

SKIDMORE ENGLISH LANGUAGE IMMERSION (SKELI) PROGRAM



SUMMER 2014 FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

This information is intended for incoming Skidmore first year students who have accepted Skidmore's offer of conditional admission and are participating in our summer English language and cultural immersion program prior to freshman year.

ABOUT THE SKELI PROGRAM

The SKELI program is designed to improve your academic English fluency and to prepare you for the challenges of a Skidmore education. The core of the program is a summer intensive English course that is short but rigorous. You will attend classes for 4 to 6 hours a day, Monday through Friday for five weeks (June 30 - August 1, 2014). You will focus on academic writing and reading, critical and creative thinking, research skills, and grammar. The reading level and volume of reading will be higher than in your high school courses, and you will need to devote more time and energy to your work than perhaps ever before—but the rewards for your dedication will be great. You can expect a much smoother transition to Skidmore College, and your exposure to college-level work will be an advantage you have over other students—including traditional students who attend no summer program at all.

CONDITIONAL ADMISSION

If your admission to Skidmore *requires* you to take SKELI, you must achieve a "C" or better in the EN-095 course, English for Academic Purposes, in order to continue at Skidmore in the fall semester. **Further, your admission will be reevaluated at the end of the summer by a faculty committee that will assess your English proficiency.** The offer we are extending to you is based on a matrix of selective admission criteria and we have only invited students who we feel have the potential to succeed at Skidmore. **However, full matriculation to Skidmore will be based on the work you do this summer in the EN-095 course.**

FALL ENGLISH COURSE PLACEMENT

Placement into an English course based on your skills at the end of the summer is important for supporting your transition into Skidmore College. All SKELI students are required to take either English 100 or English 103 in the fall semester following their summer experience. The faculty committee mentioned above will evaluate your skills at the end of the summer and determine your placement. The committee may also require that you register for Skidmore's English Language Learners (ELL) course. Following determination of your fall placement, SKELI program staff will work with you to adjust your fall course schedule as necessary.

SKELI PROGRAM STAFF

The college recognizes that this course is challenging and is entirely dedicated to helping you succeed. To that end, we provide a full-time English language course instructor, a Teaching Assistant, a residential Peer Mentor, and the services of the Skidmore Writing Center including an ESL Tutor Specialist.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

While the EN-095 course is undoubtedly focused on academic goals, we also affirm the importance of social exchange and offer activities for students to recharge and explore the campus and region. These activities will also help to alleviate the effects of "culture shock" and help you adjust to Skidmore before the fall semester begins. In short, you can expect an exciting five weeks full of new challenges, new ideas and new friends.

HOW MUCH DOES THE SKELI PROGRAM COST?

The SKELI Program, including Room and Board, runs from June 29 through August 1, 2014 and costs US\$6,400.

There is also an optional bridge period available for an additional cost: You may opt for a housing extension after the end of the SKELI Program on August 1 until International Pre-Orientation officially begins on Sunday, August 24, 2014. The Room and Board fee for this period (August 2 – 23, 2014) is US\$839.

HOW CAN I PREPARE FOR THE COURSE BEFORE ARRIVAL?

SKELI students will read a short book on academic writing titled, *They Say, I Say* (first edition), by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein. If possible, buy that book now and begin reading. Another useful short text is *How to Stop Your Papers from Killing You* by Keith Harrison. If grammar is a concern, try the free, personalized content available at Bedford-St. Martins' "Exercise Central" web page. Finally, any

interaction with English—especially *academic* English—will help as you prepare for this course. You may purchase additional books and supplies once you arrive at the Skidmore Shop, located on the first floor of Case Center.

HOW DO I SUCCEED IN CLASS?

You should increase your reading, writing, and speaking in English in order to prepare for academic and social life at Skidmore. The campus will include students from many different countries, so English will be the common language inside and outside of class. Students who do not prepare find the adjustment difficult and do not perform as well in class.

WHEN DO I HAVE TO ARRIVE AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN I GET THERE?

Please try to arrive at the Summer Registration Desk located on the second level of Case College Center on **Sunday, June 29, between 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.** Please see the website for the campus map and directions:

<http://cms.skidmore.edu/map/directions.cfm>.

WHEN DO I HAVE TO LEAVE CAMPUS?

Plan to leave on Saturday, August 2, by 4 p.m. The only exceptions to this departure date is for those SKELI students who opted for the housing extension through the start of fall semester – an additional room and board fee of \$839 applies. All international students will meet on campus for International Pre-Orientation on Sunday, August 24.

WILL THERE BE TRANSPORTATION TO CAMPUS FROM THE AIRPORT, BUS, OR TRAIN STATIONS ON SUNDAY, JUNE 29?

Skidmore staff will make every effort to meet you at an Albany/Saratoga area airport, bus, or train station and bring you to campus on June 29. We recommend that you arrive as early in the day as possible on June 29 in order to be met by program staff. If you wish to consult with Skidmore staff about your travel before purchasing tickets, you may email Darren Drabek (ddrabek@skidmore.edu). Once your travel plans are secured, please complete [this transportation form](#).

WILL I HAVE TRANSPORTATION TO THE AIRPORT, BUS, OR TRAIN STATIONS ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 2?

Yes. Skidmore College will arrange transportation for students from campus on Saturday, August 2. **Check-out is by 4:00 p.m.**

WHAT ARE THE LIVING ACCOMODATIONS?

Resident Assistants will be present on opening day to show you where your residence hall is and to help you get settled. SKELI program students live together in a Residential Hall with Resident Assistants and a Peer Mentor. Each student will be assigned to a single or double room equipped with a bed, desk, chair, and dresser. A pillow, sheets, and bedspread will be provided for you during the SKELI program.

WHAT ARE THE DINING ACCOMODATIONS?

All meals will be served to the campus community in our popular Murray-Aikens Dining Hall. You will find a large assortment of foods, hot and cold entrees including vegetarian and vegan selections, at every meal. Cooking in your residential rooms is prohibited.

WHEN DO CLASSES BEGIN?

On Monday, June 30, the residential Peer Mentor will walk you to class and pick you up at lunch. A detailed class schedule will be provided to you that day in class.

WILL THERE BE ACCESS TO COMPUTERS ON-CAMPUS?

There are public computers in a number of locations on campus where you can access your email and browse the Internet. Every residence hall room has internet and many areas of the campus are wireless.

WHAT ABOUT PHONES?

The College does NOT provide telephones in its residence halls. Most students have their own cell phones and continue to use them during the school year. The residential Peer Mentor will arrange a trip to a local shopping center where students can get assistance choosing and buying a cell phone.

CAN I USE THE SPORTS AND RECREATION CENTER?

Yes. Program participants have access to an indoor pool, racquetball courts, and workout, fitness and weight rooms. Tennis courts are available on a court-available basis.

CAN I RECEIVE MAIL WHILE I AM ON CAMPUS?

Yes. Mail for all programs is distributed at the Skidmore Post Office located on campus. The correct address for incoming mail is as follows:

Your Name

General Delivery - Summer Programs
Skidmore College
815 N. Broadway
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-1632

HOW MUCH SPENDING MONEY/CASH SHOULD I BRING?

We suggest \$50 per week, not including money for books/supplies. Students should bring cash or traveler's checks issued in the student's name. Parents can go online to add monetary value to the Skidmore College ID Declining Balance Card, which is also your Dining Hall Card. Students will have the opportunity to set up a bank account on campus in the first few days. This would allow for international wire transfers, depositing traveler's checks, or depositing personal checks from home. Several evening and weekend social activities are planned with most expenses being covered by the program fee.

WHERE DO I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

See the Summer Information Guide:

http://www.skidmore.edu/summer/documents/SUM14_Summer_Info_Guide_for_Web.pdf

WHAT OTHER ITEMS SHOULD I BRING (or purchase upon arrival)?

Please note: The residential Peer Mentor will arrange a trip to a local shopping center where students can purchase items.

- Twin sheets (extra-long), a pillowcase, blankets or comforter, extra pillows and anything else that will make you feel comfortable [Note: you will be provided with a pillow, sheets, and bedspread during the SKELI program.]
- Large bath size towels, wash cloths, all personal toiletries including soap, shampoo, conditioner, small mirror, shower shoes and a small tote for carrying your bathroom products
- Small study lamp-high intensity (remember dorm rooms can be dark)
- The dorm is not air-conditioned. For your personal comfort bring a fan. **Air conditioners are not allowed.**
- Alarm clock
- Flashlight, in case of power outages
- Rain gear, umbrella, and sweater or hooded sweatshirt
- Clothes hangers

- Laundry detergent for the washing machines - all machines take the Skidmore College ID Declining Balance Card, which is also your Dining Hall Card.
- You may want to bring a bathing suit/towel as Skidmore has an indoor pool

QUESTIONS?

For questions you don't find the answer to above, please contact Darren Drabek, International Student Coordinator via email, ddrabek@skidmore.edu.