



GORDONSTOUN

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL



WHERE EVERYONE SMILES IN THE SAME LANGUAGE



— “ —

The activities are very diverse, we are well taken care of, the food is good and the bonding experience with the other students is very interesting.

- Nicolas, USA

— ” —





Foreword by

His Royal Highness Prince Philip

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.

A white ink signature of Prince Philip, written in a cursive style, located below the main text.

- His Royal Highness Prince Philip



— “ —

I had the most amazing, interesting, brilliant time here. I have done activities I never would have thought I could do, learnt a great deal not only about myself, but about other people and their cultures, and overall had a ball. I would not change anything about this experience – it has been some of the best weeks of my life, and I truly hope to come back next year!

- AvaRose, Australia

— ” —

Welcome from the **Director**

Gordonstoun International Summer School (GISS) has been successfully operating for over 40 years, providing a safe, happy and stimulating environment where students come together to learn, have fun, have their horizons broadened, and to make friends.

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 the activities on offer combined with the opportunity of making diverse and lifelong friends. After an extremely difficult year for our young people; our summer school provides an opportunity, in just 3 weeks, to expand a sense of they are and of what they are capable whilst enjoying huge freedom and fun.

Parents typically reflect that their children return home with improved skills, confidence, maturity and independence - and a wealth of new and international friendships.

We look forward to welcoming you to Gordonstoun

Claire MacGillivray

- Claire MacGillivray



About Gordonstoun

Gordonstoun stands in 200 acres of woodland, providing a campus with security and freedom. It is within walking distance of the beautiful coast of the Moray Firth which is well known for its picturesque harbours, fine golf courses and lovely beaches.

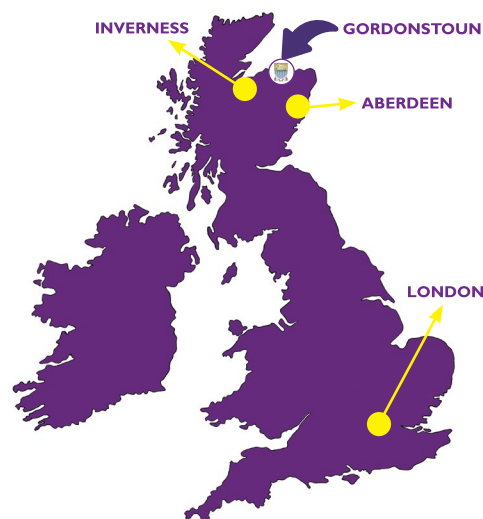
THE BACKGROUND

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.

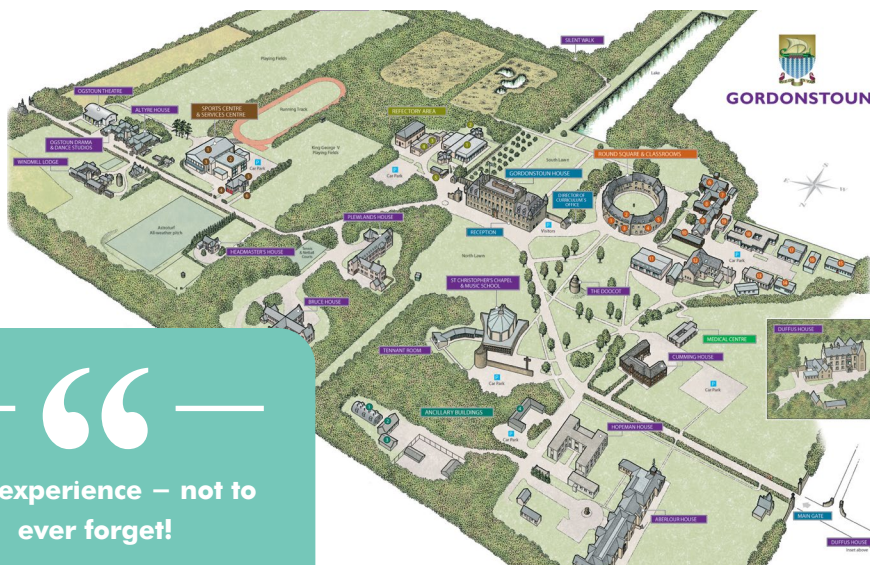
The school has among its past pupils members of the British Royal family together with boys and girls from other royal and prominent families from around the world.

WHERE WE ARE

Aberdeen and Inverness are the closest airports and they are accessible through most major European airports. We provide transfers from both airports on arrival and departure days. Please contact the office for help and advice on travel arrangements.



CAMPUS



— “ —

Best experience – not to ever forget!

- Maria, Turkey

— ” —





— “ —

You do more activities,
you have more
organization and all
the people are very kind
and I made lots
of new friends.

- David, UK

— ” —



International Summer School Course Overview

Designed for both fluent English speakers and those for whom English is a second language, the broad range of subjects and activities means there is something for everyone. When students are busy and happy, they learn and have fun..

WHEN: July and August **COURSES DURATION:** 3.5 weeks **WHO:** boys and girls aged 8 to 16

At Gordonstoun we have a structured but dynamic timetable which keeps the students active, interested and having fun all day. Students spend two weeks on campus and one week on the West Coast of Scotland completing the adventure phase.

On campus, students follow a diverse programme which includes 1-2 lessons per day in their chosen study subject integrated into a timetable of sports, creative arts and fun recreational trips and activities.



On the West Coast Adventure Phase, students spend half the week at the adventure centre and the rest of the week living and sailing on our fleet of ocean going yachts.

Whilst the diversity and breadth of the experiences is exceptional; just as important is the quality and professionalism of the staff that care for the students. Every member of the team is recruited personally by the Director and student feedback consistently remarks on how kind and caring the staff team are. Our average staffing ratio is one member of staff to every two students; our teachers and instructors are professionally qualified in their areas of expertise, our house and residential staff experienced in caring for young people from all parts of the world.



— “ —

It was an amazing experience and all the staff are amazing.

- Athba Kuwait

— ” —



Sample Timetable

SUNDAY 15 JULY	MONDAY 16 JULY	TUESDAY 17 JULY	WEDNESDAY 18 JULY	THURSDAY 19 JULY	FRIDAY 20 JULY	SATURDAY 21 JULY
RETURN FROM WEST COAST	SUBJECT OPTION	DRAMA	SUBJECT OPTION	ART	SUBJECT OPTION	CREATIVE WORKSHOPS
	CREATIVE WORKSHOPS	SUBJECT OPTION	SPORT	SUBJECT OPTION	MUSIC MAKING	SUBJECT OPTION
	SUBJECT OPTION	RECREATION TRIP	MAKING MUSIC	OPTION CHOICES	CREATIVE WORKSHOPS	SPORT
UNPACK	SPORT		CLAN SOCIAL		ART	SUBJECT OPTION
INTER-CLAN SPORTS	OBSTACLE COURSE	INDOOR CLIMBING		INTER-CLAN SPORTS	SPORT	DRAMA

— “ —

I had more fun than other camps. The English classes were better, the food was more tasty and there was so many staff and they were all so polite and helpful.

- Theresa, Germany

— ” —



The Programme

Subject Option

Students choose **ONE** of the following courses and upon arrival are assessed to ensure they are placed in the appropriate class.

EN

ENGLISH LANGUAGE (E.A.L.)

Three levels of EAL classes are taught – beginners, intermediate and advanced.

In small classes of approximately 6-8 students, 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.

it

COMPUTING & 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 (word processing, spreadsheets, image manipulation etc) to advanced web design and programming (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.

FR

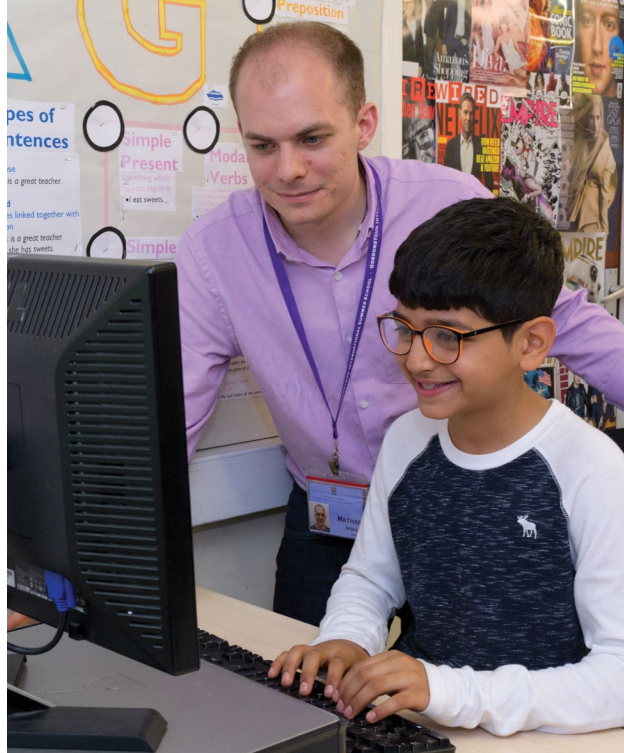
FRENCH

As with English language, French is offered at advanced, intermediate and beginners levels. The emphasis in this course is on conversation. Advanced students will also have the opportunity to further develop their conversational and written skills.

F&P

FILM & PHOTOGRAPHY

A new course for 2021: This course focuses on reading and making film combined with some photography sessions. Available for those studying film and those wanting to do something exciting and new!



A+

LITERATURE & CREATIVE WRITING

For students studying GCSE English or those with a strong command 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.



— “ —

...because it's a special summer school.

- Vittorio, Italy

— ” —

— “ —

An amazing experience
and nothing else could
have made my summer
better!

- Rachel, UK

— ” —



The Programme

Creative, Sports & Recreational Activities

Students are assigned to a “colour group” and each day the group enjoys a varied and interesting programme of other activities designed to encourage trying new things, developing skills, working in teams and all whilst making friends, (speaking English) and having fun.



CREATIVE ARTS

Using Gordonstoun’s Design & 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!



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.



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.



SPORT

The Summer School has full use of Gordonstoun's comprehensive facilities.

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.

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.



RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

We also provide an extensive range of optional activities, including laser clay target shooting, horse riding, golf, cookery, ten-pin bowling, 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 local historic castles, a scenic drive to the West Coast along the banks of Loch Ness, (with possible sightings of the Loch Ness Monster!) and the beautiful West coast of Scotland, with its mountains and glens and rugged Highland landscape.



“

Such a fun and friendly experience!

- Zoran, UAE

”

— “ —

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

- Aaliyah, UAE

— ” —



The Adventure Phase

Sailing 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

OCEAN CRUISING & EXPEDITIONS

Six days are spent on the Adventure Programme, part of which takes place 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.



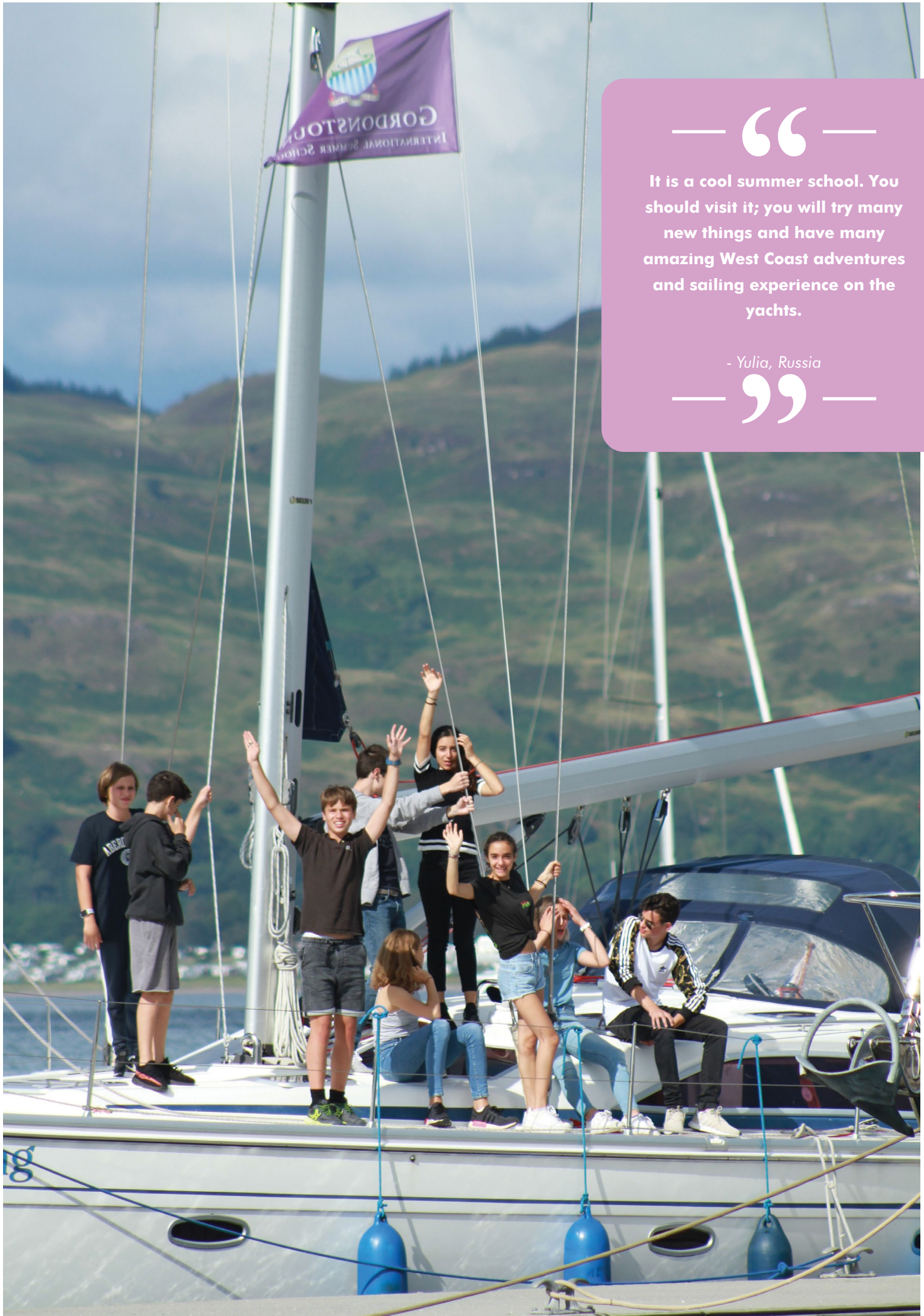


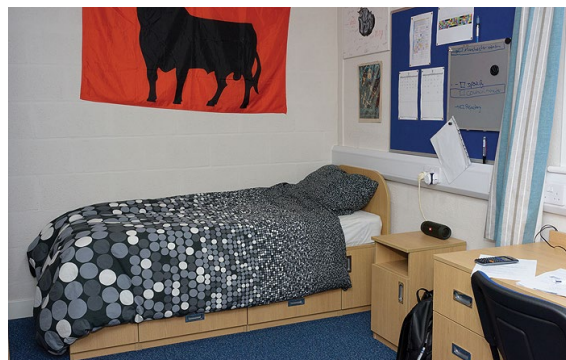
— “ —

It is a cool summer school. You should visit it; you will try many new things and have many amazing West Coast adventures and sailing experience on the yachts.

- Yulia, Russia

— ” —





— “ —

I had an amazing time at GISS, lot of activities; you can meet a lot of great people from all around the world. You will never get bored.

- Eve, France

— ” —

About Student Care

By providing a warm and caring environment, we ensure each student can thrive and have a fantastic summer experience.

A

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, all selected individually by the Director for their pastoral excellence. Gordonstoun is set in a secluded campus with CCTV and security personnel operating.

M

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.

C

CLOTHING

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

F

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.

C

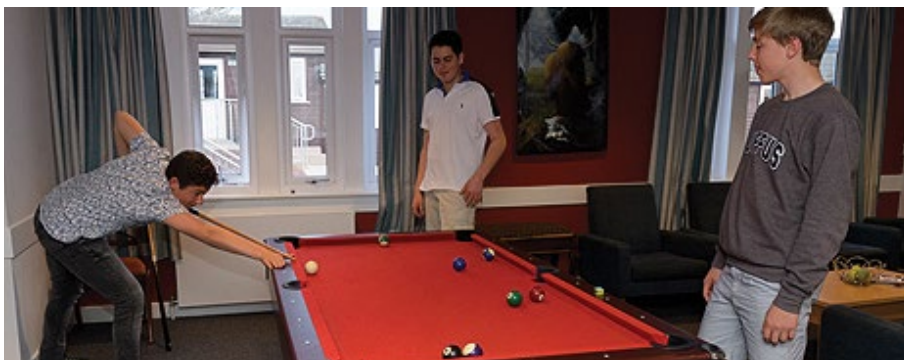
CLIMATE

The weather in Scotland in July/August has an average temperature of 16-20° Celsius and sometimes reaches 25° Celsius or more.

R

RELIGIOUS WORSHIP

Whilst on campus, students will be encouraged to carry out their devotions as at home. There are local church services and a prayer room for Muslims is also available.



— “ —

**A wonderful
supportive
environment.**

- Jan, 2019 Parent

— ” —

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE COST?

The all-inclusive cost of £5,500 includes:

- All tuition, activities, sports and creative activities
- All expeditions, ocean cruising, recreational activities and visits
- Accommodation, laundry and all meals with plenty of choice
- Airport transfers from/to Aberdeen and Inverness airports

There are no extras other than any personal pocket money at parents' discretion.



HOW DO I BOOK?

All you do is complete the application form and return it to the Gordonstoun International Summer School office.

Upon confirmation of a place, full administrative details will then be sent to you. We can support with travel arrangements, visa support letters, clothing lists etc.

For further information please email or call us, we are delighted to help with enquiries

Claire MacGillivray *Director*
Alison Kellas *Admissions Co-ordinator*

+44 (0)1343 837821
giss@gordonstoun.org.uk

ADDRESS:

**Gordonstoun International Summer School,
Elgin, Moray, IV30 5RF
Scotland, UK**

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

Full details of our **Terms and Conditions** can be found at **giss.org.uk**



Prize Winners

Gordonstoun's International Summer School present two students with The James D Thomas Quaich and two students with The Jenny Needham Trophy at the end of every summer.

THE JAMES D. THOMAS **"Spirit of Gordonstoun"**

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.

THE JENNY NEEDHAM **"Junior Spirit of Gordonstoun"**

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!.





— “ —

I met many brilliant people
from different countries and
I will miss them so much.

- Oliver, Germany

— ” —

— “ —

**I really want to return,
but I'm 16 and turning 17 in
September, so I can't.
But Gordonstoun will be in my
heart forever.**

- Gabriel, Brazil

— ” —



GORDONSTOUN

**INTERNATIONAL
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SCHOOL**

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