ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION

discovering voices

UK Summer Programmes 2027







A Message from the President of ESU Romania

Summer 2026 was our second season of summer programmes in the UK, and our biggest so far. More students joined us than in our first year, and we saw once again how much young people grow when they step outside their comfort zone.

What we learned is simple: the best experiences happen in small groups. Our camps are intentionally small, so every student is seen, heard and supported.

Each programme combines oracy, learning to think clearly, speak with confidence and listen with care, with real cultural immersion, as students discover Britain, its people and its way of life.

We work only with schools we know and trust, partners we have built strong relationships with over time. For parents, that means peace of mind. For students, it means a warm welcome and a programme designed with care.

At ESU Romania, our mission is to help young people find their voice and use it well, in school, in their communities and in the wider world.

I warmly invite you to explore our 2027 programmes.

Ela Nicolae
President
ESU Romania

From Stage to Summer — The ESU Journey

For three decades, ESU Romania has been at the forefront of promoting oracy, the art of speaking and listening, through education. Since 1996, the National Public Speaking Competition in English has inspired thousands of students to develop confidence, critical thinking, and leadership through the power of speech.

Building on that legacy, ESU Romania launched its first international oracy camp at Brooke House College in Market Harborough, Leicestershire, in 2025. The programme brought together 37 participants from Romania, Japan, and the UK, who spent two weeks immersed in practicing public speaking, debate, and cultural exploration.

In Summer 2026, we grew to 60 students across several programmes. For 2027, we are building on what worked best:

- small camps, where every student gets personal attention and feedback;
- oracy and cultural immersion, side by side, inside and outside the classroom;
- trusted partner schools, chosen for the quality of their programmes and our strong relationships with them.

Through these programmes, we extend the journey that begins with the National Public Speaking Competition, giving young people the chance to deepen their skills, broaden their perspectives and experience oracy in action, beyond the classroom and beyond borders.

Discover your voice on the ESU Romania oracy journey

ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION

Confidence, communication, and culture

English and Oracy at Bishop's Stortford College

Ages 11–14 • 2 weeks • Bishop's Stortford
A perfect first step in oracy for young learners who want to improve English fluency, build confidence, and discover public speaking in a fun, international setting.

- Morning English lessons + Afternoon Oracy Workshops
- 3 public speaking & debate sessions per week
- Learn, speak, and make friends from around the world





Oswestry International Summer School

Ages 11–14 • 1 week • Oswestry
A residential programme at one of England's oldest boarding schools, founded in 1407, combining academic English courses and daily speaking practice with international peers.

- Daily lessons with Oswestry School's own teachers
- Over 20 afternoon activities, from basketball to beekeeping

Public Speaking & Debate Academy at Brooke House College

Ages 11–17 • 1 week • Market Harborough
An intensive one-week academy for students ready to elevate their oracy skills. Daily workshops, mini-competitions, and interactive sessions help participants master persuasive speaking, argumentation, and confident delivery.

- Advanced oracy curriculum focused on debate and presentation
- Small-group training and constructive feedback
- Separate weeks for high school and middle school students



Discover your voice on the ESU Romania oracy journey

ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION

Confidence, communication, and culture

Edinburgh Summer Experience

Ages 11–14 • 1 week • Edinburgh, Fettes College
A one-week cultural immersion in Edinburgh during Fringe Festival, the world's largest arts festival. Interactive Macbeth-themed lessons, then Fringe shows and visits to Holyrood and Scone palaces. Students get to experience campus life at one of Scotland's best-known boarding schools and interact with peers from all over the world.





Speak Up Cambridge

High School only • 1 week • Cambridge
A week of cultural immersion, discovery and oracy. Public speaking and academic writing workshops, punting on the Cam, a day in Oxford and the ESU international final in London and more.

- Watch champions from over 40 countries compete in London in the finals of the International Public Speaking Competition
- Oracy workshop led by ESU oracy coaches from London

"Empowering young people to speak, lead, and connect, wherever their journey begins."

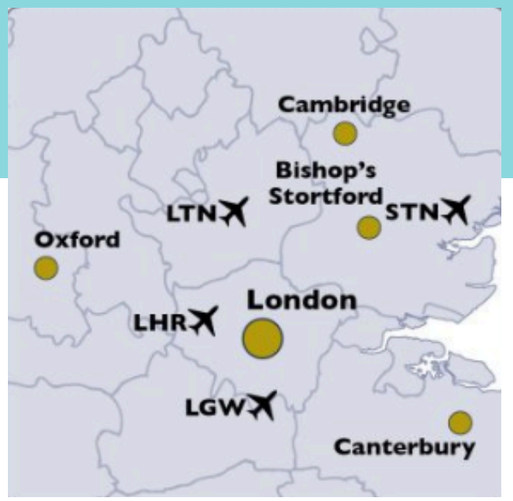


Bishop’s Stortford College

AGE 11-14







Residential campus setting

Bishop’s Stortford College is a private boarding school set in extensive, safe and attractive grounds, offering modern residential, educational and sporting facilities within a welcoming campus environment. Located just a short walk from the historic market town of Bishop’s Stortford and the shops, cafés, and train station, it provides both convenience and tranquillity. The College features well-maintained playing fields, all-weather courts and two floodlit astro pitches, alongside a spacious sports hall, heated indoor swimming pool, theatre, and Art & Design centre. Students can relax at the on-site café between activities, with WiFi available throughout the campus and boarding houses.



KEY FACTS

Age range:
11-14

Board Type:
Single, twin or triple rooms with en-suite or shared bathrooms

Facilities:
Shared central common room. Outdoor sports facilities, lecture theatre, state-of-the-art laboratories, study bedrooms

Security:
Secure and gated countryside location, electronic key access

Airports:
Stansted, 15 minutes
Heathrow,1.2 hours

English Language & Oracy Residential Course

AGE 11-14

KEY FACTS

Location:
Bishop's Stortford College

Dates:
6th- 20 th July 2027

Class size:
15

Certificate:
Personalised report card & certificate

Minimum language level:
B1 for Oracy workshops

Hours per week:
21 hours tuition plus 2 full-day, 2 half-day excursions

Duration:
2 weeks

Fully Inclusive Price:
£3,115

Early bird £2,995
(until 31 January)

English & Public Speaking and Debate

Set in a beautiful and secure campus environment, this programme aims to help students strengthen their communication skills through engaging English lessons and dedicated oracy workshops focused on confidence, creativity, and self-expression.

WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

- Young learners interested in developing both their English and communication skills through interactive learning
- Students joining an international summer school for the first time who want a safe and supportive residential environment
- Those looking for a balanced experience of English lessons, oracy workshops, and fun cultural excursions
- Students eager to build confidence, teamwork, and creativity through public speaking, debate, and project-based learning

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Strengthen main English skills, speaking, listening, reading, and writing, while expanding vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation
- Gain confidence and fluency when communicating in English through interactive lessons and daily immersion
- Develop strong public speaking and debate abilities, learning to express opinions clearly and respond thoughtfully
- Enhance critical thinking, teamwork, and creativity through project-based tasks, discussions, and oracy workshops





There is no language requirement for the English lessons however we do require B1 for the oracy workshops.

Why Bishop's Stortford College?

Bishop's Stortford College offers the perfect balance between academic excellence and a welcoming community atmosphere. Its spacious, green campus provides a safe and inspiring environment where students can focus on learning, exploring, and building friendships.

Students benefit from modern teaching spaces, comfortable boarding houses, and outstanding sports and arts facilities, all within walking distance of the charming market town. The College's supportive environment encourages independence, teamwork, and creativity, helping every student grow in confidence both inside and outside the classroom.

Benefits of the English + Oracy Programme

This unique programme combines English language development with structured oracy training, helping students communicate clearly, confidently, and creatively. Lessons are interactive and engaging, encouraging every student to participate, ask questions, and express ideas in English.

Through small-group workshops, students practise public speaking, debate, and teamwork, gaining valuable skills in listening, reasoning, and presentation. The balance between English lessons, oracy sessions, and cultural activities ensures holistic growth, academic, personal, and social, in a supportive international setting.



Confidence grows when young people are given the space to think, speak and listen and that's what this programme offers.

Ela Nicolae, ESU Romania

Oswestry Summer School

AGE 11-14









School Campus-based Experience

Founded in 1407, Oswestry School is one of the oldest boarding schools in the UK, set in Shropshire, close to the Welsh border. Students live, learn and spend their free time on one safe campus: lessons with the school's own teachers in the morning and over 20 activities to choose from every afternoon, from basketball and fencing to beekeeping. In summer 2026 the school welcomed 291 young people from 18 countries.

KEY FACTS

Age range:

11-14

Board Type:

Twin rooms with en-suite bathroom

Facilities:

Classrooms, sports facilities, boarding houses and on-site medical centre, all on one campus

Security:

Supervised campus, with staff living in every boarding house

Airports:

Manchester, 1.5 hours
Birmingham, 1.5 hours

Oswestry International Summer School

Age 11 - 14

KEY FACTS

Location:

Oswestry, Shropshire

Dates:

28 July – 4 August 2027
OR 4 – 11 August 2027

Class size:

Max. 14 students

Certificate:

Certificate of attendance

Minimum language level:

B1 for the Advanced Track

Hours per week:

20 hours tuition plus 3 excursions per week

Duration:

1 week

Fully Inclusive Price:

£1,550 per week

Early bird £1,450 (until 31 January)

English, Academics & Oracy

Lessons with the school's own teachers, daily speaking practice and over 20 afternoon activities, on a historic campus founded in 1407.

WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

- Middle school students joining an international summer school, for the first time or again
- Strong English speakers (B1+) ready for the Junior Advanced Track: science, economics, art, literature and leadership
- Students who need more English support, with two English lessons a day
- Curious learners who enjoy projects, discussions, presentations and experiments
- Young people keen to make friends from around 18 countries

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Improve English through lessons built around a weekly theme: Art, Culture & Literature or Government & Leadership
- Practise public speaking in a natural way, through projects, discussions and presentations
- Gain confidence and independence living and learning in a British boarding school
- Discover England and Wales on excursions to Stratford-upon-Avon, Oxford, Chirk Castle, Shrewsbury and the seaside





Why Oswestry School?

Oswestry School, founded in 1407, runs a summer school that brings together young people from around the world: in 2026 it welcomed 291 students from 18 countries, with 37 teachers, 20 excursions and 48 activities.

Before the camp, every student has a short online conversation with summer school director Maurice Walters, so they are placed on the right track: the Junior Advanced Track (B1+), with lessons in science, economics, art, literature and leadership, or the English track, with two English lessons a day for those who need more support.

Learning by doing

Lessons are designed to get students talking: projects, discussions, presentations and experiments, in classes of up to 14 with teaching assistants. Students practise public speaking in a natural, practical way.

Every afternoon they choose from over 20 creative, sporting, social and academic activities, plus excursions to places such as Shakespeare's Birthplace, Oxford and Chirk Castle. A member of staff lives in each boarding house, and an ESU Romania group leader travels with the group from the airport and back.





BROOKE HOUSE COLLEGE
ENGLAND

Brooke House College

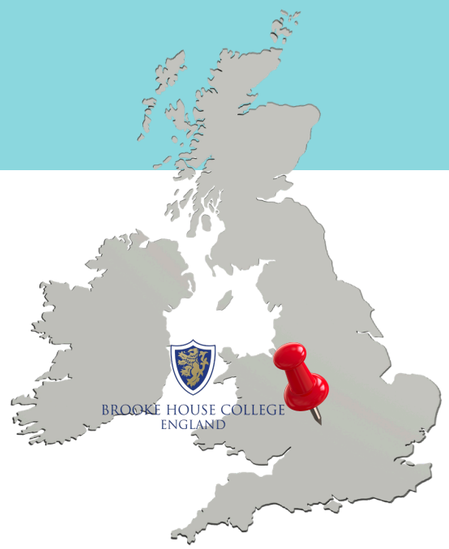
AGE 14-17











A blended campus and community learning environment

Brooke House College is set in a peaceful and quiet environment, with its buildings spread across the charming town of Market Harborough. The college offers students a unique and inspiring learning experience in a location that combines the benefits of both town and countryside.

Accommodation is provided at Northampton House, just a short distance from the main campus, offering a comfortable, homely atmosphere for students. This setting offers an ideal place for young learners to focus on their studies and enjoy a calm, secure environment.

KEY FACTS

Age range:
14 - 17

Board Type:
Twin rooms with ensuite bathroom

Facilities:
Shared central common room. Outdoor sports facilities.

Security:
Restricted access and electronic key codes.

Airports:
Stansted, 1.5 hours
Heathrow, 2 hours

Public Speaking & Debate Academy

Age 11 - 17

KEY FACTS

Location:
Brooke House College, Market Harborough

Dates:
18th - 25th July 2027 OR 25th July - 1st August 2027

Class size:
12 - 14

Certificate:
Certificate of attendance

Minimum language level:
B1

Hours per week:
20 hours tuition plus 1 full-day, 2 half-day excursion

Duration:
1 week

Fully Inclusive Price:
£1,690 per week

Early bird £1,590 (until 31 January)

Public Speaking and Debate Academy

Set in a picturesque, tranquil location, the Public Speaking & Debate Academy at Brooke House College helps students enhance their communication skills through dynamic workshops and interactive learning experiences.

WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

- Students eager to develop public speaking and debating skills in an inspiring, supportive environment
- Learners seeking to build confidence when presenting ideas clearly and persuasively
- Those interested in team-based discussions, structured debates, and leadership activities
- Beginners to intermediate debaters looking to develop foundational skills in an inclusive, engaging setting
- Advanced debaters (returning students or those with prior experience) looking for a dedicated track that challenges their debating techniques and encourages more strategic and quick-thinking debates

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Develop strong oracy skills including public speaking, argumentation, and persuasive debate
- For beginners and intermediate students: gain confidence in delivering structured arguments, participating in debates, and using persuasive language effectively
- For advanced students: refine advanced debating techniques, quick-thinking strategies, and complex rhetorical skills in competitive settings
- Build the ability to handle live challenges, respond under pressure, and maintain clarity in fast-paced debates





Why Brooke House College?

Brooke House College offers a vibrant, secure campus set in the picturesque English countryside, providing an ideal environment for focused learning and personal growth. The college boasts modern facilities, spacious dormitories, and state-of-the-art classrooms, all within a safe, supportive atmosphere.

Situated in Market Harborough, a charming town close to London, it provides easy access to both quiet, reflective spaces and lively social settings. This unique location encourages both academic success and personal development, ensuring students can grow in confidence while being part of an international learning community. With a focus on public speaking, debate, and oracy, Brooke House College is the perfect place to cultivate your voice.

Benefits of the Public Speaking & Debate Academy



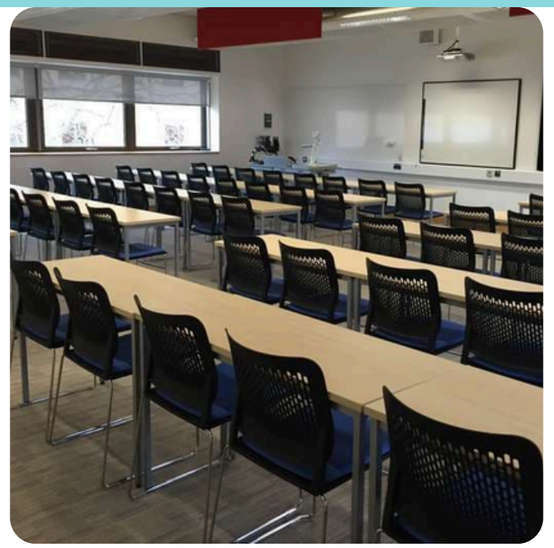
Sessions are led by oracy coaches from the English-Speaking Union in London. The programme's mix of public speaking workshops, debate preparation and team challenges helps students gain confidence while mastering the art of speaking persuasively in front of others.

The Academy is structured to cater to all skill levels, with dedicated tracks for beginners, intermediate, and advanced students, ensuring each participant receives the right level of challenge. Advanced debaters benefit from specialised sessions that focus on quick thinking, strategic argumentation, and complex rhetorical techniques. This approach ensures every student leaves with stronger oracy skills, a deeper understanding of debate, and increased confidence, whether for future school projects, competitions, or public speaking events.

Speak Up Cambridge
Cambridge, Oxford & London

HIGH SCHOOL











A week of culture, discovery and oracy

A week in which students don't sit at desks: they speak, write and explore. Cambridge becomes their home for a week, discovered on foot and by punt on the River Cam, past the colleges where Isaac Newton and Charles Darwin studied. A day in Oxford takes them to the Bodleian Library and Christ Church, and the week ends in London at the final of the ESU International Public Speaking Competition, with national champions from over 40 countries.

KEY FACTS

Age range:
High school

Board Type:
Hotel twin rooms with en-suite bathroom

Facilities:
Workshops at Anglia Ruskin University

Security:
ESU Romania group leader throughout the trip

Airports:
Stansted, 30 minutes
Heathrow, 1.2 hours

Speak Up Cambridge

High school

KEY FACTS

Location:
Cambridge, UK

Dates:
5 – 11 July 2027

Class size:
14

Certificate:
Certificate of attendance

Minimum language level:
B1

Programme:
2 workshops, a day trip to Oxford and a day in London

Duration:
1 week

Fully Inclusive Price:
£1,695

Early bird £1,595
(until 31 January)

A week of cultural immersion, discovery and oracy for high school students: public speaking and academic writing workshops, punting on the Cam, a day in Oxford and the ESU international final in London.

WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

- High school students who want to speak and write with more confidence in English
- Students curious about studying at a British university one day
- Young people who enjoy history, culture and exploring new cities
- Students interested in public speaking who want to see the world's best young speakers live
- Anyone keen to practise English in real situations, not only in class

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Build a speech people remember: one clear idea, a simple structure, a strong opening and ending
- Use voice, pauses, eye contact and posture to look confident, even when you are not
- Turn an opinion into an argument: thesis, evidence, counterarguments
- Write clearly and concisely in English, as British universities expect, useful for admission essays and language exams





Why Speak Up Cambridge?

Two of England's oldest university cities in one week. Students discover Cambridge on foot and from the water, then spend a day in Oxford, the oldest university in the English-speaking world, visiting the Bodleian Library and the dining hall at Christ Church that inspired the Great Hall in Harry Potter.

On Friday the group travels to London for the final of the International Public Speaking Competition organised by the English-Speaking Union, where national champions from over 40 countries compete.

Short, intense, practical workshops



Two workshops at Anglia Ruskin University, one on public speaking and one on academic writing: little theory, lots of practice and on-the-spot feedback from the trainers. The public speaking workshop prepares students for Friday, so they watch the international final with new eyes and understand what makes champions win.

Students stay at the Travelodge Cambridge Newmarket Road (or similar hotel) in twin rooms with en-suite bathrooms, with breakfast and dinner at the hotel. On workshop days lunch is served at Anglia Ruskin University; on other days students get a packed lunch. An ESU Romania group leader is with the group from the airport until parents collect them on return, and parents follow the week in a WhatsApp group.

Edinburgh Summer Experience

AGE 11-14











Culture, theatre and Macbeth

A week of cultural immersion in Edinburgh during Fringe festival, the world's largest arts festival. Students live on the campus of Fettes College, one of Scotland's best-known schools, see Fringe shows and visit Holyrood Palace, the royal residence in Edinburgh, and Scone Palace, where the kings of Scotland were crowned. The theme of the week is Macbeth.

KEY FACTS

Age range:

11-14

Board Type:

Single, twin and multi-bed rooms, shared bathrooms

Facilities:

Boarding houses, dining hall, sports facilities and medical point on campus

Security:

24-hour campus security, school staff on site

Airports:

Edinburgh, 20 minutes
Airport transfer included

Edinburgh Summer Experience

Age 11 - 14

KEY FACTS

Location:

Fettes College, Edinburgh

Dates:

7 – 14 August 2027
(Saturday to Saturday)

Class size:

Max. 14 students

Certificate:

Certificate at graduation

Minimum language level:

A2

Hours per week:

17.5 hours of lessons plus Fringe shows and excursions

Duration:

1 week

Fully Inclusive Price:

£1,790

Early bird £1,690
(until 31 January)

English & Cultural Immersion

Interactive English lessons with Fettes teachers, Fringe shows and visits to Holyrood and Scone palaces, during the world's largest arts festival.

WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

- Middle school students (up to 14) looking for a memorable first summer abroad
- Young people who love theatre, stories and history
- Students who want to practise English in real situations, with peers from many countries
- Curious learners who enjoy seeing in real life what they study in class
- Families looking for a safe, fully supervised campus experience

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Improve English through interactive lessons linked to the week's theme and the places students visit
- Discover Macbeth in class, then at Scone Palace, where Scotland's kings were crowned
- Experience live performances at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe
- Gain confidence and independence living on a British boarding school campus





Why Fettes College?

Fettes College is one of Scotland's best-known boarding schools, and in August its summer programme sits right in the middle of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Students stay on campus in the college boarding houses, with meals in the school dining hall, a traditional Scottish breakfast on Sunday, 24-hour security and Wi-Fi.

Monday to Friday mornings, students have interactive English lessons with the school's teachers, in classes of up to 14, linked to the theme of the week and the places they visit. On Thursday they visit Holyrood Palace with their teacher.

In the footsteps of Macbeth

Macbeth was a real king of Scotland, crowned in 1040 at Scone, on the hill students visit on Sunday. Shakespeare turned his story into one of the world's most famous plays, and this week students meet it first in class and then in the real places.

Afternoons bring Fringe shows, excursions and campus activities; evenings include Highland Games, a ghost tour, an international evening and a farewell disco. The week ends with a graduation ceremony in the school chapel.







What participants and parents had to say about our 2026 Summer Programmes

The Cambridge experience sent a different child home! I don't know what you did with the one who left a few days ago, but the one who came back is far more mature and sure of herself. For two nights now she hasn't slept, trying to tell me everything. Thank you for giving them not just a memory they will never forget, but a life experience and a confidence that we parents, however much we want to, cannot give them directly."

Corina C., Diana's mum (Suceava), University prep in Cambridge





Ana talked excitedly about absolutely everything she experienced in Cambridge. She genuinely valued all the feedback she received, especially the critical feedback, because, she says, it opened her eyes. The other students made the experience even better, and she grew fond of all of them."

Diana S., Ana-Maria's mum (Craiova), University prep in Cambridge

This is our second summer on the ESU programmes and both girls really enjoyed them. I. loved the Brighton camp – the campus, the kids and the classes! S. had a great time discovering Cambridge! "

Camelia I., parent,







R. spoke with so much emotion about everything he experienced, the people around him and the friendships he made. His only regret is that he came home so soon. I never expected him to say he wished he could have stayed 'the whole holiday'."

Corina S, parent, Brighton programme



Thank you for this wonderful experience, and for the care, patience and dedication you showed the children."

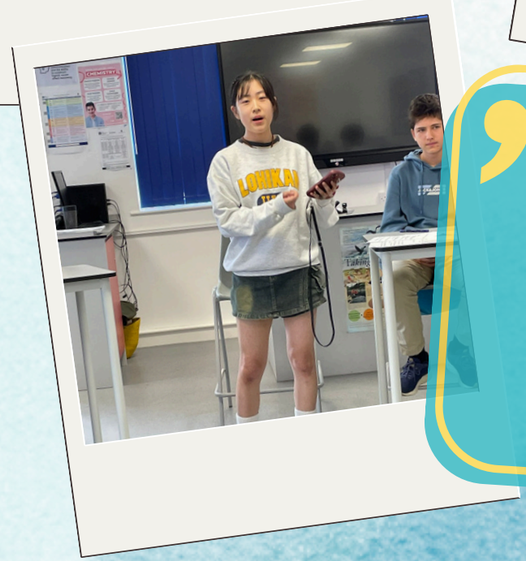
Alina G, parent Brighton programme

What participants and parents had to say about our Summer of 2025

My week at the public speaking and debate camp in the UK was full of energy, learning, and unforgettable moments. I learned to speak with more confidence, build stronger arguments, and express my ideas more clearly. With friends from all over Romania, we shared lots of joy, and the trips to Cambridge and London added a touch of magic. Our teacher was always warm and supportive, guiding us patiently every step of the way. It was a wonderful, unforgettable experience!"
— Măriuca, participant from Bacău, 16







I had a great experience and I hope to see everyone again in the future! During the camp, I was definitely able to improve my oracy skills, and I'll do my best to keep using what I've learned. It was inspiring to meet so many wonderful people and to learn in such a supportive environment."
— Ruri, participant from Japan, 16





"Elena had such a wonderful time – it was an extraordinary experience for her! She made great friends and still talks to them every day. Thank you for everything – the organisation, the lessons, and all that she learned. At first, I thought it might be difficult since she didn't know anyone, but I've never seen her so happy and excited! The best money we've ever spent."
— Costina, Elena's mum (Călărași)

Malia really enjoyed the summer camp — she had such a great time! We're so happy we came across this programme. Thank you to the whole team for giving her such a wonderful experience!"
— Julia, Malia's mum (Birmingham)



"My children loved the camp and we're so grateful for the wonderful organisation and initiative! They really enjoyed the group leaders, the trainers, their camp friends, and the trip to Oxford. David especially loved the debating sessions — it was something completely new for him — and he's eager to take part in similar activities again. For Andrei, it was both an extraordinary experience and an adventure — his very first camp abroad. They are already looking forward to taking part in next year's programmes."
— Madalina, Andrei and David's mum (Bucharest)

Contact Us

We're here to answer your questions and guide you through the journey of selecting the right summer programme for you. Whether you're a prospective student, a parent, or a teacher, feel free to reach out to us.

Contact Information

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