

ISSOS

the experience of a lifetime™



Welcome to ISSOS! This guide will give you an idea of how our programme works and what to expect while you are with us. It will also help to answer some questions you might have and tell you about some important information that we need before you arrive.



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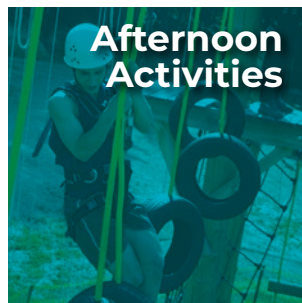
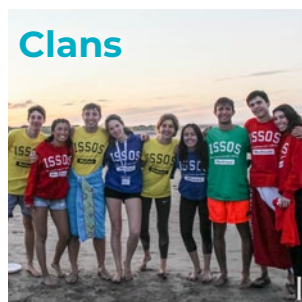
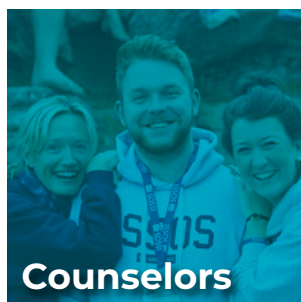
How ISSOS Works

Each of our campuses has its own unique magic, but all of them have the same ISSOS elements and weekly schedule.

The choice of academics and electives will be slightly different in each location, but every one of our schools will give you the same wonderful ISSOS experience full of learning, cultural trips, Clan games, fun, friendship and adventure.

If you would like to see ISSOS in action go to our YouTube account and watch some of our memories videos from previous summers.

► [Watch ISSOS videos on YouTube](#)



How ISSOS Works



THE GROUPS

When you arrive you will be part of a group of around 10 - 14 other students of the same age and sex. Your group are your smaller family within the wider ISSOS family. You will all have rooms in the same area of our accommodation, near your group counselor.



COUNSELORS

Each group has their own counselor. As the head of your group, your counselor is there to offer support with anything you might need, make sure you know what is happening every day, and generally act as a big brother/sister figure while you are with us. Counselors are lots of fun and will help your group settle in and feel at home.

How ISSOS Works

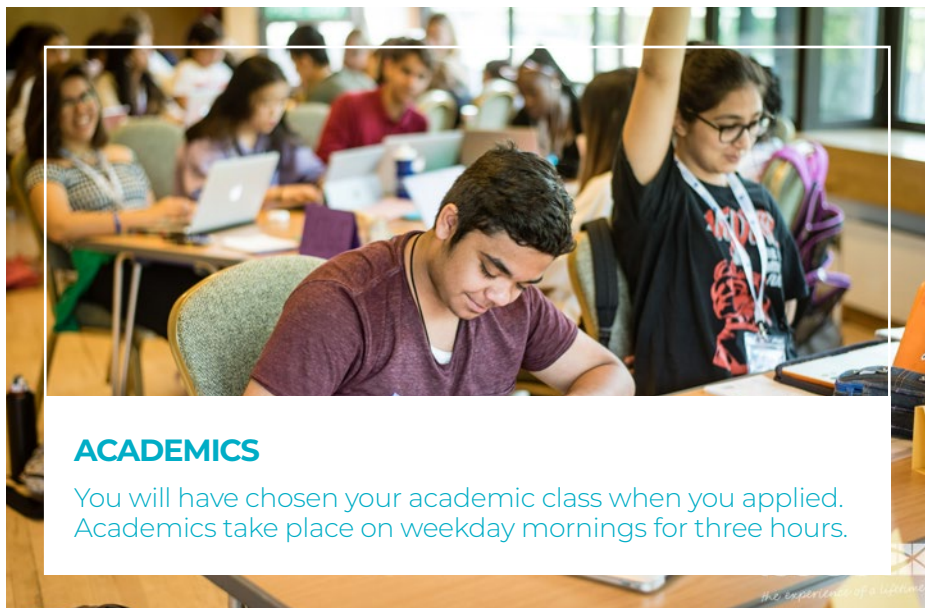


CLANS

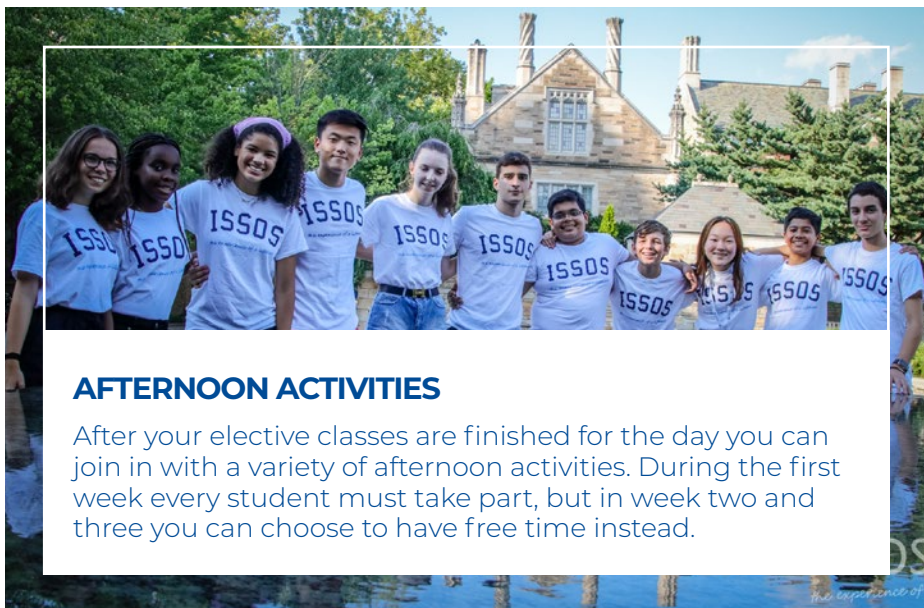
Our Clans are a really important (and very popular!) part of the ISSOS experience. We have 4 student Clans (MacGregor, Wallace, MacDonald and Stewart) and one staff Clan (Munro). If you are new to ISSOS you will be allocated to a Clan that you will remain a member of every summer that you return; if you have siblings who have already attended you will be placed in the same Clan as your family members.

During the programme the Clans compete against each other in a series of friendly competitions and fun team games to earn points that go towards winning the Clan Cup or Spirit Shield!

How ISSOS Works



How ISSOS Works



AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES

After your elective classes are finished for the day you can join in with a variety of afternoon activities. During the first week every student must take part, but in week two and three you can choose to have free time instead.



EVENING PROGRAMMES

Every evening after dinner we run a variety of events that the whole summer school gets together for. They are all designed to be fun, full of energy and to get everyone involved - either as a chance to win Clan Points or just to get together and have fun.

How ISSOS Works



CULTURAL TRIPS

The trips that you choose will depend on the campus that you are at, but Wednesday afternoons will be half-day trips and on Saturday we take everyone off campus for a full day trip. You must choose your trips before you arrive at ISSOS, on the Student Questionnaire.



SUNDAY WORKSHOPS

You have free time every Sunday, then at 1pm we run Sunday Workshops for everyone to get involved with. The workshops on offer will vary at each campus, but you can suggest activities that you would like us to run.

Typical Week

This table shows how a typical week at ISSOS runs.

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
7:30	Counselors Wake Students						Leisurely Breakfast and Free Time
8	Breakfast						
9 - 12	Academic Classes					Cultural Trip	
12	Lunch						
1 - 4	Electives	Cultural Trip	Electives			Workshops	
4	Activities/Free Time		Activities/Free Time				
6	Evening Meal						
7:30 - 9:30	Evening Programme						
10:30	Check In						
11	Lights Out						

Class and meal times may differ slightly per campus.

Students taking our golf elective will have two hours at the Duke's Course every afternoon. Advanced players will have time to play additional golf in the 3rd week of the programme.

If you'd like to know more about how the programme works and what you might be doing while you are with us you can read more on our website.

► [The ISSOS Student Experience](#)

Before You Arrive - Your Student Questionnaire

The Student Questionnaire is a very important part of planning for summer. This is where we ask you some questions about yourself, and your preferences for some of the trips and activities.

It is really important that you tell us as much as possible. Please don't be shy or worried to tell us anything, the information you give us will be treated with care and confidentiality. We ask these questions so that we can help to make sure you enjoy your time with us as much as possible, and so that we can support you with anything you might need.

The questionnaire is found on the Parent Portal, so please ask your parent or guardian to log in so that you can fill out the information we need.

Academic and Elective Questions

The information we ask for in this section is vital for our teachers to make sure every student gets the most out of their classes.



Trips and Additional information

You should make your own choices for trips during the programme. Places on each trip and activity are booked before the session starts and cannot be changed when you arrive at ISSOS, so please choose the options that you are most interested in.



Allergies, Phobias and Religious Practices

Please give us information about any allergies or phobias that you have, or if you observe any religious practices that might be relevant in your day to day activities during the programme.



Physical/Mental Wellbeing and Medications

Please give us full information about any physical and/or mental health conditions that could affect your time at ISSOS.

Again, please don't be shy or worried to tell us. Things that can help a lot if we know include information about any previous negative experiences in school (like bullying) or family difficulties (a recent divorce or loss of a loved one). Please also give us details of any conditions like asthma, stress or anxiety, or prescription medications that you might need while you are away from home.

We can't say enough about how important this is. Anything you tell us will help us make sure that you are supported while you are with us, both educationally and emotionally, and will be treated with great care and confidentiality.

Packing List

The day to day dress code at ISSOS is casual, so students are free to wear any clothing that they are comfortable in, as long as it is practical and appropriate.

Essential Clothing

- Underwear and Socks
- T-Shirts/Sports Tops
- Sweatshirts/Hoodies
- Jeans/Trousers/Skirts/Shorts
- Sports Leggings/Shorts/Sweatpants/Tracksuit Bottoms
- Raincoat/Waterproof Jacket
- Sneakers/Trainers
- Sleepwear

Formal Clothing

Some of the events in the final week are more formal (Final Night Debate, Creative Night, Final Night Dance, and Dragons' Den) and students will need to bring smarter clothes for these. Examples include a suit, shirt and tie, smart trousers, skirts and tops, or dresses.

Essential Items

- Prescription Medication if needed (all details must be included in student questionnaire)
- A laptop or tablet for Academic classes
- Bath towel (1 is provided by the University)
- Reusable water bottle
- Hat/Baseball Cap
- Sunglasses
- Small backpacks for trip days
- Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, shower gel, deodorant)
- Sun Screen
- Electrical products such as hairdryers, straighteners
- Country adaptors for UK or USA
- Insect repellent

All bedding, as well as one large bath towel and one hand towel, is provided.

Packing List

Some of our Electives need specific clothing and equipment. If you have any questions about this, please contact us.

Theatre

Students enrolled in Theatre should bring comfortable clothing that does not restrict movement.

Tennis

Students taking tennis should bring their own racket and appropriate sportswear and sneakers/trainers to play on court.

Photography

Students must bring a digital or DSLR camera with the ability to manually focus. Mobile/cell phone cameras are not suitable for this class.

Golf

Students should pack appropriate sportswear, for example trainers/golf shoes, golf trousers/shorts, polo shirts, waterproof jacket and a hat/baseball cap.

Students who already play golf should bring their own clubs if they have them, which will help them get the most out of the tuition.

Experienced golfers who want to enter the ballot to play The Old Course should bring their golf membership ID and handicap certificate. Ballot entry can be discussed with the golf pros during the programme.

Outdoor Leadership

Students should bring a swimsuit, clothes that are comfortable to move around in, and a rain jacket.



Arriving At ISSOS and Opening Day



AIRPORT Our team will be waiting for you at the Arrivals area. They will be wearing ISSOS uniform and have signs with our logo so they will be easy to identify.

ARRIVAL Our team will then take you to our waiting area at the airport, where you will meet other students and then travel to campus together on our bus.

CAMPUS When you arrive at the campus staff will welcome you and help you while you check in.

ROOMS You will be able to go and see your room, have time to settle in, and we encourage you to call your parents/guardians to let them know that you have arrived safely.

ACTIVITIES Our staff team run a variety of activities and campus tours during opening day to help you settle in and meet new friends.

INTRO You will meet lots of our staff team on opening day. They are all very friendly and will make sure that you are settling in. Please ask them if there is anything you need or are not sure about.

EAT At 6pm, everyone will go to the dining hall to have dinner together. One of our counselor team will make sure you know where to meet and go for dinner.

MEET After dinner, everyone gathers for a short welcome meeting and introductions, and to go over what to expect during the programme.

GROUPS Students will then go back to the accommodation with their group counselor and have time to get to know each other, go over the basic rules and sign the ISSOS Family Pledge.

CONCERNS There is lots happening on opening day with people arriving and activities taking place, but our team will be there to help you settle in. If you are worried about anything, need something, or have any questions at all please ask one of our staff who will always be happy to help.

What We Expect Of You

ISSOS only has a few simple rules that we ask all students to follow. These are very important, and anyone who doesn't follow them risks being sent home. Here is what we expect of you when you are with us:

RESPECT

ISSOS is an international community of students from all over the world, all from different cultures and religions. Everyone is expected to treat other students, our staff, and the local communities with respect at all times. Disrespectful behaviour will not be tolerated and anyone breaking this rule can be removed from the programme and sent home early.

NO BULLYING

We have a zero tolerance policy to any form of bullying. Students come to ISSOS from lots of different backgrounds from all over the world, and everyone is there to learn and grow together. It is your responsibility as a student to arrive with an open mind and be accepting of others. Making fun of or being mean to other students will not be tolerated.

PLEASE SPEAK ENGLISH

ISSOS is a fully immersive programme and English should be used at all times. Our students speak over 50 different native languages, so using English is the only way to be respectful and make sure that no one is excluded. Speaking English all the time is also the quickest way to improve if it is your second language.

NO DRUGS, DRINKING, SMOKING OR VAPING

We do not tolerate the use of any of these substances. If you are found with/doing any of the above you risk being sent home.

STAY WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES

We have set out wide boundaries at each campus and you will be shown where they are when you arrive. We ask that you stay within these boundaries at all times.

The ISSOS Family Pledge

When you arrive, you will be asked to sign the ISSOS Family pledge, which helps us provide an inclusive, safe and fun community based on the four pillars of the pledge: **Respect, Tolerance, Safety and Friendship**.

We ask that you are open to making friends from all over the world, and to treat everyone at ISSOS with respect and understanding. To get the most out of our programme it's important that you fully commit to these principles of the ISSOS Family.

The ISSOS Family Pledge

All students who have chosen to be part of the ISSOS community, must agree to our ISSOS family pledge in order to promote an inclusive, safe and fun community.

- Respect:** I agree to respect and appreciate the differences between everyone in our daily lives, including those from different religious backgrounds, ethnicities, nationalities, genders, sexual orientations, and physical abilities.
- Tolerance:** I accept and understand that everyone within the ISSOS community has their own beliefs and personal preferences.
- Safety:** I agree with supporting ISSOS in allowing everyone within the ISSOS family the freedom to express themselves so that everyone has a safe place to learn and grow.
- Friendship:** I will endeavour to build bonds that will last far beyond my time on campus and to become a global citizen, helping to break down barriers and am open to creating a greater understanding of the world around me.

I am open to making friends from all over the world, to learn and grow at ISSOS and to treat everyone with respect and understanding.

Signed

Why is ISSOS Different?

ISSOS is a summer school like no other, with a unique mix of academic and elective classes, evening programmes and trips. The structure of the programme is unique and designed to maximize your enjoyment of your summer.



Follow us on Social Media

Our social media accounts are a great place to see what you can expect from an ISSOS summer. You'll be able to see photos from our campuses, read about our staff and learn about trips and activities. During the summer we post hundreds of photos every day so that you will have lots of memories from your time with us.

 /ISSOSInternational

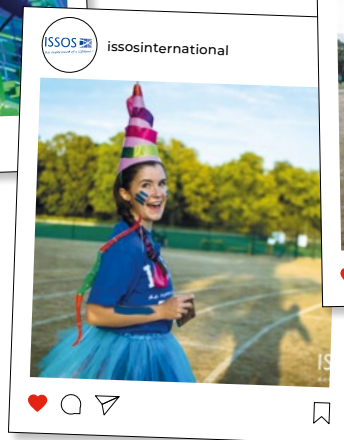
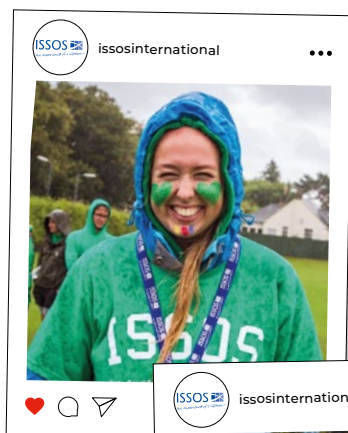
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ISSOS 
the experience of a lifetime™



**FOLLOW YOUR
EXPERIENCE
OF A LIFETIME.**

**PHOTOS
UPLOADED
DAILY.**



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[@issosinternational](https://twitter.com/issosinternational)

**DON'T FORGET OUR #
#ISSOS**

FAQ's



Will someone be meeting me at the airport?

Students arriving at designated airports/times will be met by our team, wearing ISSOS uniforms, at the arrivals area in the airport. Your parents should fill in our Travel Questionnaire to make sure we know your arrival and departure plans.

Will I be sharing a room?

Most rooms are shared by two students. There are some single rooms but these cannot be guaranteed. Twin rooms are shared by students of the same age and sex, but from different nationalities and different first languages. You will not be able to share a room with any friends coming to ISSOS.

Is ISSOS fun?

Yes! Our students consistently give us amazing feedback that ISSOS is the best summer programme they have been to because it's fun and they have made friends from all over the world.

FAQ's



Who will be in my group?

Your group will have around 8 - 14 students who will all be the same sex and similar age as you. Your group counselor is with you for the three week programme and is your big brother/sister figure during your time with us. There will be a mix of different nationalities, ethnicities and cultural backgrounds in your group.

Do I need to speak English all the time?

Yes. English is the common language of ISSOS, so using it at all times is the only way to make sure that everyone is included. Using English constantly is also the best way to quickly improve your language skills.

FAQ's



What if I don't like my Classes/Electives?

Classes cannot be changed after the programme starts unless there are exceptional circumstances. If you are not happy with a class, please let your counselor know and they will speak to the head counselors. Changes cannot be guaranteed, but we will try and make sure that you are happy in your classes.

Will I get free time?

Yes! There is always lots going on at ISSOS, but you will get free time. Evenings around dinner time, after evening programmes, and Sunday mornings are great times to chill out. You will also get time during our trips to explore and hang out with your new friends.

Our Story

ISSOS was started with one clear mission: To create a safe place for people to learn and grow.

In 2005, ISSOS was established by Jen Munro, a St Andrews University Graduate, who after working as a summer camp counselor, realised she wanted to provide students from all over the world with a balanced summer programme in a safe setting where they could learn from one another and have an experience that would last a lifetime.

Every year our staff and students talk about ISSOS being a family, and that is exactly what we are developing: An international family where friendships span the world and last far beyond the 3 weeks.

We are always excited to welcome returning students back to ISSOS, some for their 3rd or 4th summer and also many, many students for their first summer. We have designed a programme that has our students at the heart of everything we do, so that you can get the most out of your time at ISSOS and to guarantee that everyone involved has The Experience of a Lifetime.

**“We work together, we play together,
we live and grow together.
We are the ISSOS International Family.”**



*Jen Munro
ISSOS Founder*

Values

ISSOS is a values-led company, where our set of values run through everything we do. The ISSOS values are at the core of ISSOS decision-making on staff, location, program content and our day-to-day operations, our values have created our company culture and are a marker of success in creating and delivering The Experience of a Lifetime.

ISSOS was started with one very clear mission - To create a safe place for people to learn and grow. The mission was based on a simple and beautiful quote that encompasses everything that ISSOS is about.

“One hundred years from now it will not matter the kind of car I drove, the size of house I lived in or how much money I had in the bank, the world will be a little better because I was important in the life of a child.” Forest Witcraft

Safety

Of all of our values, this is the one that comes above all others. Safety doesn't just mean physical safety, it's about emotional safety too. Because without feeling safe in every sense of the word people cannot learn and cannot grow.

Safety relates to everything we do, from the way we set up our classrooms to the people we choose to work with, the trips we choose, the campuses we run in.

Safety is also the number one reason behind choosing our campus locations. Parents trust us with their sons and daughters, but we also want to give our students a chance to explore their independence at ISSOS, and we feel fully confident that our campus locations allow them to do that safely.

“If people do not feel safe they will not learn and they cannot grow.” Barbara Arb

Values

Community

This is a big one, it's who we are and it's what we do.

ISSOS brings together students from all over the world with the aim of breaking down cultural barriers to create a truly inclusive global community where no one is judged on the colour of their skin, their race, their religion, or anything else! By helping build friendships that cross countries and oceans we help to create a greater social understanding that will in turn pass to the next generation, building a more connected and accepting world.

Our community is also about the wider network of people we work with, and the campus towns we operate in. We pride ourselves on developing meaningful relationships and hope that everyone involved with ISSOS, from students and parents, to staff members and our university partners feels safe in the knowledge that we are a good, honest and fun company.

We're also dedicated to continuing to build our community and have a strong sense of social responsibility. As a company, we believe in giving back and are committed to giving to charities both at home and in the countries that our students are from.

“One person can make a difference and every person should try.”

John F. Kennedy



Values

Education

We believe in a balanced education and in creating a balance in everything we do. It's why we created our programme structure around subjects and activities to educate and enrich both hearts and minds so that academics, electives, sports, the arts and hobbies all have equal importance.

Traditional education settings tend to focus a lot on academic excellence and students' creativity gets left behind. It's our job at ISSOS to help all of our students rediscover their natural creativity, which is why our programmes deliver education in innovative and creative ways, encouraging every student to believe in their own greatness.

To help us deliver our award-winning educational programmes, we only employ and work with people who are experts in their fields, who share our values and who believe in what we do.

"Education is the most powerful weapon to change the world." Nelson Mandela

Quality

Everything that we do, from the moment a student signs up to the moment they leave, must be done to the highest standard. If we do something, we do it well because we are only ever as good as our last summer school programme so we have to get it right the first time, every time.

We follow strict protocols both at head office and at our summer campuses with manuals that detail all of our procedures so that the experience we deliver is always of the quality that people expect from us.

Our students are at the heart of everything we do so we make sure we listen to our students and their parents to make sure we always deliver the high standards they expect from us. We remain committed to our students long after the summer ends too, and we are always happy to offer advice whenever we are needed

"Quality means doing it right when no one is looking." Henry Ford

Values

Fun

Here at ISSOS we truly believe in work hard, play hard, because life should always be about creating balance in everything we do. Everyone involved in our programmes from the head office staff to our students and summer school teams should have fun when attending or working with ISSOS.

Every aspect of ISSOS, from head office to the summer school campuses is full of laughter, and by making sure that we think about the fun aspect of everything we do, it helps to make sure that every ISSOS summer really is The Experience of a Lifetime

“Life is not a dress rehearsal, let’s enjoy it.”

Service

ISSOS is built on providing a service to our students, their parents, our summer teams and everyone else associated with our company. We always aim to go beyond basic service, building meaningful relationships that last far beyond the summer.

ISSOS has people that genuinely care about what we do and who care about our students, and that shows in our high standards of service. We work hard to make sure that the teams we employ and the service we provide truly are second to none. Our service is what sets us apart from others and helps us to deliver and create the Experience of a Lifetime at ISSOS.

*ISSOS is not about ‘what is in it for me?’
ISSOS exists to deliver on, ‘how can I help you?’*



ISSOS

the experience of a lifetime™



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t. +44 (0) 3300 777 247 e. info@issos.com
issos.com