Notes for UK Representative 2027

Please read and understand these 'Notes' and the **'Notes for Students'** *and show them to your parent(s)*

Why we have a UK Rep

We promote our Course as 'international'. Most of our students come from Europe. We feel that we cannot call ourselves 'international' if one of the most important countries in Europe is not represented.

This is not the only reason. For most of our young people, our UK rep(s) will be the only British people their age they have ever met. It would be a shame for them to come to Britain and not meet one.

Young people tend to listen more to other young people than to adults. We want the UK reps to create an English-speaking-only zone and encourage others to use English rather than their native languages.

It's not just because of your knowledge of the English young people use. It's also so you can talk about going to school, growing up in the UK and what it's like to be British.

In that you will be in a dorm with the students, you will be a normal student. You are also with us to help the staff.

'What are you here for?'

Some of our young visitors do not have much tact and will ask you directly what a Brit is doing on the Course. There are several good answers: 'To meet people from all over the world'; 'To give you the chance to get to know a British person your age'; 'To make the Course properly international'; 'To have a great time'; 'To help you to have a great time.' You are the 'UK Representative'.

What you do

The UK Rep will be placed in classes by the Academic Manger. At the beginning, placement will be in one of the top classes. At this level our foreign students have an excellent command of English. Lessons tend to be orally-based with plenty of high-powered discussions and topic-work. There is likely to be some literary work, too. We shall use you as a 'resource' for classes at other levels. You are factored into our 'task-based' teaching programme and will go into classes and lead discussions/debates. We may use you for one-to-one sessions with students who need more practice. If we find that a student is not mixing, we may ask you to make a point of befriending that student. To give as many as possible the benefit of knowing you, you may change dorms.

This is a special opportunity

You are privileged to come to us. Make no mistake about this. You are being given a golden opportunity and will get more out of it than we get from you.

You are with us to use English. People say that the British are bad at languages and expect everyone else to use English. This is exactly what we expect. This is why our students are with us. You will admire their ability to speak English and their fluency may put to shame your knowledge of foreign languages. Look at it this way, though - you have the world's language as your mother tongue. With a knowledge of English, you can travel anywhere in the world. It's like a second passport. It is a vitally important language. In many countries, it is impossible to get a job without an English language qualification. If (say) Norwegian were the world language, it is likely you would be very keen to hone your knowledge of Norwegian to perfection. But it is not. English is. You have a linguistic skill that our students dream of. However well they use English, it will not be as good as your native variety. They will use 'international English'. You can teach them many idioms and phrases. You will become aware of how subtle and rich English is.

Our status

By virtue of our Accreditation by The British Council, we are a School on the UK DfES Education Providers' Register. Ian Mucklejohn created Vacational Studies in 1973 and has run it ever since.

Your status

You come as our guest. The Vacational Studies Foundation pays rent for the school and the catering on a per capita basis. You cost a four-figure sum. With your free place come some special responsibilities. We have expectations of you, so you do not have the same freedom as the students. We expect you to mix with all the students and not just cultivate a small group of friends or one 'special' friend. You must accept this difference. Otherwise, pay the Fees and come as the others do.

Our expectations

We expect you to:-

- join in with ALL the activities (don't be shy)
- mix with ALL students - even those you don't like
- not to have an 'exclusive' boy/girlfriend relationship
- be willing to use plenty of English ALL the time
- encourage the use of English and no other language
- be positive in your approach to the Course and the staff
- be a leader (without dominating others)
- use your initiative and not wait for directions

We expressly FORBID you to:-

- break ANY rule (including the out-of-dorm at night rule)
- engage in gossip
- condone breaking the rules, contravene any of the accepted social, legal or behavioural norms for your age so as to discredit you, your family, your country or your school or bring discredit on our organisation and on us, or to engage in any form of sexual activity
- smoke or drink any alcohol or be with anyone so doing

What you will get from the Course:-

- A fantastic time and more personal overseas contacts than anyone your age in this country
- A superb addition to your CV

Our students will come away from the Course with a positive view of our country, its language and people and their peer-group.

We may let your School have a copy of our report on you.

What we expect from you

As our organisation is financing your stay, you owe your loyalty to us. It must be unequivocal.

We shall see you from time to time and ask you how things are going. We want you to give us an honest and informative answer, even if it means you may be telling us what your newly-made friends, or even staff, may not wish you to say. You can trust us completely to use our discretion, but we expect your absolute fidelity. You must tell us if there is undesirable or illegal activity such as alcohol purchase, theft or substance abuse.

Your (and your parents') decision

Is this the way you want to spend a month in the summer? We do not want you to come regretting all the things that you cannot do at home and missing your phone. Please read every word of this information sheet. Make sure your parents have read and accepted all of this, too. Although you are a 'representative' as well as a 'student', you will be expected to comply with the terms of the 'Notes for Students' and you and your parents will be asked to sign your and their understanding of and agreement to them and the 'Notes for Parents' on the 'Agreement and Travel Details' form by 6 June 2027.

One week's probation

We shall assess you at the end of the first week. If you are not shaping up, we shall ask that you be collected on that day.

If we have a problem with you on the Course

If you break any rule or are unhelpful or a nuisance at any stage of the Course, we shall remove you and your parents must collect you on that day. You will come on the basis that they will do this. This has happened twice only.

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