

Governor's School for International Studies

FAQ's

Who is eligible?

The GSIS program accepts the brightest and most talented high school students in Tennessee who will be juniors or seniors in the academic year following the program. Students should rank at or near the top of their high school class.

What is the application process?

Students must be nominated by a high school counselor or teacher. Usually it is the counselor who initiates the nomination, since they have access to student transcripts and test scores.

What factors are considered in evaluating applications?

Students are evaluated on the following components of their application:

1. Student essays
2. Student school and community engagement
3. Counselor recommendation
4. Transcript and test scores
5. Two teacher recommendations

When do I find out if I am accepted?

All students are informed on March 1. Students who are chosen as alternates will be informed if their status changes as soon as possible.

How many students are accepted?

For 2024, 50 students will participate in the program. Unfortunately budgetary restrictions keep us from admitting more students than that.

Is there a cost for attending the program?

The GSIS program does not charge any tuition or fees, and all housing, meals, and course materials are provided free of charge. The only expense for participants is travel to and from the program, as well as spending money during the program.

What should I bring?

All participants will be provided with a "packing list" several weeks prior to the beginning of the program so they will know what to bring. The 2023 list (which may be updated for 2024) can be found [HERE](#).

What kind of device should I have?

Ideally students should have a laptop and cell phone to keep up with regular communications, in-class activities, studying, and preparing their projects.

What will I study?

You will be studying various aspects of the field of international and global studies through plenary lectures, guest lectures, language/culture classes, and small group international perspectives classes throughout the program. All students attend plenary sessions for the program, and are divided into groups for their language and perspectives classes.

Do I receive college credit for participating in the program?

All students are enrolled in INTL 1101, Introduction to International Studies, and receive 3 hours of college credit.

What is my grade for the course based on?

There will be tests based on the materials covered in the plenary lectures, as well as a map test, and grades for participation in the language and international perspectives classes. In addition, all students will complete a project for which they will make an oral presentation on the last full day of the program.

What is a typical day at the program like?

Classes are held Monday through Friday from 9:30 to 4:00 with a break for lunch. In the evening and on the weekends a variety of programs are prepared for the students, all with an international theme. There is a sample daily program on the GSIS website.

What other activities take place during the program?

Apart from the classes students attend during the day (M-F), there are Saturday field trips (in the past these have included National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis 901FC soccer game, Overton Park Shell concert, and Memphis Zoo), guest speakers, movie nights, talent show, special international dinners, as well as numerous other activities.

Will there be time for recreational activities?

Students wanting to go running, swimming, etc. may use the University of Memphis facilities during the program, but only under supervision and during times previously scheduled with the GSIS staff.

Where will I live during the program?

Students will be housed in the Centennial Place residence on the UofM campus during the program. All GSIS students are housed on the same floor of the residence, with

separate suites for males and females. Students live in double-occupancy rooms, and are assigned a roommate by the program directors prior to their arrival.

What measures are there for ensuring student safety?

All students are accompanied at all times when not in class or in their residential hall suites. The residence hall is not open to outsiders and is staffed 24/7. With a full-time staff committed to the program for the entire three weeks, we are extremely confident in our ability to keep all students safe.

Are there accommodations for attending religious services or having time for prayer?

Students can request such accommodations prior to the beginning of the program, as long as they do not interfere with student attendance at program activities.

Can I attend only part of the program?

Participation in the program is a 24/7 full-time commitment from the time you arrive on campus to the time you leave. Students may not arrive or leave early, leave the program to participate in other events, nor should they have any other commitment that will distract from their participation in the GSIS program.

How can I get my transcript after the program ends?

Academic credit for INTL 1101 will be on the student's UofM transcript, which can be requested [HERE](#).