

THE

ISSOS TIMES

the experience of a lifetime™

Yale

2 July — 23 July 2023



News & Events

See inside for all winners and reviews

MacGregor

win the Cup!

Welcome back!

Returning staff & students

Welcome from the Programme Director



I had the pleasure of being Programme Director at ISSOS Yale this summer and was able to work with a brilliant group of counselors and teachers to make ISSOS's return to Yale a memorable one.

This summer was the first time ISSOS has run at Yale since 2019 and we were very excited to get back to our home in the US to start to build our Yale programme again. We were delighted to be in Yale University's Oldest and arguably most beautiful college, Branford and all our students and staff took advantage of the amazing courtyard and space that Branford offered.

I have the best job in the world, during the year I am the CEO of ISSOS and am able to speak to parents and students all year round and lead an incredible head office team who work all year to make sure that everything ISSOS delivers students and staff 'The Experience of a Lifetime' then in the summer I am able to take on the role as Programme Director and spend time with the phenomenal staff and students who make ISSOS come alive.

I was supported this summer by a brilliant senior management team, Dr Katie Hart as our Programme Director, Natalie Scobie and Kyle Cabell as our Head Counselors, leading our team of counselors through the three week programme. I cannot thank these three enough for their support, tireless dedication and enthusiasm throughout the summer and for making the summer full of laughter and fun.

Katie, Natalie, Kyle and I would like to that the team who choose to give up their summer to teach students in subjects they are passionate about and the counselors who choose to spend their summer making sure each student is safe and cared for while at the same time having fun and engaging in all the activities and trips ISSOS has to offer.

We know that the ISSOS experience is something that lasts beyond the three weeks and that both students and staff have made lasting friendships that span the world. We hope that everyone who was part of ISSOS this summer leaves realising we are all connected and that everyone has the power to make a positive difference in the world. Hopefully through the friendships made this summer and the social understanding that ISSOS fosters, everyone will remember this summer as one that was full of friendships, laughter and new experiences. I hope to see lots of returning students back next summer in St Andrews, Cambridge or Yale. Thank you for choosing ISSOS and allowing us to spend 3 weeks with you all – it really was *'The Experience of a Lifetime'*.

Jen Munro



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!



"What I loved most about ISSOS is the atmosphere, always welcoming and inclusive. I loved that it gave me the opportunity to meet new friends from all over the world and establish new relationships that I will always remember."

Nia Alexandra (Italy)

"I love ISSOS because of the exciting evening programmes, the elegant and traditional accommodation and the well organized events."

Kristof (Hungary)

"I don't know where to start: all the fun activities, the people we met from around the world, all the knowledge we acquired, I really had a great time. My favorite part was the clan events, where we lost our voices cheering for our team."

Elyna (France)



"I love ISSOS because there are a lot of exciting events and activities. I really improved my English but also was able to hear valuable stories, talking to people from different countries."

Yw (Japan)

Variety Show



The annual ISSOS variety show took place at the ECA Theatre (little known fact but this is where Marilyn Monroe got married).

in clan competitions like the after-eight game, another opportunity for students and counselors to grab extra clan points.



The variety show included a wide repertoire of talent, much to the audience's delight. Students showcased resilience and bravery throughout their performances and were a credit to themselves and should be extremely proud. Students in the audience were entertained the entire night and were always respectful to all performers. All the students behaved brilliantly and were energetic the entire time. The variety show was a huge success and enjoyed by all that attended.

Counselors took on the challenge of the famous clan lip sync challenge, all counselors did a fantastic job of entertaining and in some cases dancing their way through the song. Teachers also got involved with Reynaldo introducing us all to his hand puppets – needed to be seen to be understood and Raceals student dance troop took to the stage to show us a dance they learnt in their Sunday Workshop.



The variety of performances included: singing, dancing, speeches and special showcases performed by clan counselors. Students had the opportunity to compete

A massive shoutout to all the students who performed during the Variety Show. All the students should be extremely proud of their performances and efforts showcased on the night.

Megan Murray, Tiree Counselor

Counselor Fashion Show

The Counselor Fashion Show is a unique event that allows students to dress their counselors up with the hope of winning the pizza party. This year, the groups dressed their counselors as Hollywood stars, reading them for the show. We had a variety of characters and celebrities represented from Winnie the Pooh to Beyoncé and even Homer Simpson made an appearance. It was a close competition between Matthew from Skye, dressed as Ice Spice, and Taylah from Tiree as Britney Spears. In the end, the boys shouted and cheered the loudest and the prize went to the Skye group.

The second part of the evening saw the teachers dressing a group of counselors, the theme for this round was Music Videos. We had a reenactment of The Little Mermaid by Hewbs, Luke and Derrick dressed by Ella, Reynaldo, Ocean and Addie. Then, Jeremy, Matthew, Jordan and Morven who were dressed by Racheal, Julia and Maja as Step Brothers. And finally, Evan, Alfie, Shona and Taylah were dressed by Shaq, James and Javier performing Rihanna's Umbrella.

It was a great night and everyone loved the karaoke sections that gave the counselors time to get changed between their performances. With all students on the stage dancing and singing to "Party in the USA".

Jen Munro, Programme Director



Returning Student

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

I have been to ISSOS 3 times at all 3 of the campuses. First in 2019 in St Andrews, 2022 in Cambridge, and now at Yale!

What academics and electives have you taken?

I took Debate and Film in St Andrews, Journalism and Outdoor Leadership in Cambridge, and Business & Entrepreneurship and Outdoor Leadership in Yale.

What makes you want to keep coming back to ISSOS?

Being able to meet all sorts of new people and reunite with friends from previous sessions. The activities are all amazing, especially the atmosphere during the clan events. It is a fun and social way to learn and prepare myself for university and life in general.

What was your favourite part of ISSOS this summer?

Definitely the Clan Ball event with its crazy atmosphere in combination with competitive games. But of course the friends I made at Yale made the experience. ISSOS at Yale is my favorite campus.

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

Be yourself and you'll meet like minded people because there are plenty of them. Make the most of your time here because you only have 3 weeks and they go by very quickly.

Pedro Javier Zorrilla Mora (Puerto Rico)



Returning Staff



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

I worked as a Film Teacher for ISSOS during the summers of 2018, 2019 and 2023.

Why do you like working at ISSOS?

For me ISSOS is an escape from the daily routine of my day-to-day job in the film industry. The fact that I get to spend 3 weeks with new people from different cultures while teaching students about filmmaking is more than enough reason for me to always want to come back.

What is your favourite ISSOS memory?

There have been a lot of amazing memories, one being trying to understand the Scottish accent. It is also fun to remember how students come up with their own stories for the film class in all the previous

sessions. Another thing is the clan competitions, students and staff alike have so much fun competing and rooting for their clans.

If you were a student at ISSOS, which campus, academic and elective would you choose?

I would definitely choose either Cambridge or St Andrews. I think I would like to try the Debate or Outdoor Leadership classes.

What is your day-to-day job outside of ISSOS?

My day-to-day job consists of trying to finance my feature films, while I work for the company Spanglish Films as a director and film editor. I do catch myself counting the days until summer starts because that's when I get to go back to ISSOS for another experience of a lifetime :)

Javier Colon, Film Teacher

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 Wallace



Individual Spirit Awards



Wallace: *Fabianna Mattar*

Stewart: *Enilia Rohrsted*

MacDonald: *Luca Marques*

MacGregor: *Hugo Albot*



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 and Freedom. The two 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 MacGregor and Spirit Shield went to Wallace.

HIGHLAND GAMES

MacGregor win the cup



MACGREGOR: 5,700

STEWART: 5,150

MACDONALD: 4,750

WALLACE: 4,000



The Clans



ISSOS 
the experience of a lifetime

SHOW YOUR COLOUR

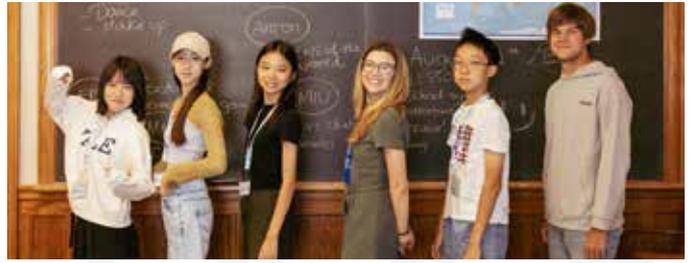


CLAN HOODIES

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ISSOS Merchandise:
Hoodies, water bottles and
more, available online





ACADEMICS

Creative Writing

What do you get when you put six students in a library that smells of books, words, creativity, and ideas? A student published ZINE: Everything Everywhere All At Once, and two TV series pitches that definitely have a future on the small screen.

The Yale 2023 Creative Writing class read and wrote poetry, prose, articles, children's stories and even the recipe for a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Students worked individually and alone, and even crafted a few group writing stories (that had a tendency for the macabre).

Writing was paired with games specifically played to expand vocabulary. Students were paired with each other to practice giving and receiving feedback. The ZINE included an interview with an alien, several odes, and an obituary of ISSOS Yale 2023's own head female counselor. And we're sure the television shows will get picked up; Till Fate Do Us Part is a period piece with secret affairs and illegitimate heirs, the other, Unit 81, is a contemporary mystery surrounding four best friends.

Julia Stamper, Creative Writing Teacher

Ode to John (the pirate) *by Cali Aitken*

Adventure after adventure you tested your limits
limbs you lost, minute by minute
On one leg you stood,
the other a peg of wood,

The shark didn't mess about
A hook for the hand you were without
You gambled your life as if not the greatest
treasure This hand you lost far beyond measure
Though lost you may be, your spirit remains,
A legend of the seas, eternal refrains.



ODE TO BROOKLYN *by Katerina Yuvanoglu*

At the wink of an eye the palatial sight
of the aggressively tall skyscrapers
pierce through your soul.
A pallet, a blend of cultures,
as a bright as the sun,
living life.

Exhilarating views with unknown satisfactions.
A treasure chest of untold tales,
with a rhythmic heart and scorching heat.
Musical pulse born from the core,
alluring to the ear.
Motors all around,
prevalence of freedom and independence.
Melodic rush of adrenaline
as the spirits sing, symphony of diversity.
Flavors combined,
a melting candle of talents,
creating greed beyond compare.

What can you hear *by Hayato Nakamura*

Listen softly to the bench
With your eyes closed.

Melodies of soft *by Michelle Volkova*

Waves echo on the evening sky
Glowing in the dark.

excerpt from The Pyramids *by Fabiana Mattar*

All is quiet in the pyramids. Nothing makes noise except the air taking sand and moving it around. Inside, even though it is even more quiet, the stories that are engraved into the walls are screaming to be told and read. Hieroglyphics decorate the walls of the tomb, telling the story of the greatest people of their time; their leaders. As you reach new twists and turns at every corner, you'll find yourself feeling lost, and that is what I truly think is the most beautiful aspect of the pyramids; their ability to create a tomb that tells a great story within their walls, but will also be able to end a story inside them. Walk with caution when visiting the pyramids, because it might be your last one.

Final Debate Night



After three weeks of dedicated practice, students from the ISSOS Yale Debate Class took to the stage of Sheffield-Sterling-Strathcona Hall for the Final Night Debate. The motion debated was: This House regrets the rise in young people being at the forefront of social movements.

The night began with Aaron, Angie, Henry and Katie presenting the rules of British Parliamentary Debate then Henry, as Chair of the debate, welcomed each of the debaters to the podium.

In Opening Government, Aish and Susumu defined the motion and argued that being at the forefront of social movements puts a huge strain on the mental health of young people involved. In Opening Opposition, Adrian and Fay refuted the Government by explaining that young people who rise to the forefront of social movements are often able to handle the pressure that leadership involves and that they are particularly important to social movements as they inspire future generations of change-makers. In Closing Government, Milan and Wiktor questioned whether it was the responsibility of young people to lead social movements and highlighted the risk of violence that young people might face. Sarina and Sophia, in Closing Opposition, then argued that young people have every right to exercise their freedom of speech by leading social movements, especially given that they are too young to enact change in other ways.

Tasked with judging such a closely-fought debate were Programme Director Jen, Programme Assistant Katie, Debate Teacher Shaq, and debate students Aaron and Katie. In the end, on a unanimous decision, Adrian and Fay were announced the winners of the ISSOS Yale Final Night Debate and were each awarded an ISSOS quaich for their achievements!

Shaquille Scott-Davis & Ella Cox, Debate Teachers



Dragons Den



ISSOS Yale's 2023 Business and Entrepreneurship class encouraged students to address global issues through innovative solutions. Guided by the UN Sustainable Development Goals, students engaged in discussions focusing on valued business principles. The program culminated in students presenting pitches to their fellow ISSOS peers and a panel of four influential Dragons.

Each team was tasked with creating a comprehensive and professional pitch that applied the knowledge and skills gained over the three-week course. The students' ideas revolved around tackling crucial challenges, including gender equality, health and well-being, sustainable cities and communities, decent economic growth, and social and environmental sustainability

in the fashion industry. Their contributions were exceptional, and they should take great pride in their efforts.

Among the teams, the winning concept was "WardrobeMe," developed by Ben, Damla, Domi, Diana, Loreley, and Wyeth. This innovative business utilised AI to create an online community centred around high-quality sustainable fashion.

Throughout the course, the students exemplified an entrepreneurial mindset, encouraging each other to think outside the box while staying true to their own personal values.

*James Montgomery,
Business & Entrepreneurship Teacher*

Photography

Over the course of three transformative weeks, the photography class provided students with a comprehensive journey through the captivating world of photography. We covered a wide spectrum of topics, commencing with fundamental technical skills that laid the groundwork for creative exploration. Students honed their understanding of camera settings, lighting, composition, and post-processing techniques, equipping them with the tools to bring their visions to life.

Beyond the technical aspects, our classes delved into the rich history of photography and its intricate sociopolitical contexts. Understanding the evolution of this medium allowed students to view their work with a more informed and critical eye, appreciating the power that photography holds as a storytelling medium.

However, what truly set this experience apart was the emphasis on fostering creativity and discovering one's unique visual language. Through a series of experimental projects, students were encouraged to push boundaries, challenge conventions, and think outside the box. This encouraged personal growth and the development of a distinct artistic voice.

The culmination of this incredible journey was the student exhibition, a testament to their personal and creative growth. Each project was a reflection of what mattered most to the individual photographer, touching on a wide range of themes from documentary, fiction to personal narratives. As a teacher, witnessing the transformation of each student, both technically and artistically, was nothing short of remarkable. It was a testament to the power of photography as a means of self-expression and storytelling, and a reminder of the limitless potential within each of us when given the tools to create.



Ocean Teal Tymkiewicz, Photography Teacher



Theatre

Devising a story on stage is some of the most difficult, truthful, experimental, and fantastical theater making that exists. That is what Yale's 2023 Theatre students did.

From day one we worked to become an ensemble, warming up physically, vocally, and mentally so that students could find trust in one another. Students played with simple scenes and worked with film students to tape the scenes, learning a bit about set life. Improv exercises, both short and long form were employed to help create stories, tableaux to explore different themes helped students to find broader physical skills, and monologue work guided students into self exploration.

The final showing was a culmination of various stories that all fit under the idea of what dreaming of the future might look like. Scenes played out from a robot run future, to an homage to a children's show, to monologues that expressed fears about the future from the students' own voices. In the end, the various peaks into the future were all just a dream, but the students all proved in class and performance that they were a true ensemble, and everyone had each other's back.

Julia Stemper, Theatre Teacher



Award Winners



*Creative Spirit: Eady Shen; Eagerness and Dedication: Zoi Rompoti
Focus and Work Ethic: Milan McKnight*



Film



Film is one of the ISSOS electives that encourages students to use their imaginations to their full extent, at the same time as discovering the fascinating world of filmmaking.

Over the three weeks, we took our students through the exciting experience of filmmaking from scratch. Starting off as groups of strangers and coming up with a story, learning the fundamentals of scriptwriting, development, pre-production, moving on through production, and filming, culminating in editing and post-production before finally screening their films for their peers at the creative night.

As well as the skills of filmmaking the film class gives all students amazing transferable skills that can be used in all aspects of life from communication, problem-solving, conflict resolution, time management, planning, pitching and storytelling to name a few.

The students create really great films that they should all be very proud of.

Javier Colon, Theatre Teacher



Outdoor Leadership



Outdoor Leadership's return to Yale was extremely successful in a particularly beautiful setting – Branford College. Twenty-two students made up the cohort and over three weeks, they developed their leadership abilities by recognising the importance of, and enhancing their communication, resilience, respect, confidence and problem solving. Outdoor Leadership has a focus on improving the 'whole child' through team tasks and activities, which sometimes were physical and other times built around conversation and team problem solving. Students were also tasked with the goal to improve their communication, focusing on doing so

in a concise manner. This year's Outdoor Leadership students' were fiercely competitive and enjoyed socialising with classmates. All students flourished in the planned trips - Kayaking and High Ropes – and some especially improved their confidence and resilience. The class' first trip to kayaking was short-lived due to a surprising yet stern New Haven storm, but this only encouraged the class to display their carefree and positive natures. As we returned to our second attempt at kayaking, all students kayaked for several hours and engaged in life-saving and rescue water tasks which required nerve and cohesiveness.

The high ropes course allowed the class to let their guards down and simply play, but in doing so they showcased their leadership qualities by encouraging and supporting nervous classmates, and celebrating their successes. Overall, this year's Outdoor Leadership students fully immersed themselves in the course and were a delight to work with – their positive outlooks on life were tangible and they all had wonderful attitudes towards others and themselves.

*Rachael Downs,
Outdoor Leadership Teacher*



Tennis Review

Tennis is always a popular choice at ISSOS, and gives students the chance to work with our professional tennis coaches to learn new skills and develop their love for the game. It was incredible to see the physical and social development of our students over their three weeks at ISSOS.

Under our guidance, the students were able to develop a variety of tennis skills. Students with prior tennis experience were able to fine tune the skills they already had whilst beginners were able to grasp the fundamental skills of tennis. The students learned through team practice, one-to-one coaching and partner feedback. All students received high quality, technical feedback from the coaches which allowed each individual to improve.

We tried to make everyone feel very welcome and this not only aided their motivation to improve their skill level, but also created a fantastic atmosphere in the lessons. All students were provided the opportunity to interact with each other on and off the court in fun games and in competitive matches. This brought together a multitude of different nationalities and enriched an already fantastic experience.

The enthusiasm shown from all tennis players throughout the session was amazing. Each individual should be proud of themselves and my hope is that they continue to develop their game with the same eagerness they have shown throughout their time here.

Andres Bernal, Lead Tennis Coach

Award Winners



*Manami Kamiya
Katherine Hart
Xavier Mienyal*

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

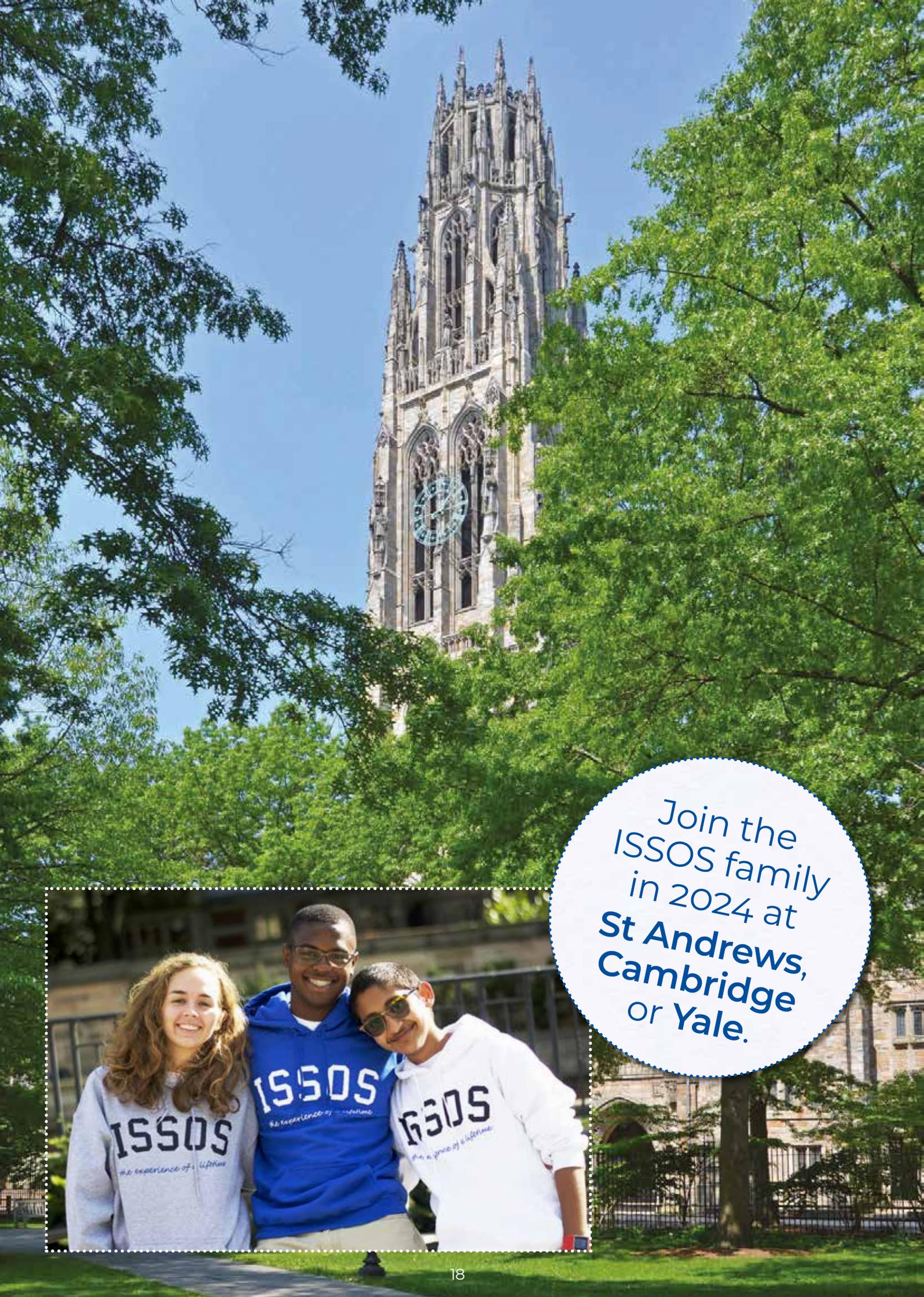


Every summer we have students who are interested in applying to some of the world's top universities and this year has been no exception. ISSOS is proud to have amongst its staff members, a number of graduates from the UK's and USA's top ten universities and a number from universities around the world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

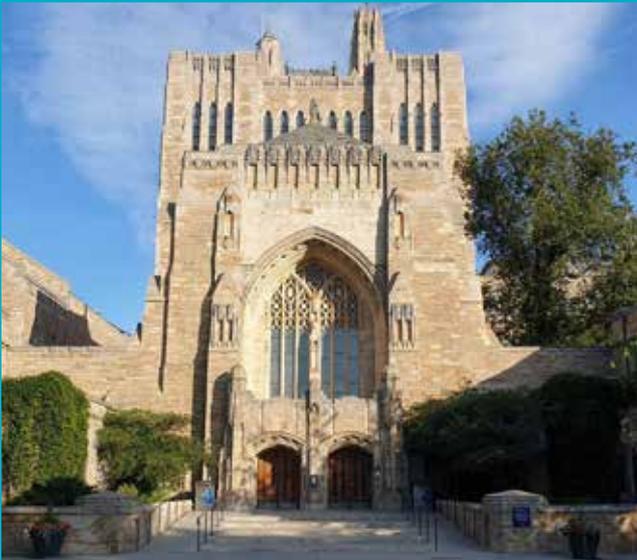
Session 2: 24th July – 14th August 2024

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.

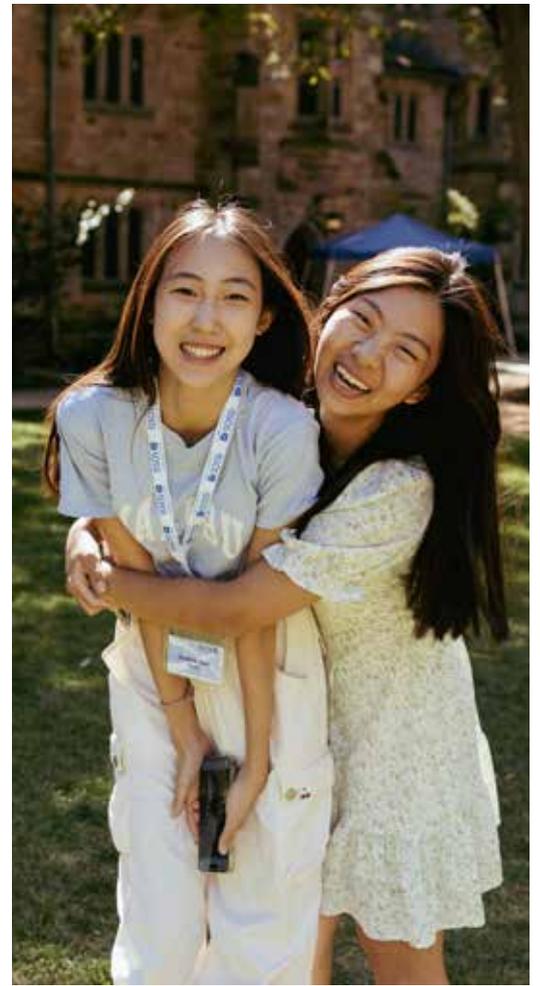
Dates: 10th July – 31st July 2024

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

Electives: Outdoor Leadership, Tennis, Theatre, Photography.

Cambridge





Let's stay in touch!

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Yale

2 July – 23 July 2023

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