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## DURBAN HIGH SCHOOL

### INTERNATIONAL STUDIES PROGRAMME

#### What is the purpose of the International Studies Programme?

While the benefits of the ISP are many and varied, our core aim is to provide an opportunity for DHS learners to gain an international perspective, establish cross-cultural and interpersonal skills which will insure their success in the global environment of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

- This programme encourages learners to connect with each other by completing specific academically driven assignments via “live” internet discussion using technologies such as Skype, Facebook and email. Each learner establishes a relationship with one particular student in the corresponding nation. This programme is an opportunity for students to expand their cultural understanding, reflect upon their own cultural and national heritage and develop skills in working with international students on specific academic assignments.
- This is an Independent Study course. Learners are expected to:
  - communicate with their international partner about once a week,
  - attend monthly classes and,
  - meet with their teacher twice a month.
- There are eight assignments which are placed throughout the year including topics which require comparison of cultures, school systems, economies, challenges facing their nations and personal family history.
- Students who have success in the programme receive a letter with their final Grade 11 report detailing their participation and core competencies mastered.
- We are placing learners with international partners who speak English and have committed to continual communication. Participating countries are: USA and Portugal. Plans are underway to partner with a school in Kenya, Ghana and India.
- It is our hope that students will develop a lasting relationship with their partner. Correspondent students from the USA and Portugal will be visiting DHS in 2017 and 2018 and we will be travelling to some of these locations in the course of 2018.
- The ISP is run by two teachers in the DHS History Department. Questions can be directed to:
  - Ms Goring at [erica.goring@durbanhighschool.co.za](mailto:erica.goring@durbanhighschool.co.za)
  - Mr Hellenberg at [roy.hellenberg@durbanhighschool.co.za](mailto:roy.hellenberg@durbanhighschool.co.za)

*“Ours is a world of 24-hour-news cycles, global markets, and high-speed Internet. We need to look no further than our morning paper to see that our future, and the future of our children, is inextricably linked to the complex challenges of the global community. And for our children to be prepared to take their place in that world and rise to those challenges, they must first understand it.”*

Roderick Paige, Former US Secretary of Education

### Who would be the Partner Schools?

Corona del Mar (CdM), 2101 Eastbluff Dr, Newport Beach, California, 92660, USA

Durban High School (DHS), 255 St Thomas Road, Musgrave, Durban, 4001, South Africa

CdM terms are structured as follows:

- First Term - Late August until 31 October
- Second Term - November until 15 January
- Third Term - 23 January until 30 March
- Fourth Term - April until 10 June

The South African academic year is structured as follows for 2018:

- First Term - 11 January to 23 March
- Second Term - 10 April to 22 June
- Third Term - 16 June to 28 September
- Fourth Term - 8 October to 7 December

### When would the exchange take place?

DHS exchange student will go to the USA during the South African Third Term (June - September) and the CdM exchange student will come to South Africa in our Second Term (April - June).

### What would be the criteria for a DHS learner to qualify for the ISP?

**Required Subjects / Course:** Participants must be registered for at least two of the following subjects:

- FET History
- FET Geography
- FET Business Studies
- FET Economics
- Cultural Studies I, II, III\*

#### **Academic & Language Requirements:**

- Must have at least a 70% aggregate
- Must have at least a 70% average for English
- Must have at least a 60% average for First Additional Language
- Being fluent in another Language (Portuguese, Spanish or French) will be considered an advantage

#### **Extra-Mural Involvement:**

Participants must be an active member in:

- CULTURAL ACTIVITIES (at least two) - Debating, Toastmasters, Model United Nations, Current Affairs Society, RCL, Durban Youth Council
- SPORT - Participants must be actively involved at least one sport per season.
- COMMUNITY SERVICE - Must have completed at least 12 hours of community service per year whilst at DHS.

#### **Cultural Studies I, II & III**

These courses are only available to ISP participants and will be conducted after normal school hours:

- International School Partnership.
- Independent Study as the Programme does not meet during the school day as a school abroad in their Grade 9, 10 & 11 years.
- With their foreign partner, you will complete 4 - 8 assignments per year in order to remain part of the ISP.
- This will culminate in a visit to your partner's country and school. A major assignment will conclude the Programme.

Sensitive thought and deliberation needs to go into the process of selecting the most appropriate candidate for the exchange. The exchange school needs to be informed if there is an exchange student with medical complications that could lead to potential concerns.

**Duration of Exchange?**

Maximum duration would be one term / three months. Preferably from July - September every year. The incoming exchange student will visit between April - June.

**Where would the exchange student be accommodated?**

The DHS exchange students will be accommodated in the homes of the CdM exchange students and vice versa.

**What is the role of the ISP Coordinator?**

The ISP coordinator of the school is to play an active role in recruiting, managing the after-hours component of the ISP, issuing and marking assignments as well as providing support and guidance for the exchange students and their parents during the physical exchange part of the Programme. The ISP coordinator must meet with the participants on a regular basis. The ISP coordinator needs to be responsible for communicating effectively with parents. Should any concern arise, the ISP coordinator is to be involved in order to help resolve any issues.

**What is the role of the host school?**

An academic and extra-mural programme needs to be in place in order to accommodate the visiting exchange students. Exchange students are expected to attend a minimum of 6 different subjects and to fulfil the requirements of each of those subjects. They are also expected to participate in a minimum of 2 extra-mural activities (sport, society, etc).

**What is the role of the Host Family?**

There must be a stable and supportive home environment for the exchange student. The host parents and siblings need to be prepared to accommodate an exchange student and make necessary adjustments to their lifestyle during their time of hosting. The host family is required to take care of the exchange student's basic needs. It is also the responsibility of the host family to ensure that their time during weekends is appropriately used in order to maximize the exchange student's cultural, historical and social experience.

The host family must be aware of the financial commitment and extra expenses when accommodating an exchange student (DHS school fees must still be paid even whilst the DHS learner is away on the exchange). The host parents are responsible for ensuring that the exchange student is able to communicate with her/his own parents back home. Communication must also be open between both sets of parents.