



GORDONSTOUN

# INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL

## General Information for Volunteer Student Leaders 2024

1. The dates of the 2024 Courses are:  
**Course No. I: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July – Monday 29<sup>st</sup> July**  
**Course No. II: Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August**

**The ideal age is around 17 years old and you have to be eligible to volunteer in the UK. The closing date for applications is Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and the selection will be made and communicated to applicants by mid-January.**

2. Arrival & Departure Information:
  - a. **Course No. I:** You will be expected to arrive at Gordonstoun on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July around 12 noon so that you have time for lunch. You will meet the Student Leader Mentor and join a campus familiarisation tour during the afternoon. At the end of the course you will be free to depart from 12 noon onwards on Monday 29<sup>st</sup> July.
  - b. **Course No. II:** Arrival at Gordonstoun is on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July around 12 noon so that you have time for lunch. You will be introduced to the Student Leader Mentor and join a campus familiarisation tour during the afternoon. At the end of the course you will be free to depart from 12 noon onwards on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August.
  - c. For either course please do not ask for permission to leave early or arrive late as it means that others must carry your share of duties/responsibilities. However, if there is an issue with flight times please contact the GISS Office to discuss. It may be possible to welcome you to Gordonstoun a day earlier to ensure you have enough time to prepare before the student's arrive.
  - d. You will be responsible for your own travel arrangements. The nearest train station is Elgin and the nearest airports are Inverness or Aberdeen. We will arrange for a driver to collect you from the airports.
3. Accommodation & General Administration:
  - a. All Student Leaders will be accommodated, most likely in a boarding house with the international students, and you will report to a House Parent (HP) who will also be the person responsible for your wellbeing.
  - b. All food and a reasonable amount of personal laundry will be provided free of charge.
  - c. Dress should be informal but respectful considering the different nationalities and cultures.
  - d. The Healthcare Centre will be available to Student Leaders throughout their stay.
  - e. A clothing list and health form will be sent with joining instructions to those selected.
  - f. Copies of timetables will be available for you at the start of the course.
4. All Student Leaders are expected to adhere to Summer School policies including the GISS Child Protection Policy. There is no smoking or drinking of alcohol permitted during the course.
5. For those living in Scotland you will receive £300 as a travel allowance at the end of the course. For those travelling from outside Scotland the allowance will be £350.



## The Role of a Volunteer Student Leader

**Background:** The Gordonstoun International Summer School was founded in 1976 and around 300 students from approximately 40 countries attend each year. There is a staff of 150 including Senior Staff, Staff Assistants and Student Leaders.

**Role Overview:** 2-3 Volunteer Student Leaders are embedded into a group of approximately 20 students for the 2.5 weeks that the students are on the campus and they participate fully in all activities and classes, with the exception of academic classes, when they will be assigned other duties. Students participate in 6 days of adventure off campus and during this time Student Leaders will remain on campus and participate in an alternative programme which includes supporting other groups, some adventure activities and trips and some much-needed relaxation time! Each Student Leader is responsible to their House Parent (HP) for the performance of their duties, along with the Heads of Department (HoD's) as they rotate through activities. A Student Leader (SL) Mentor is also assigned to support with group management. Student Leader duties are detailed below:

1. To act as a role model, leader and guide to your student group throughout the course.
2. To assist your group to integrate fully with each other and the Summer School as a whole.
3. To promote the use of English within your group.
4. To ensure that the members of your group arrive on time and are properly equipped for any class or activity and, where appropriate, to check their attendance in class and elsewhere in Summer School.
5. In the mornings and evenings support your HP and house staff with the pastoral care of the students.
6. To maintain good order amongst students and to support other Summer School staff in safeguarding student health and safety.
7. To pass on any concerns about members of your group to your HP, SL Mentor, HoD, or the Director.
8. To join in all aspects of the course as requested e.g. Art, Design Technology, Music, Sports, plus recreational trips and activities and encourage students to participate fully.
9. To ensure that you are adequately briefed for every activity and are prepared to fully participate with the students – and if not, to ask for additional information.
10. To behave in an appropriate and responsible manner at all times.
11. To undertake additional duties as required by the Director, HP, HoD or SL Mentor. This will include clearing duties in the Refectory whenever timetabled; routine tidying; assisting the Domestic Services or Recreation Department; or escorting students.
12. To attend staff meetings at the start of the course and House meetings as directed by your HP.

The behaviour expected of a Student Leader is detailed below:

1. Be a role model for the students by participating in all the activities with enthusiasm and a good sense of humour.
2. Act as a guide and mentor to your student group, whilst creating a caring and supportive environment for the students. They are aged 8-16 inclusive and for many it is their first time away from home, often speaking a second language. The tone you set within your group is very important and the students will look to you first for support and information.
3. Subscribe to the ethos of the Summer School and to its aims, behaving in an appropriate manner at all times: helping the less confident English speakers to improve their English by conversation and looking after others who may find parts of the programme difficult and demanding. Patience with the students is important along with taking the initiative and seeing when something needs to be done.