ISCA FAQs

What is ISCA?

The Independent Schools Cultural Alliance, ISCA, is a small company whose prime objective is to share British history and culture with 11 to 15-year-old students from the UK and abroad.

How long has ISCA been in operation?

ISCA was set up by a Head of a Prep School in 1982.

Where is ISCA based?

Our ISCA UK programme uses the campus and accommodation of Charterhouse School, one of the most prestigious boarding schools in the country.

How do I get to Charterhouse School?

Address:
Charterhouse School, Godalming, Surrey

Directions by Road:
Sat Nav reference is GU7 2BY

From A3 Southbound: Follow the A3 southbound towards Petersfield and Portsmouth. Continue past Guildford towards Godalming, taking the exit marked Godalming, Farnham B3000. Follow the slip road to the roundabout, go straight across to the exit marked Farnham, Puttenham and Charterhouse. Follow signs to the B3000 to the next roundabout and take the first exit into Priorsfield Road. Follow the road for approximately 1 mile until you reach Charterhouse on the right-hand side.

From A3 Northbound: Follow the A3 northbound towards London and Guildford. Take the exit signposted Godalming, Farnham B3000. At the roundabout take the second exit, turning right for Godalming, crossing over the A3. At the next roundabout take the second exit signposted Hurtmore and Charterhouse, into Priorsfield Road. Follow the road for approximately 1 mile until you reach Charterhouse on the right-hand side.

Directions by Train:
Godalming Station is on the London Waterloo to Portsmouth Harbour line. There are taxis available outside the station.

What is the age range?

As our ISCA UK programme is designed exclusively for year 7 and year 8 students, our summer camp experience is for 11 to 13-year-olds.

What does a typical day at ISCA look like?

At ISCA, every day is an opportunity to learn, make new friends, build confidence and be inspired to try new things. Every day is different as we visit lots of sights, do

various activities and have lots of exciting things going on. Look at our 2021 brochure for an itinerary of what we do each day, hour by hour!

What is included in the fees?

- 8 nights' accommodation at Charterhouse School
- Breakfast and dinner every day
- Lunch on 7 of the days
- Teacher student ratio of 1:5
- Entrance fees to every place we visit
- All transport during the programme
- Activities and sports on campus
- Laundry
- WiFi
- An ISCA T-Shirt
- An ISCA Explorer coursebook and activity booklet

How much deposit do I need to pay?

A 30% deposit of £435 is required within 48 hours of receiving the Booking Confirmation Email to secure your booking.

When do I need to pay the balance of the camp fees?

The remaining 70% balance payment is due by the 30th April 2021.

What is the accommodation like?

Charterhouse School is renowned for its historic buildings but equally for its fantastic modern facilities, making it an ideal place for students to have a brilliant summer camp experience.

The accommodation at Charterhouse is spacious and comfortable. Boys and Girls will be housed separately, either in two different boarding houses or in two different areas of our mixed boarding house (depending on overall numbers). Accommodation is made up of single rooms. ISCA staff will have their own rooms on each corridor – keeping our 1:5 supervision ratio.

All students are provided with bedding and their bedrooms are cleaned everyday Monday to Saturday. Students also have access to shared bathrooms.

Charterhouse School offers exceptional facilities. The state-of-the-art sports centre and boarding facilities are of the highest quality and are all set amongst expansive and picturesque grounds and playing fields.

My son/daughter would like to be in a room with their friend, is this possible?

Students will have their own bedroom on a corridor with their friends. At ISCA, we find that having your own room makes it easier for students to sleep, which is vital as the students are so busy and will get tired easily.

Do you provide healthy meals?

We have a wonderful catering team at Charterhouse School who provide an excellent selection of healthy meals. A cooked breakfast is available every day, as well as a choice of cereals, fresh fruit, croissants or toast, fruit juice, tea and coffee.

Lunch and dinner comprise a good variety of cooked meals, with no fewer than three options, including a salad and pasta bar at every meal time. To see a sample menu, go to the parents' page and click on the link "ISCA Sample Food Menu".

When we are off campus a healthy and balanced packed lunch is provided, except on two occasions when we have "free lunch choice". On these days ISCA suggest a variety of different lunch options but allow the students to choose where to have their lunch.

In addition, each and every allergy and dietary requirement can be specifically catered for. All our kitchens are nut-free zones.

Do students have access to a laundry service?

Yes, all ISCA students will benefit from the laundry service offered at the school. We recommend naming all clothing items, so they can be easily identified.

How will students know what to bring?

We will share a packing list with you in the lead up to the programme. You will also find a link to a packing list on the parents' page in the 'During the Programme' section.

Are students looked after 24 hours a day?

The safety and well-being of our students is our number one priority. Throughout the programme, students are well supervised during the off-campus trips and on-campus activities and also during their free time. ISCA staff also live in the boarding houses in rooms adjacent to the students, keeping our 1:5 supervision ratio.

What qualifications do your staff members hold?

All of our staff are chosen based on their experience working with this age group and on residential programmes. The majority of our teachers join ISCA during their summer holidays, with some of our staff teaching at British International Schools abroad. ISCA also employ several activity leaders and sports coaches to complement the teaching team. Naturally, all of our staff are DBS checked (a legal requirement for anyone working with young people).

What happens in case of a medical emergency?

The welfare and safety of our students is paramount and at the forefront of our planning for the summer camp. We pride ourselves on our ability to create a secure residential environment, with a vigilant and attentive staff team in place to supervise the students in their care. In the unlikely event that your child becomes ill or is injured during their stay with us, it's important that you are aware of the measures we have in place to help them.

A comprehensive medical information form is included in our Parent Welcome Pack. This document asks for relevant information about the health and well-being of each student and we require this to be completed, signed and returned to us before the programme begins. The details of who to contact in case of emergency is also requested in the medical form and will be recorded for use in such instances.

In the lead up to the programme, Luke or Freya will be available and happy to talk through anything which you feel needs additional medical, emotional or behavioural support, with a view to ensuring that we are able to provide adequate attention to your child's needs during their stay.

All ISCA staff are residential, which means there is always someone available throughout the day and night to attend to an issue. For immediate medical concerns, we ensure that our Medical Supervisor is always onsite to deal with these in the first instance. We are also registered with a local GP for anything either ongoing or that requires a prescription. In case of emergency an ambulance will be called. One of the country's leading hospitals is in Guildford, only 5 miles away, where all emergency medical treatment is immediate and efficient.

Please note that in all cases of illness or injury, the child's *next of kin* will be contacted directly by either Luke or Freya.

How do I keep in contact with my child during their stay?

A typical day at ISCA is packed with visiting sights, doing various sports and activities and socialising with new friends. However, we do understand that students want to hear from their families, which is why we schedule time every day for them to call home. In our Mobile Phone Policy, you will see that students can call home between 19.00 and 21.00 every day.

Who should my child speak to about any problems during their stay?

We have a dedicated staff team at the campus who are in place to provide 24-hour support to students during their stay. Heads of House oversee the immediate welfare and basic medical needs of each student in their care and are supported by the staff team.

On the first day, students will be introduced to their Head of House and the staff team within their boarding house. They will be advised on who to speak within the team should they have any need for something, feel unwell or unsettled, or simply want to chat, and are encouraged to so without embarrassment.