



Course information

In summer 2010 Academic Summer's course will run at Sidcot School near Bristol. Sidcot School boasts excellent facilities including a library, IT facilities in all the classrooms, a theatre, science labs, art studios and spacious and comfortable accommodation.

We are excited about our course running in the south west of England as we believe it offers lots of academic, cultural and natural resources to complement lessons. We will encourage students to be independent learners and to make the most of their course.

You will find some information about Academic Summer and our course below. This is set out in alphabetical order.

Accommodation

Your student will share a room with one or two other students of the same sex. We aim to make sure that all students are in mixed nationality bedrooms. There are some single rooms for older students. There are students' lounges, kitchens and laundry facilities in the boarding houses.

Academic Programme

Students will study in classes up to a maximum of 15 students. Students have 30 lessons a week and each lesson is 60 minutes in length. The typical day is as follows:

08.00	Breakfast
09.00-11.00	Lesson 1 and 2
11.00-11.15	Break
11.15-12.15	Lessons 3
12.15-13.30	Lunch
13.30-14.30	Lesson 4
14.45-16.45	Lessons 5 and 6
16.45-19.00	Free time / Sport / CAS Preparation / Dinner
19.00-21.00	Evening activities / Personal Best
22.00	Back to boarding house

Students will have the following blocks of lessons each day:

- Two hours of English options – there is a choice of studying the language, presentation skills and English Literature.
- Two hours of academic subjects – there is the choice between Sciences and our Art and Humanities stream. Each option is designed to last a week.
- One hour of Maths and one hour of Theory of Knowledge.

Admissions Procedure

To apply for a place on an Academic Summer course:

- 1) Send us a completed application form either by our website or by email
- 2) We will send you an offer letter, an acceptance form, an invoice, parents' information about the course and terms and conditions
- 3) You complete the acceptance form and return to us together with a non-refundable deposit of £500 to secure the place on the course
- 4) If you are a non-EU student we will send you a visa letter to help you apply for your visa
- 5) You make the final payment of fees 5 weeks before the course starts

Child Protection

Under UK's Child Protection Law all our staff members will have completed criminal record checks to ensure there is no reason why they should not work with children. Welfare and the appropriate care of children are important to us and our Child Protection Policy is available on request.

Clothes and Laundry

Students can wear casual clothes such as jeans and T-shirts throughout the course. Students will also need a weather proof jacket, sports clothes, a swimming costume and trainers. Students should also bring 2 towels. Bed sheets are provided.

Please ensure that all clothes are clearly marked with your child's name. There are laundry facilities within the school.

Course Certificate

Provided students have attended all aspects of the course they will receive a certificate at the end of the course. The teachers will also write a report on students' progress which will be emailed to agents and parents soon after the course finishes.

Electrical Equipment

Your child must show all electrical equipment to a member of staff when he or she arrives, to make sure they are safe for use in their room. Students will be able to borrow a UK adaptor if needed. All electrical equipment should comply with British Standards.

The school has excellent IT facilities so we do not recommend that students bring a laptop.

English Language Examinations

Depending on the examination dates available on your student's chosen course we can arrange for them to take either IELTS or one of the Cambridge suite of examinations (FCE and CAE etc). We will prepare your students for these examinations and this will be one of the English options they will be able to choose.

Fees

The course fees cover the cost of all tuition and teaching materials, accommodation and food, the leisure programme and airport transfers from Heathrow and Bristol Airports.

Illness and Medicines/Tablets

You should advise us if your student is taking any medicine or tablets because students are not allowed to keep any tablets or medicine in their rooms unless we know about them. We have first aid kits on campus and a supply of paracetamol and plasters etc. for minor complaints. If your child is more seriously ill we have a local doctor and nurse who is on call and most staff are qualified First Aiders.

Insurance

You must take out comprehensive travel insurance for your child for the period of the course. There is a link on our website which will take you through to one option with Endsleigh.

Leisure Programme

We offer sports and evening activities for students to participate in. Some evenings there will be workshops and seminars with outside speakers. These will compliment the academic programme.

We want to encourage students to be independent and to learn important life skills. We, therefore, we will get students to participate in organising their days out at the weekend. They will be given a budget and they need to plan and organise their programme in small groups.

Meals

The school provides three meals a day. Please let us know if your child has any food allergies or requires special food.

Passports

We ask students to give us their passports when they arrive at the College and we will store these safely during the course. Under the new UKBA (UK Border Agency) rules, if your student is outside the EU, we need to check that your child has the correct visa and keep a photocopy of the passport.

Pocket Money

Your student will need some pocket money. We recommend approximately £50 per week. We operate a course bank so students will be asked to hand in their money when they arrive and will be able to withdraw money at set times.

Rules

Please see below the rules and advice that your child will be given when he or she arrives on the course. By accepting a place on the course you agree that your student will keep these rules that your student understands the rules and that you will support Academic Summer.

1. No Smoking

You must not smoke anywhere around the school, in the streets and on excursions. Remember smoking is bad for your health so if you do smoke it is a good time to give up. It is against the law to buy cigarettes under the age of 18 in the UK.

2. No alcohol or illegal drugs

It is against the law for anyone under 18 to buy or drink alcohol. For those of you over 18, it is also against Academic Summer's rules. Although we don't want to be killjoys, we trust that you understand we cannot make exceptions because of the younger students around.

3. No rudeness (including bad language), disobedience etc.

Bad words in any language are not allowed. We expect you to behave as normal: to be kind to each other and to respect your teachers and other students.

4. Boys and girls' side of the boarding house

Girls must not go into the boys' side of the house and boys must not go in the girls' side. Academic Summer's rule is that no sex is allowed during the course. Sorry guys!!

5. No racism and other forms of discrimination

Respect other people's ideas, opinions and beliefs. Treat others as you would like to be treated. Be kind: you know it makes sense!!

6. No fighting and weapons

We think this speaks for itself. Think world peace!!

7. No gambling

We're sure you can think of other things to do in the evenings. (But see 4 above!!)

8. No stealing or vandalism

We think these are self-explanatory too!! Again, respect!!

Some friendly advice to get the most out of the course...

- Be on time
- Work hard
- Play hard
- Get a good night's sleep. Every night!!
- Make friends from other countries: you may learn something new, get to visit somewhere new and it'll help with your English
- Listen to instructions
- Always sign in and out so we know where you are

Safety

On arrival at Sidcot, we give students an information sheet about personal safety and we also go through this on our first day as part of the induction programme. We advise students how to look after themselves and also their personal belongings. They need to realise that they are in a different country and culture and it is important to listen to the advice given to them as it will help them to get the most out of their course.

Supervision

Members of staff live in the accommodation with students and there is always someone around if a student has a problem and needs to talk.

The Principal lives in the accommodation and is also available.

We ask students to respect the rules of the course to ensure everyone is safe and happy during their summer course experience.

Telephone Calls

There is a telephone in both the boys and girls' houses. Parents must not call on these numbers before 07.30 in the morning or after 21.00 at night. Please remember the time difference! The Principal is on call 24 hours a day for emergencies and you can contact the main office to leave a message.

We advise students to have a mobile phone and we will obtain this number on arrival in order that we can contact them if necessary.

Tutor Support

During the course students will meet with their personal tutors and also individually with the Principal. These times will be opportunities to discuss aims and objectives for the course and also how they are getting on. The Principal will give feedback to parents. These aim to help students reach their full potential and Personal Best.

Transfers

Please provide Academic Summer with your student's confirmed flight details. We suggest that all students under 16 years of age should travel as Unaccompanied Minors.

We provide free transfers for students arriving to London Heathrow or Bristol Airports. There maybe a small charge for other airports. Sidcot School is about 10 miles from Bristol Airport so we strongly advise you to consider this as an option.

We can offer transfers for students on flights between 06.00 and 17.00 on the arrival day and for those departing on flights between 08.00 and 18.00 on the departure day.

Visitors to the course

Friends or relatives in the UK may visit your child during the course. We would ask that you confirm this in writing to us and arrange a convenient time so students do not miss lessons and important activities.