



**Summer 2010**

## **Pre-College Programs for High School Students**

### **Ramapo College International Studies Institute (RCISI)**

*Founded Fall 2009, modeled after the former New Jersey Governor's School of International Studies at Ramapo College of New Jersey*

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

Ramapo College's International Studies Institute (RCISI) is modeled after the prestigious New Jersey Governor's School of International Studies previously held at Ramapo College each summer between 2000 and 2009. Ramapo College has retained core faculty and staff from the earlier program to offer the identical curriculum to talented rising juniors and seniors, July 5-16, 2010.

The International Studies Institute is an intensive, residential learning experience designed to develop intellectual abilities, reinforce and enrich a positive self-image, and challenge capabilities with new vision through deep personal involvement and sincere, open exploration of ideas and feelings. RCISI aims high!

Expected outcomes include:

- a transdisciplinary global awareness and appreciation of both living and non-living systems;
- enriched personal awareness of diversity among ideas, people, and visions of the future;
- recognition of the perils and promise of global and local changes in technology, economic conditions, and patterns of interdependence;
- ability to clarify personal values and to take a moral stance; ability to work collaboratively with other RCISI scholars, faculty, and staff; and
- an enhanced sense of personal responsibility, agency, and hope, which leads to a new sense of civic and global commitment amidst a recognition of complexity and ambiguity.

RCISI is housed on the beautiful campus of Ramapo College of New Jersey in northern Bergen County. Curricular activities continue through the weekend and evenings, but there is time for such social activities as the "RCISI Olympics," alumni barbeque, talent share, and farewell dance. RCISI avails itself of proximity to New York City with a United Nations field trip. Students must attend the entire residential program. No weekend or evening leaves are permitted.

#### **THE CURRICULUM**

##### **Core Courses**

In morning sessions, RCISI scholars investigate contemporary international issues. College faculty and international policy experts assist RCISI scholars on the background and research tools necessary for them to prepare for their international policy debates. The courses typically meet for three sessions each, and provide the skills necessary to undertake the capstone International Communications and Negotiations Simulation (ICONS) module, described below. The courses also introduce the crisis scenarios that provide the grist for ICONS.

**Negotiations and Diplomacy:** RCISI scholars consider practical and ethical dilemmas of negotiation through case studies. In addition to understanding the "science" of negotiation theory, students also practice the "art" of negotiation. Class discussion, role-playing and other small group activities are an important aspect of this course.

**Human Rights and Rule of Law:** RCISI scholars examine pressing human rights issues that defined the past two centuries, the evolution of the idea of human rights since the European Age of Enlightenment, the development of human rights law since World War II, and the origins and roles of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the United Nations.

**Global Environment and Resources:** RCISI scholars address current global problems and issues related to the environment and resource use and distribution. Basic scientific principles meet human behavior, cultural traditions, and global economic realities.

**International Trade and Economics:** RCISI scholars are introduced to principles of international trade and economics with an emphasis on the roles of international economic institutions and their impacts on developing nations. RCISI scholars learn to recognize different economic mechanisms and to analyze policy options in international business and economic case studies.

**International Public Health:** RCISI scholars learn about the interconnectedness of global public health policy, international development work, and the daily lives of people. Case studies focus on specific diseases and prevention strategies in light of varied socio-cultural and economic realities.

### **Workshops and Seminars**

#### **Intercultural Communications Seminar**

The Intercultural Communications Seminar is an experientially based course designed to expose RCISI scholars to the skills, attitudes, and knowledge required to interact effectively in other cultures. RCISI scholars will discuss issues including negotiation of cultural and social identities for effective communication, conflict resolution in cross-cultural interactions, and develop interactive strategies for increasing intercultural competence. The seminar will also include a critical reflection component, which will encourage RCISI scholars to draw from their experiences to gain insights into their own as well as society's barriers to intercultural communication.

#### **Global Media Literacy Workshop**

In the Media Literacy Workshop RCISI scholars discuss media and debate its impact in society, transforming students into active and critical media producers. The approach is cross-cultural and comparative. Module objectives include gaining an understanding of interrelationships between communications and international, political and economic infrastructures; acquiring fundamental knowledge of relevant technologies and regulation; learning to write cyber-columns, op-ed's, media alerts and press releases; writing, producing, and performing for the electronic media; planning and conducting a press conference; and learning about standards of media ethics.

#### **International Dance Workshop**

Intercultural dynamics are taught through Argentine Tango, which exercises multiple senses and provides a break from academic stress.

#### **Global Seminar**

The Global Seminar course focuses on a region or topic related to current world events. Recent Seminars: Global Conflict Resolution; Iraq: A Work in Progress; Africa and the Millennium Development Goals.

### **International Communications and Negotiations Simulation (ICONS)**

ICONS is an interdisciplinary computer-assisted learning exercise designed to provide a structured opportunity to practice and test social science theories presented in the formal coursework. Students are assigned to one of ten country teams. Recent country teams include: Brazil, China, Ethiopia, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Russia, and United States. Under the supervision of a Resident Teaching Assistant, each group formulates foreign policy, agrees on negotiation priorities and strategies, and then attempts to resolve through diplomatic means a number of specific issues (e.g., arms control, international debt and development concerns, international trade agreements, human rights, and environmental problems). The simulation is conducted in several sessions, incorporating research, in-team consultations and message-drafting, on-line negotiations, and small and large group debriefings.

### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

- keen and demonstrated interest in international studies
- ability to participate in a rigorous academic environment
- ability and desire for close cooperation and collaboration with peers
- commitment to the full program
- at least a B average in academic course grades (excluding gym, art, and shop courses)
- complete, thoughtful, and timely application **including the attachments described below**
- extracurricular activities that demonstrate engagement with community, international and/or intercultural affairs, and self-discipline

## International Studies Institute

- substantive and positive recommendation

### **STUDENT APPLICATION ATTACHMENTS**

In addition to the application and recommendation form, please submit:

1. A typed autobiographical sketch of about 100 words including your personal background, experience, and aspirations, and why you want to participate in the International Studies Institute.
2. A typed essay of 200 to 250 words describing two key challenges to global prosperity, how they might be related, and how “prosperity” might be described.
3. A list of extracurricular activities or awards relevant to the International Studies Institute. (Model UN, Debate Team, service or political action clubs, etc.)
4. A list of other extracurricular school and community activities, indicating offices held, leadership positions, and amount of time devoted to each per week. Include paid work experience as well as volunteer positions.

**REMEMBER TO KEEP A COPY OF YOUR APPLICATION ATTACHMENTS!**

### **Program Information:**

For further **Ramapo College International Studies Institute** program information, please contact:

Dr. Jeremy Geller, Executive Director  
Roukema Center for International Education  
Ramapo College of New Jersey  
505 Ramapo Valley Road  
Mahwah, NJ 07430  
201.684.7533 (Phone)  
201.684.7989 (FAX)  
[jgeller@ramapo.edu](mailto:jgeller@ramapo.edu)

### **General Information:**

For general information about Ramapo College’s *Pre-College Experience* Programs administered through the Center for Innovative and Professional Learning, please contact:

### **Center for Innovative and Professional Learning (A-233)**

Ramapo College of New Jersey  
505 Ramapo Valley Road  
Mahwah, NJ 07430  
201.684.7370 (Phone)  
201.684.7277 (FAX)  
[cipl@ramapo.edu](mailto:cipl@ramapo.edu)