

THE

ISSOS TIMES

Cambridge

12 July — 2 August 2023

the experience of a lifetime™



News & Events

See inside for all winners and reviews

Welcome back!

Returning staff & students

MacGregor

win the Cup!

Welcome from the Programme Director



ISSOS: Where Brilliant Minds and Adventurous Souls Gathered!

Set amidst the charming beauty of this historic city, our programme promised an unforgettable journey of academic enlightenment, captivating electives, and the indomitable strength of camaraderie and team spirit. In addition to our academic offerings, we invited our students to explore a range of enticing electives. These diverse disciplines, from sports to theater, catered to the multifaceted talents and passions of our global cohort. Whether they chose to unleash their creativity or challenge their physical limits on a playing field, our electives fostered personal growth and provided a unique platform for cross-cultural collaboration.

However, what truly set our ISSOS Cambridge 2023 summer school apart was the unparalleled strength of camaraderie and team spirit that permeated every aspect of our community. Here, we believed that true learning extended beyond the classrooms. Our participants forged lifelong connections and friendships as they engaged in collaborative projects, shared cultural insights, and celebrated the rich diversity that made each of them unique. Our vibrant social events captured the essence of the Cambridge

experience, fostering a sense of belonging and camaraderie among our international family.

As our students embarked on this extraordinary journey, they were captivated by the majestic landscapes that served as the backdrop to our summer school. From the grandeur of ancient colleges to the tranquil beauty of the River Cam, Cambridge's natural and architectural wonders inspired awe and introspection, stimulating creativity and igniting the spirit of exploration.

To all the students who joined us in this remarkable adventure, we hope that your time at the International Summer School of Cambridge left an indelible mark on your hearts and minds. May the knowledge gained, friendships formed, and memories created serve as beacons of inspiration as you continue to navigate the world with curiosity and passion. Until we meet again, farewell, and may your futures be bright with the lessons learned and the connections forged within these hallowed grounds.

*Lorraine Kenny,
Programme Director*



Lorraine Crawford, Programme Director



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 in the USA, realised she wanted to provide students from all over the world, with a balanced summer programme.

St Andrews was the obvious choice for the first summer school due to its safe location and historical setting. The first session of ISSOS took place in 2006, with 50 students. In 2011, with growing demand, ISSOS Cambridge was launched. 2016 saw the launch of the third summer school at the prestigious Yale University in the USA. Students have always been at the heart of everything ISSOS does and we have listened to feedback from students

and parents to develop all aspects of the company, fast becoming recognised as one of the top International summer schools.

ISSOS has grown significantly since 2005, attracting students from over 80 nationalities and catering to over 600 students. Every year, students and staff talk of ISSOS as being a family, and that's what we're looking to develop and maintain: an international family where friendships span the world.

ISSOS is a values-led company and has a core set of values that run through everything we do. One of our most important assets is our people and we



"We work together, we play together, we live and grow together, we are the ISSOS International Family."

Jen Munro, Founder

endeavour to find the best people to work with us every year. As we grow, we are committed to offering a quality product and the highest level of service. It is imperative that whilst doing this, we have fun, making sure everyone associated with ISSOS, has The Experience of a Lifetime.

We  ISSOS!

"I love the amount of activities we do everyday, like the clan events and the amazing things we learn. At the end of the day, we are all very happy and I feel like I'm making new friends everyday."

Pedro



"I've had an amazing time at ISSOS and I have made a lot of new friends. I love the clan gatherings, it entails very competitive sport games, it is so much fun. The food here is also amazing and the teachers and counselors are very nice."

Sultan



"I love ISSOS because everyone is outgoing and friendly. The first day I was very shy but my group mates made me come out of my shell and brought happiness to me."

Jingyi

"I've had an amazing time at ISSOS because the counselors and teachers are very friendly and fun. Every day there is something different and the activities are amazing."

Faisal Ali



NEWS

Variety Show

The Variety Show is one of the most-anticipated nights at ISSOS. An entire evening devoted to students showcasing their talents, building their confidence, and coming together to cheer on their peers.

The 2023 Cambridge edition of The Variety Show saw some stellar vocal performances. Maile and Fabian astounded the audience with their powerful renditions of 'Skyfall' and 'Wonderful World' respectively. Students Mohammed, Miyako, George, Alex and Ava each presented a range of singing and rap performances. Student Art braved the stage to showcase some inspiring and insightful words. This was a significant achievement for her as this was the first time she shared some of her favourite poetry works. A collection of Lebanese students brought the togetherness to a new high with an energetic and engaging performance of a traditional dance from their homeland. An element of magic was also injected into the evening with a segment of illusion by Vincent who amazed the audience with multiple card and transformation tricks.

In true ISSOS fashion this evening was no stranger to clan rivalry. While the students took the evening as an opportunity to demonstrate their range of natural flair, it was also a chance for staff to put their dancing shoes on. Most notably, the students witnessed their counselors go toe-to-toe with each other during



a lip sync battle. Clan Wallace got the ball rolling with a 'High School Musical' number in which they were wearing matching Wallace Wildcats strips, a performance topped with multiple gymnastic stunts. MacGregor turned up on stage dressed as opposing clans, replicating the colours of JLS, electrifying the audience with their rendition of 'Beat Again'. The students' enjoyment of this act was mirrored in their thunderous applause and cheers. Perhaps one of the most memorable moments of the night was Clan MacDonald's lip sync of an accumulation of ABBA's greatest hits. This performance incorporated multiple synchronised segments and props. Clan Stewart ended the evening with their rendition of Shania Twain's 'Man! I Feel Like A Woman!'.

Overall, it was a night packed with laughter and enthusiasm. As both a participant and spectator, it was pure joy to see students' confidence develop tremendously and feel the positive energy radiating from the students and staff alike.

Lily Yuill, Clyde Counselor



Fashion Show

The ISSOS Counselor Fashion show is a highlight in the evening programme calendar in every session. This is the opportunity for the students to dress their counselor in the theme selected; this year in Cambridge round one was a Hollywood theme and students are left to interpret that as they wish. This year saw counselors dressed up as The Queen, Fred Flintstone, and Papa Smurf to name a few.

Round two and a chance for the teachers to dress a group of counselors up and get them to react a music video.

This is a unique and very much ISSOS evening programme that is enjoyed by everyone, except sometimes the counselors who have to dress up but they always get loads of encouragement and support and the cheers can be heard from miles around.

Clare Mcquaid, Programme Assistant

Returning Student

How many years have you attended ISSOS, and at which campuses?

This is my second year at ISSOS! Last year I was at St. Andrews, session 2 and now at Cambridge.

What was your favourite part of ISSOS this summer?

The clan events for sure! They make the whole ISSOS experience completely different to all other summer schools and camps I've been to so far

What academics and electives have you taken? And what impact did they have on you?

I took Business and Entrepreneurship for my academic class and Outdoor Leadership as an elective, whereas last year I took Debate and Theatre. Both of the classes I chose this year were so much fun and I think that they really complete each other. You get to learn

how to be a good leader and work in a team at Outdoor Leadership and then you can apply it in Business as well. The classes really surpassed my expectations.

What makes you want to keep coming back to ISSOS?

We just have fun all the time and your summer gets a hundred times better!

If you could give future ISSOS students some advice to make them feel less nervous about coming to ISSOS, what would you say?

You may feel like the slogan 'the experience of a lifetime' is an exaggeration, but from my own experience I can tell you that it is completely true and everyone should try it!

Yasmina Kassatly (Lebanon)

PROFILES



Returning Staff



How many summers have you worked at ISSOS and in which roles?

This was my third summer at ISSOS. I did one year at St. Andrews and this was my second year in Cambridge, each time as a counselor.

Why did you decide to come back? And why Cambridge specifically?

In general, I've always really enjoyed my summers at ISSOS. One of the main reasons is that it gives me a chance to experience and get to know other cultures because it's an international summer school. During my time here, I've been able to work and look after students from a variety of different places like Lebanon, America, Saudi Arabia, places in Asia, places in Europe – so it's really good in that sense. Also, the staff I've worked with have been great as well, so it's a combination of that. It's been really enjoyable.

As for why I decided to come back to Cambridge, I knew a lot of the staff I worked with last year would be returning, so I knew it was going to be a good team. And I enjoy being in Cambridge as well, it's very nice and scenic.

As you are part of a clan, what is your favourite clan event?

Probably the Mini Olympics because there's the most going on. It's quite a good laugh! There's things like the watermelon challenge and the haka which is great fun to see. Clan calling is funny as well because you get to see all the different skits and people making a bit of a backside of themselves.

How do you think this program has changed you as an individual?

I think it has made me a lot more confident because I've had to do quite a lot of silly things in front of groups of people I don't know very well. The counselor fashion shows are a prime example of that.. I think it has made me understand and appreciate other people's cultures a lot more as well, having spoken to students who come from a variety of different backgrounds and places.

*Craig McCall,
Lomond Counselor*

CLAN NEWS

One of the many unique aspects of ISSOS is our Clans. Staying true to our Scottish roots ISSOS invites students into one of four clans; MacDonald, MacGregor, Wallace or Stewart. This is done at the Clan Calling, on one of the first evenings at ISSOS. Once assigned to a clan, students remain as part of that clan for their time at ISSOS, even when they return the following year, they will always be in the same clan as will their brothers or sisters if they too, come to ISSOS.

The clans are an integral and very important part of the ISSOS experience, they exist to promote good sportsmanship, communication, healthy competition and help to bond students from all different nationalities and ages as well as build confidence. Clans compete over the three weeks in a variety of competitions including; Danish Long Ball, Mini Olympics, Clan Ball, Dodgeball, Sandcastle Building and many more activities, in order to gain points for their Clan.

The Munro clan – the impartial clan made up of the Teachers, Head Counselors and Programme Director, oversee all the events, ensuring the games are played fairly. Clan events culminate in the final days of ISSOS with the Highland Games where one clan wins the coveted Clan Cup.

Spirit Shield Winners Stewart



Individual Spirit Awards



Wallace: Georges Kamel
Stewart: Kristian Eatins
MacDonald: Leo Barchetti
MacGregor: Rhea Daly



HIGHLAND GAMES

The final day of ISSOS brings together the four clans who take part in the ISSOS Highland Games; a day of healthy competition, good sportsmanship and a lot of clan spirit. The whole summer school takes part and the event is umpired skilfully by the Munro Clan.

Each clan was separated into divisions; Braveheart, Freedom and Highland. The three divisions all took part in a selection of mini games, the infamous Danish Longball and relay races. All clans worked tirelessly, pushing themselves to their athletic best and getting involved in all that was thrown at them.

After the final scores were tallied, all students attended the closing dinner to hear the announcement of the Clan Cup Winner. The Spirit Shield was also given out to the Clan who had expressed the greatest amount of sportsmanship and had provided lively chants at each clan event over the previous three weeks. Clan Cup winners were MacDonald and Spirit Shield went to Stewart.

MacGregor win the cup



MACGREGOR: 10,200

MACDONALD: 8,775

STEWART: 8,500

WALLACE: 8,325



The Clans



ISSOS 
the experience of a lifetime

SHOW YOUR COLOUR

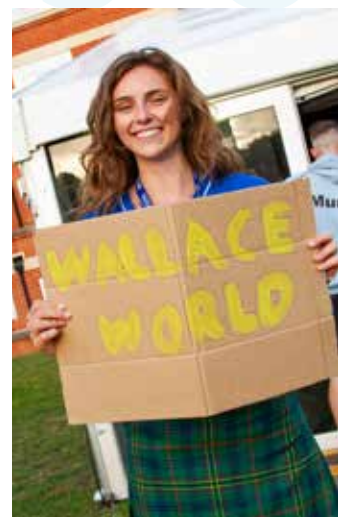


CLAN HOODIES

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Hoodies, water bottles and
more, available online





ACADEMICS

Dragons' Den

The Business and Entrepreneurship course in 2023 posed an exciting challenge to students, encouraging them to devise innovative solutions for global issues while emphasising values-driven business principles aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Students ended the programme by crafting detailed pitches, showcasing their ideas to ISSOS peers and a panel of judges in a "Dragons Den" style competition. These presentations required them to integrate the knowledge and skills acquired over three intensive weeks, aiming to address specific challenges. Each pitch highlighted the fundamental 'why' behind their inventive concepts, elucidating the purpose and rationale.

Teams exhibited dedication, leaving an indelible impression on judges and audiences with their professionalism. The array of student ideas encompassed urgent topics such as ocean pollution, urban farming, healthcare robots, tech platforms, and meat substitutes.



Every student displayed remarkable aptitude, with one exceptional team emerging victorious. The 'Dragons' selected Monty, Ella, Vali, and Art as winners for their 'FYTO' concept, a unique approach to urban farming utilising aeroponics. Their innovation aimed to enhance access to fresh produce, particularly in urban environments, thereby promoting better nutrition and healthier lifestyles.

Throughout the course, an entrepreneurial spirit pervaded, inspiring students to think creatively and surpass conventional boundaries. The programme's hope is

that this mindset will influence their future endeavours, fostering positive transformations and making meaningful contributions to society. In essence, the course provided a platform for students to explore innovative solutions within a value-driven business framework, equipping them to become agents of positive change in their careers and beyond.

Vidyanth Sreenivasan
Business & Entrepreneurship
Teacher



Journalism



This year's journalism class gathered 15 enthusiastic, curious and driven students who turned our classroom into a lively editorial office. We learned about news reporting, how to structure a news story and how to make sure that all relevant facts are reported, as well as how to recognize and prevent the spread of fake news. Additionally, we worked on becoming more aware of our own biases which make us more susceptible to misinformation and disinformation.

A lot of our time together was dedicated to developing practical journalistic skills, such as interviewing, newsgathering, working under time pressure and teamwork. Students were introduced to various journalistic forms and tried their hand at writing original feature stories, which they accompanied with their own multimedia content, including images, videos and mini-podcast episodes. An exceptionally popular part of the course was research, newsgathering and interviewing in the city of

Cambridge. The story ideas that were gathered during those sessions were later on turned into fully fledged journalistic pieces on topics ranging from sustainable fashion and transport, issues of discrimination and multiculturalism to the history and culture of Cambridge.

From a teacher's point of view, it was wonderful to see students finding their own voice and developing their writing style while getting to work on topics they are passionate about. Homework nights brought journalism students closer to the ISSOS community by giving them an opportunity to interview other students, teachers and counselors about their experiences. I am excited to see what is next in store for this talented, imaginative and hard-working group of young people!

Alma Džafić, Journalism Teacher

Debate



After intense weeks of learning about the concepts, logic, and structure of debate argumentation, our students entered the Final Night Debate. At the historic Cambridge Union, eight students discussed the motion: This house believes that honesty is the best policy. This seemingly simple motion hit at the heart of social morality and ethics, and challenged everyone to question what kind of a world we could have if everyone did indeed choose to be honest all the time.

The opening teams – Laura and Solveig in opening government, and Hank and Chloe in opening opposition did an outstanding job in defining and framing the motion, thereby getting the audience to vividly imagine a world of absolute honesty, and juxtaposing such a world to

the reality we currently live in. Both teams opened up questions of how political leadership would be drastically different, how the societal understanding of trust would change, and how the idea of lies would transform the overall structure of human relationships.

The closing teams – Joe and Georges in closing government, and Sana and Valentine in closing opposition, brought a new perspective to the debate – posing the question of interpersonal relationships as the central question of the debate. The two teams brought forth intricate analyses of how choosing friends, valuing specific virtues in others, and developing your own self-image are all areas of socialisation that heavily intertwine with the idea of honesty, trust, and sincerity.

Finally, Valentine and Sana won the evening on a split decision, by managing to persuade the judges and the audience that a world of absolute honesty entails a world within which trust becomes a blurred, potentially dangerous concept – leading to the detriment of society as we know it.

Everyone performed amazingly well – attesting to their own talents, and hard work, but also to the outstandingly high quality of our entire Debate cohort this year.

Cameron Bennett & Petra Radic, Debate Teachers

ELECTIVES

Outdoor Leadership



The students participating in the Outdoor Leadership Elective have been an absolute pleasure to work and learn with. They have approached every activity with enthusiasm and a desire to improve. It has been great to see the students improve their understanding of leadership and develop the necessary skills and qualities to excel as a leader and team player. All students have demonstrated commitment and a willingness to challenge themselves whilst participating in sporting activities, outdoor pursuits and classroom-based lessons.

Our lessons focussed on establishing and maintaining positive relationships, developing strategies for effective communication and building effective teams. During team challenges different students volunteered, and were chosen to, adopt the role of team leader. This ensured every individual had the opportunity to lead during a challenge that they felt confident in.

The class experienced many stand-out moments during our three weeks together, however, the main highlights were taking part in raft-building, punting and a high ropes course. Many students were pushed outside their comfort zone during these activities and it was incredible to see the students supporting, encouraging and motivating each other to overcome these challenges. The 'can do' attitude and resilience displayed by everyone was fantastic. In addition to having lots of fun, the students learned valuable lessons about leadership and improved their teamwork, problem solving and interpersonal skills during these activities.

This incredible group of young people have made so much progress over the last three weeks and it has been a privilege to support them in achieving this. We are confident that all students who participated in this elective have the makings of great leaders and will go on to accomplish outstanding things in the future.

*Kevin Stepney & Brittany Miller,
Outdoor Leadership Teachers*

Award Winners



Vincent Lamanne

Yasmina Kassatly

Veronica Wiedenmann Cardona

Kristian Eatins



Theatre

Devising a piece of theatre from scratch is without a doubt a challenging endeavour, demanding considerable creativity, collaboration, and hard work. The young performers at ISSOS this year should feel a sense of pride and accomplishment having achieved this in such a short amount of time. In just three weeks, they have devised their own unique play entitled 'Inner...', a deeply personal and evocative theatrical piece about mental health. Their talent for writing, performing, and working as an ensemble was evident throughout the process.

During this time, a primary focus was on building a cohesive ensemble, both on and off the stage, while learning how to devise a new theatre piece from scratch. They also dedicated themselves to improving their performance skills in general through engaging and physical workshops and scene studies.

Moreover, they explored the concept of physical theatre, understanding how it can effectively communicate a story without relying solely on words. They experimented with various stimuli like music, text, and improvised scenes, using them as starting points for devising scenes or plays. They also enjoyed the playful aspects of words, discovering how to unlock the potential of their speaking voices and exploring the synergy between their bodies and voices during performances.

Overall, it has been an exciting and inspirational journey for all involved, and these young performers should be very proud of their achievements during this time. I am genuinely proud of what they have accomplished!

Amy Lewin, Theatre Teacher



Award Winner ★
Anna Alvarez



Award Winners ★
*Khaled Muhammad
Aisharafi, Fabian
Weymar, Natalia
Tulodziecka and
Matilde Elise
Carolinali*



Tennis

Tennis is always a popular elective choice at ISSOS, and this year was no exception! This elective gives students a chance to learn new skills and develop their understanding and love for the game. It was fantastic to see the students not only improve their tennis skills but to also see the development socially.

Many of our students had prior tennis experience and so were able to fine tune skills they had learned whilst beginners were able to grasp the fundamental skills of tennis.

Each session the students learned through team practice, one-on-one coaching and partner feedback and all received feedback from the expert guidance of our coaches which allowed each individual to significantly improve their tennis.

It was a joy to watch the students practise and a huge improvement was evident. There was always a great buzz at tennis with all students eager to learn and get playing. This made for a fantastic three weeks where students from a multitude of different nationalities were able to play and learn from each other.

Every single student in tennis should be extremely proud of their accomplishments as all of them have improved massively. I truly hope they continue to develop with the same eagerness they have shown throughout their time here at ISSOS.

Tennis Coaches at Over & In

Photography

Teaching photography with ISSOS this year has genuinely been an absolute delight. The experience was incredibly fulfilling, and we couldn't have asked for a more wonderful group of students. What stood out the most was the diverse range of perspectives each student brought to photography. Whether they entered with prior knowledge or were a clean slate to the camera, the primary focus remained on nurturing their creativity, guiding them in crafting narratives, and exploring the art of storytelling through the interplay of camera angles and lighting. Our journey also delved into conjuring alternate realities and surrealism using mirrors, gels, and lighting techniques.

In our teaching approach, we've always believed that technical knowledge finds its true meaning solely when it can be applied to creative ideas—otherwise, camera setting and technical knowledge will not stick – It's the fusion of ideas and concepts being amplified with camera settings that result in learning and engaging with the camera in a meaningful way. As we approached our final showcase, centered around the theme of cinematography, we teachers were amazed by the depth of imagination each student exhibited. Their concepts not only conveyed narratives and storytelling but also evoked a spectrum of emotions, from love to solitude, happiness to sorrow. Witnessing the brilliance of their projects has been a highlight, and we couldn't be prouder of the exceptional results they achieved.

Chris Wilde, Loreal Prystaj & Sara Marinangeli, Photography Teachers



Award Winners



*Pedro Martin Gomez, Aditya Jain
and Maile Raff*



A Stepping Stone to University



"I believe that by attending this workshop, it has given me an advantage over other candidates, because of the excellent advice we received from the university applications expert. All in all, ISSOS does not only improve you as a student, but also a person, by broadening our mental horizons."

Former Student

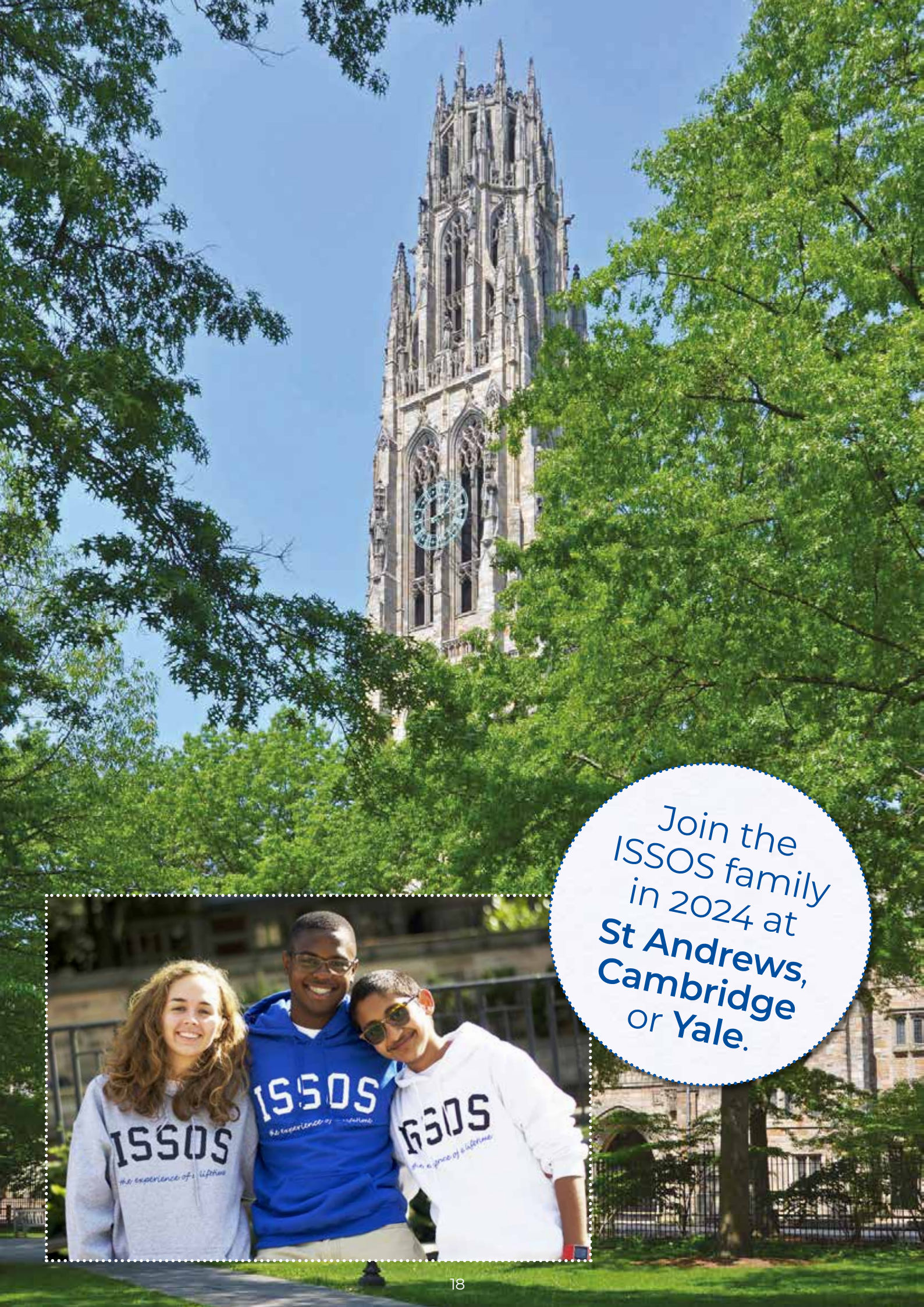
Every summer we have students who are interested in applying to some of the world's top universities and this year has been no exception. ISSOS is proud to have amongst its staff members, a number of graduates from the UK and USA' top ten universities and a number from universities around the world who are happy to share their experiences and memories with interested students.

Many students attending ISSOS have started to think about what university they may wish to attend and throughout the year, we receive emails and phone calls to ask our advice on which university to apply to for specific subjects or the entry requirements for some universities. With this in mind we decided to offer a university admissions workshop to answer any questions students may have and talk them through writing a personal statement, applying to UK, European or US based universities and what admissions departments are looking for.

The workshop was delivered by David Allen, Managing Director of Global College Counselors, with over 20 years experience in advising students and working with some of the best schools and universities in the world.

Although ISSOS is a Summer Programme, we do not believe that our responsibility to students ends when the summer ends. We are dedicated to assisting students who wish to apply to a Scottish or UK based university or who wish to interview at a British Boarding school. We endeavour to assist our students in any way we can.





Join the
ISSOS family
in 2024 at
**St Andrews,
Cambridge
or Yale.**



St Andrews

The Royal Burgh of St Andrews is the home of golf and the oldest seat of learning in Scotland. The town is steeped in history, tradition and culture and the golden beaches of this idyllic coastal location provide not only a unique and breathtaking back drop but also a stimulating, exciting and most importantly, safe environment for students to spend their summer.

Dates:

Session 1: 30th June – 21st July 2024

Session 2: 24th July – 14th August 2024

Academics: English Language, Debate, Study Skills, IB Extended Essay, Youth Leadership, Creative Writing.

Electives: Golf, Tennis, Theatre, Film, Art.



Yale



Yale provides a unique opportunity for students to spend their summer in one of the USA's top Ivy League universities. Founded in 1701 and famed for its gothic style campus, Yale is deemed to be the most beautiful university campus in the US and has an impressive list of alumni. Students will enjoy the centrally located campus, with access to cafés and shops while being surrounded by the amazing architecture of Yale in this safe campus that will provide students with a summer experience they will never forget.

Dates: 14th July – 4th August 2024

Academics: English Language, Debate, Study Skills, Business and Entrepreneurship, Creative Writing.

Electives: Outdoor Leadership, Tennis, Theatre, Film, Photography.

The University of Cambridge, founded in 1284, is one of the most famous and highly regarded universities in the world. Cambridge alumni include some of the world's most notable scholars including, Sir Isaac Newton and Charles Darwin.

While staying in one of Cambridge's oldest university colleges, students will experience the atmosphere of a small university town, with glorious architecture, cafés, museums and theatres, which dominate this small, picturesque and above all safe town.

Dates: 10th July – 31st July 2024

Academics: English Language, Debate, Study Skills, Business and Entrepreneurship, Journalism.

Electives: Outdoor Leadership, Tennis, Theatre, Photography.

Cambridge





Let's stay in touch!

Search 'ISSOS' on:



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