitomises the true spirit of what we hope students will achieve during their time here at Gordonstoun; a student who tries hard even when activities are difficult, engenders team work and who is kind and takes care of other students.

WINNERS OF THE JAMES D. THOMAS “SPIRIT OF GORDONSTOUN” QUAICH



Guarav Trehan
(India)
Course 1



Siona Mitra
(Singapore)
Course 2

The Jenny Needham “Junior Spirit of Gordonstoun” Trophy is awarded to the junior student who enters into activities with lots of enthusiasm, helps others and keeps smiling!

WINNERS OF THE JENNY NEEDHAM “JUNIOR SPIRIT OF GORDONSTOUN” TROPHY



Flora List
(Austria)
Course 1



Otto Oldenburg
(Netherlands)
Course 2

THE DETAILS

ACCOMMODATION & SECURITY

Students will be accommodated in the school boarding houses where they will be guided and looked after by housemasters, housemistresses and resident assistant staff. Gordonstoun is set in a secluded campus with CCTV and security personnel operating.

MEDICAL ATTENTION

The school’s health care centre will be open and staffed throughout the course. There are also excellent hospital facilities a few miles away at Elgin. Medical cover for students from countries which do not have a reciprocal arrangement with the UK will be arranged by the School. It is strongly recommended that parents take out insurance to cover flight cancellation, loss of luggage etc., and medical repatriation.

CLOTHING

Dress throughout the day will be informal; a suggested clothing list is sent with administrative details on registration.

FOOD

Food for the course has been planned by an expert dietician to provide a balanced diet suited to all needs. Alternative dishes will be available to students with medical or religious requirements.

CLIMATE

The weather in Scotland in July/August has an average temperature of 16-20° Celsius and sometimes reaches 25° Celsius or more. These months are regarded as probably the best two months of the year in Scotland.

RELIGIOUS WORSHIP

Students will be encouraged to carry out their devotions as at home. There will be church services locally for different Christian denominations, including Roman Catholic, for those who wish to attend. A prayer room for Muslims is also available.

INFORMATION

HOW DO I BOOK?

All you do is complete the registration form in this brochure and return it to the Director, Gordonstoun International Summer School. Full administrative details will then be sent to you.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE COST ?

The all-inclusive cost from the moment of arrival at the school to the day of departure covers:

- All tuition, activities, sports and creative activities
- All expeditions, ocean cruising, recreational activities and visits
- Accommodation, laundry and all meals with plenty of choice
- Medical cover while at the Summer School
- Airport transfers from/to Aberdeen (Dyce), Inverness (Dalcross) airports

There are no extras other than any personal pocket money at parents’ discretion. Full details of our Terms and Conditions can be found on our website: www.giss.org.uk

“It was an unforgettable experience”

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

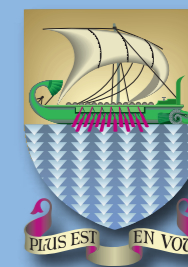
It is the responsibility of parents to make the travel arrangements for each student to reach Gordonstoun. Students will be met at Inverness (Dalcross) or Aberdeen (Dyce) Airports. Parents should use the ‘Skyfler Solo Service’ for all younger students and any older student requiring assistance. Arrangements should be made with airlines when booking flights for outbound and return.

Further information on the Summer School may be obtained from:
Claire MacGillivray, Director

CONTACT DETAILS

The Gordonstoun International Summer School
Elgin Moray IV30 5RF Scotland UK
Telephone +44 (0)1343 837821
E-mail giss@gordonstoun.org.uk

Visit our website at www.giss.org.uk where you will find further information and pictures along with details of the Director’s visits, perhaps to your country.





“These few weeks have been the best days of my life; I will never ever forget my memories and the close friends I made here”



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ELGIN MORAY IV30 5RF SCOTLAND UK
Email: giss@gordonstoun.org.uk

A member of the Gordonstoun Schools

www.giss.org.uk