



ISCA FAQs

What is ISCA?

The Independent Schools Cultural Alliance, ISCA, is a small company with a big reputation whose prime objective is to share British History and Culture with 12 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 – we will be celebrating 42 years of ISCA in July 2024!

Where is ISCA based?

Our ISCA Global Programme uses the campus and accommodation of both Charterhouse School and Cranleigh School, two 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

How do I get to Cranleigh School?

Address:

Cranleigh School, Horseshoe Lane, Cranleigh

Directions by Road:

Sat Nav reference is GU6 8QQ

What is the age range?

As our ISCA Global Programme is designed exclusively for middle school students, our summer camp experience is for 12 to 15-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 over the two or three weeks. Look at our 2024 itinerary to find out more on what we do each day.

What is included in the fees?

- A return flight to the UK (if you are booking the full-price option)
- 20 nights' accommodation at Charterhouse School or Cranleigh School
- Breakfast and dinner every day
- Lunch on 10 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 twice a week throughout the programme
- WiFi
- An ISCA T-Shirt
- Our ISCA Explorer coursebook & activity booklet to take home

How much deposit do I need to pay?

For ISCA 2024, the deadline for the 30% deposit is 31 October 2023.

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

The remaining 70% balance payment is due by 31 March 2024. You can pay in instalments leading up to the deadline if you wish.

What is the accommodation like?

Charterhouse School and Cranleigh School are renowned for their historic buildings but equally for their fantastic modern facilities, making each campus an ideal place for students to have a brilliant summer camp experience.

The accommodation 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 or shared 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.

Both Charterhouse School and Cranleigh School offer exceptional facilities. Their state-of-the-art sports centres and boarding facilities are of the highest quality and are all set amongst expansive and picturesque grounds and playing fields.

Do you provide healthy meals?

We have wonderful catering teams at both Charterhouse School and Cranleigh 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 mealtime.

When we are off campus a healthy and balanced packed lunch is provided on three occasions. The rest of the time, 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 twice a week. 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 wellbeing 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) and have safeguarding training before the start of the programme.

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 will be sent to you in May. This document asks for relevant information about the health and wellbeing of each student and we require this to be completed and returned to us before the programme begins. The details of who to contact in case of an emergency is also requested in the medical form and will be recorded for use in such instances.

In the lead up to the programme, please make sure you speak to your group leader to talk through anything which you feel needs additional medical, emotional or behavioural support, with a view to ensuring that your group leader is 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 on site 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 your group leader.

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. If you have any concerns or cannot get hold of your child, please contact your group leader.

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 and the international chaperones.

The chaperone from your child's school is acting 'in loco parentis' to every one of their students, so we encourage the ISCA students to talk to them in the first instance if they have any worries or concerns. In addition, 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 to within the team should they have any need for something, feel unwell or unsettled, or simply want to chat, and are encouraged to do so without embarrassment.

Do I need to get travel insurance for my child?

ISCA carries Public Liability and Employer's Liability insurance. Parents are strongly advised to take out additional travel insurance to include trip cancellation, trip interruption, loss of baggage and emergency medical cover. This should be arranged independently.

When should I apply for a Visa?

If you need a visa, you are responsible for arranging one for your child. We will provide a Visa Support Letter in April 2024 and we recommend students and group leaders apply straight away. The type of visa required is a STANDARD VISITOR VISA.

How will my child get from the airport to the campus?

Each group will be met at arrivals by an ISCA member of staff. As a group, you will then head to a private coach which will take your child to the campus. The campus is just over 45 minutes away from the airport.

If you have booked your child for the Land-Only option, it is your responsibility to get your child from the airport to the campus. ISCA cannot collect unaccompanied students from the airport, unless they arrive on exactly the same flight as the group. Land-only students must therefore be dropped off and picked up from the campus separately.