

# **Randolph College Abroad: The World in Britain**

**Associated in England with the University of Reading**

## **Spring 2012 APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

Randolph College has maintained a study abroad program in association with the University of Reading in England since 1968. The academic program consists of three basic elements each semester. The first is a fifteen-week interdisciplinary seminar, *The World in Britain*, that gives everyone in the program a shared understanding of the political and cultural environment in which they are living, and the ways Great Britain has shaped and been shaped by the rest of the world. The second is a small group of intensive four-week courses that relate some of the themes touched upon in the seminar to contemporary global issues. The third is a selection of University courses or privately arranged tutorials that are 10 weeks in duration. These courses run the gamut of traditional liberal arts disciplines and have in the past included archaeology, art history, art studio, biology, chemistry, dance, communication, classical and modern languages, economics, English, environmental science, food science, history, mathematics, music, philosophy, politics, psychology, religion, and others.

Each student must take the seminar, an intensive four-week course, and three other ten-week tutorial or University courses each semester, producing fifteen credit hours for a semester or thirty credit hours for the year. With the permission of the director, a student may earn up to thirty-six credit hours for the year by taking additional tutorial or University courses, but the prospective applicant should understand that the workload in each Reading program course is significantly heavier than in the normal semester course of an American college or university. More is expected of you, although you will receive less specific guidance. This work requires a high degree of self-discipline and initiative.

The students in this program are thoroughly integrated into the extracurricular activities of the University. These include clubs, associations, and athletics. Our students have often played on University teams and have sometimes been the standouts in such sports as women's tennis, basketball, crew, and soccer.

From the inception of the program to the present, an essential part of Randolph College's agreement with the University of Reading has been that we would not compete with students from the United Kingdom or the Commonwealth nations for scarce dormitory space. Consequently, the College acquired several houses immediately adjacent to the University campus. Although the houses are attractive, space available for each student is limited and most students must share rooms. Therefore, an ability to get along with people and to cooperate cheerfully in the mechanics of daily living is very important.

We are often asked how we decide whether or not a person will be accepted into the program. Academic performance is very important, but each student is judged as an individual so there is no minimum Quality Point Ratio cutoff. Certainly, steady improvement in academic performance can be a positive factor. At times there are applicants who are very talented in one field and hopelessly at sea in another, thus bringing their academic average down; we often discount one or two poor grades, especially if they are not in fields that the student hopes to study in Reading. Demonstrated ability in English composition speaks well for a candidate, for it indicates probable success in the extensive writing one must do in the program. All these variables and more are considered.

With respect to non-academic factors, the program has never been susceptible to an accusation of dull uniformity. However, there are certain desirable characteristics to be sought in putting together such an enterprise. Lack of tolerance and consideration for

others can create problems. At times some diplomatic talent is called for. There may be other occasions when strong self-reliance is needed. Finally, applicants should be the type of persons who understand the Randolph College Honor System, who apply it in their own conduct, and who can influence others to observe it actively. For all of these reasons, we try to understand the applicants in terms beyond academic performance alone.

The procedure for applying is as follows:

1. Complete the application form. Neatness and care in preparation of these materials are expected. The essays required in Question 13 and on page 3 should be strictly your own work; you must not ask for help from your college's writing center, nor even ask a friend to proofread them for you.
2. Request evaluations from two faculty members who have taught you and know your academic work. We ask that you sign the statement on each evaluation form waiving your rights to access to the information contained therein.
3. Give the appropriate evaluation form to the director of the residence hall where you are living. If you feel that the director of the hall where you resided in a previous year is better able to evaluate you, feel free to give it to that person. If you have not been living in a college or university residence hall, do not submit the resident director evaluation form; rather, request from Dr. Irwin an alternative form that you can give to a work supervisor or someone else who knows you well .
4. Please have your registrar send us a copy of your transcript. Decisions on an applicant are sometimes delayed because we have not received a transcript on time.
5. The application fee is \$25. If your part of the application is *received* by August 1 instead of September 14 the fee is waived; otherwise, please enclose a check payable to Randolph College.

## **INTERVIEW**

It is usually possible for us to arrange an interview by an alumna either from your home area or from the vicinity of your present college or university. We have found an interview helpful in getting to know you, and it gives you a good opportunity to ask questions of very knowledgeable spokespersons for the program.

**A Note to All Applicants**

If you seriously intend to apply to **The World in Britain** for the spring semester, 2011 please complete this form. This will allow us to create a working folder and begin the process of setting up an interview for you. Send it to:

Dr. Paul L. Irwin  
Randolph College: The World in Britain  
2500 Rivermont Avenue  
Lynchburg, Virginia 24503-1555

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Dear Dr. Irwin:

It is my intention to apply to Randolph College: The World in Britain for the spring semester, 2012.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**College** mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_)-\_\_\_\_\_

Best time to reach you by phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Home** mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_)-\_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number (This is used by our financial aid office.)

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Application due: September 14, 2011 for Spring Semester, 2012

**APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION**  
**Randolph College Abroad: The World in Britain**  
**Associated in England with The University of Reading**

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Soc. Sec. Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Nickname, if any: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Nationality \_\_\_\_\_ Country of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

3. College Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

College Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_

College e-mail Address (if available): \_\_\_\_\_

4. Home address and telephone: (with parents' or guardians' names)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

5. Person to contact in case of emergency:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

6. Departmental Major, if you have decided: \_\_\_\_\_

7. What are your primary outside interests? (hobbies, athletics, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. If you have any strong ideas about career or graduate school, please indicate below:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Employment experience (including summer and volunteer work):

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10. Have you ever traveled or lived abroad? If so, where and when?

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11. a) Are there any courses required for your major or needed to satisfy your college's general education program that you must take while on the Reading program? If so, please list below.

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b) Examine the list of courses offered through our program at [http://www.randolphcollege.edu/registrar/class/reading\\_list.asp](http://www.randolphcollege.edu/registrar/class/reading_list.asp)  
Click on a course number to see its description. Please list below 3 to 6 courses that you would like to take while studying in Reading.

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12. Please state whether you have any allergies or physical conditions which may require treatment while abroad and whether you have had any serious illness within the past four years:

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13. What is attractive to you about this program? What concerns do you have about it? How will it fit into your academic program? Why have you chosen to study abroad for a semester rather than a longer or shorter period of time? Please put your comments on a separate sheet of paper and attach it to this form.

## CHOICE OF ESSAYS

One of the benefits of going abroad is that people often learn to see things less simplistically, coming to a better appreciation of both the strengths and weaknesses of their own country. Please write your most thoughtful response to **ONE** of the following questions. A minimum of 500 words (about two typewritten pages) is expected. The selection committee will be impressed by an essay that shows both a firm grasp of the general issue and an ability to illustrate its points with well-chosen evidence.

**I.** When you travel, you will encounter people who are critical of the U.S. In thinking about this fact in advance, it may be helpful to admit that nations, like individuals, are not perfect. What do you regard as the two most serious shortcomings of the U.S.? How do you account for them in their present state, and what prospects do you see for improvement?

**II.** While you may be applying to study abroad in order to develop an awareness and understanding of another culture, once you are overseas non-Americans will see you as a representative of American culture. If asked by someone from another country to describe the characteristics of American culture, what would you say?

### STATEMENT

I am aware of and agree to the following:

- a. The Reading Program Selection Committee will have access to my academic records.
- b. As one of some thirty-five students participating in this program, I will be expected to practice the give and take needed for harmonious group living and activities. These group activities include sponsored field trips by chartered bus to historic sites, theaters, etc.
- c. Accommodations in the Randolph College houses in England are comfortable, but hardly grand and spacious by American standards. Students are likely to be living in a room with one or two other friends. There are very few single rooms.

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

If any of the above pose a problem for you, please comment. Return to:

Dr. Paul L. Irwin  
 Randolph College Abroad: The World in Britain  
 2500 Rivermont Avenue  
 Lynchburg, Virginia 24503-1555

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Applying for: Spring Semester, 2012. Evaluation due: September 14, 2011

**FACULTY EVALUATION**  
**Randolph College Abroad: The World in Britain**  
**Associated in England with The University of Reading**

The academic structure of the Randolph College program at the University of Reading consists of a seminar course, The World in Britain, that meets three times weekly and is addressed by distinguished scholars not only from the University of Reading faculties, but also from many other parts of contemporary British arts and letters. In addition, each student takes a combination of university courses and tutorials, depending on his or her interests. In a majority of cases, arrangements will be made to enroll the student in a regular University course in the desired discipline; alternately, the student will take a tutorial in which two to six students meet weekly with a British tutor and must prepare a short research paper in alternate weeks. British faculty assume students are capable of independent work and are motivated to carry it out. Thus, the student must be capable of serious study.

The student who is accepted for this program should be academically sound, able to live harmoniously with others in relatively confined quarters, stable and reasonably self-reliant.

This form is provided for the convenience of faculty referees. The check list should give you some idea of what we consider important factors in selecting students to go on the Reading program. If you prefer, you may write a letter in lieu of this form. In any case, a narrative comment would be appreciated in section IV. Please return to:

Dr. Paul L. Irwin  
Randolph College Abroad: The World in Britain  
2500 Rivermont Avenue  
Lynchburg, Virginia 24503-1555

**Waiver Statement by Applicant:**

I hereby waive my rights of access now and in the future to the information contained in this evaluation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Applicant's Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

(over, please)

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

I. Academic Ability

|                                  | Poor | Average | Good | Excellent | Unable to Comment |
|----------------------------------|------|---------|------|-----------|-------------------|
| a. Intellectual Curiosity        |      |         |      |           |                   |
| b. Perseverance                  |      |         |      |           |                   |
| c. Resourcefulness & Initiative  |      |         |      |           |                   |
| d. Originality                   |      |         |      |           |                   |
| e. Dependability                 |      |         |      |           |                   |
| f. Openness to Criticism         |      |         |      |           |                   |
| g. Clarity of Written Expression |      |         |      |           |                   |
| h. Clarity of Oral Expression    |      |         |      |           |                   |
| i. Organizational Ability        |      |         |      |           |                   |
| j. Analytical Ability            |      |         |      |           |                   |

II. Personality Factors

|  | Poor | Average | Good | Excellent | Unable to Comment |
|--|------|---------|------|-----------|-------------------|
| a. Emotional Maturity & Stability                |      |         |      |           |                   |
| b. Adaptability or Flexibility                   |      |         |      |           |                   |
| c. Consideration for Others                      |      |         |      |           |                   |
| d. Cheerfulness & Sense of Humor                 |      |         |      |           |                   |
| e. Courtesy                                      |      |         |      |           |                   |
| f. Cooperativeness                               |      |         |      |           |                   |
| g. Acceptance of Criticism                       |      |         |      |           |                   |
| h. Resourcefulness                               |      |         |      |           |                   |
| i. Ability to Avoid Taking Oneself Too Seriously |      |         |      |           |                   |
| j. Reliability                                   |      |         |      |           |                   |

III. In what course(s) did you teach this student?

IV. Narrative comment on any of the above items or other pertinent matters (feel free to attach a letter on your letterhead if that is easier):

Summary:    \_\_\_ highly recommended                    \_\_\_ recommended  
                   \_\_\_ recommended with reservations    \_\_\_ not recommended

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address (for acknowledgement): \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Applying for: Spring Semester, 2012. Evaluation due: September 14, 2011

## **RESIDENT DIRECTOR EVALUATION**

### **Randolph College Abroad: The World in Britain**

#### **Associated in England with The University of Reading**

The students who participate in our program at the University of Reading will be representing this College, American higher education and, of course, Americans in general. The academic program is designed to be challenging. Not only will the student have a substantial academic load, but he or she will need to assume more responsibility for using time well than on an American campus. Each student takes a combination of University courses and tutorials, depending on his or her interests, as well as an interdisciplinary seminar entitled *The World in Britain*. Tutorials are held just once a week for each subject, and the participant must exercise considerable self-discipline. Furthermore, University faculty assume students are capable of independent work and are motivated to carry it out. Thus, the student must be capable of serious study.

Living accommodations are not very spacious. The student should be able to get along with others in relatively crowded conditions, contributing to keep a cooperative spirit, avoiding either cliquishness or selfishness, and being considerate of other people who have work to do. The student should be helpful in the routine of daily living in somewhat confined quarters. There will probably be extended periods when the student will be traveling - alone or with a small group of friends - in the United Kingdom and on the Continent. Therefore, the student should be reasonably self-reliant and possessed of the common sense to avoid trouble in the normal course of events.

We are not looking for a homogenized group of conformists. There is plenty of room for individualism and effervescence. This is not incompatible with good scholarship and a sense of responsibility.

The check list should give you some idea of what we consider important factors in selecting students to go on the Reading program. We would like you to use the narrative to expand on any of these items, particularly your observations of the candidate's approach to academics and her ability to get along with others. If there have been any discipline problems or other negative factors we should be aware of, please state them. If you are unable to evaluate the candidate from first-hand knowledge, we would appreciate it if you would discuss the candidate with the resident assistant and note this in the appropriate place on the other side. Please return this form to:

Dr. Paul L. Irwin  
Randolph College Abroad: The World in Britain  
2500 Rivermont Avenue  
Lynchburg, Virginia 24503-1555

#### **Waiver Statement by Applicant:**

I hereby waive my rights of access now or in the future to the information contained in this recommendation.

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(Applicant's Signature)

(over, please)

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(Date)

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

|   | Poor | Average | Good | Excellent | Unable<br>to<br>Comment |
|---|------|---------|------|-----------|-------------------------|
| a. Emotional Maturity & Stability                   |      |         |      |           |                         |
| b. Adaptability                                     |      |         |      |           |                         |
| c. Consideration for Others                         |      |         |      |           |                         |
| d. Study habits                                     |      |         |      |           |                         |
| e. Courtesy   |      |         |      |           |                         |
| f. Cooperativeness                                  |      |         |      |           |                         |
| g. Acceptance of Criticism                          |      |         |      |           |                         |
| h. Initiative                                       |      |         |      |           |                         |
| i. Ability to Avoid Taking Oneself<br>Too Seriously |      |         |      |           |                         |
| j. Reliability                                      |      |         |      |           |                         |
| k. Sense of Responsibility                          |      |         |      |           |                         |
| l. Interaction with Peers                           |      |         |      |           |                         |

Narrative Comment (feel free to attach a letter if that is easier):

The above comments are based on:

- \_\_\_ personal observation and contacts.
- \_\_\_ a conference with the Resident Assistant.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_ Residence Hall: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address (for acknowledgement): \_\_\_\_\_