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**ST. JOHN'S**  
**UNIVERSITY**

## **ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY – GLOBAL INNOVATORS ACADEMY** **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **GENERAL**

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#### **What is St. John's University (SJU) Global Innovators Academy?**

The Global Innovators Academy is a two-week summer program for international high school students. This summer academy is open to students 15 years of age or older (at program start date) who are currently in high school. Students will participate in daily workshops on the nature and genesis of innovation, with a focus on New York City as an innovation incubator. Participants will also be coached in effective public speaking and presentation skills. Students will attend lectures given by faculty from SJU's College of Professional Studies on topics in Computer Science. The program is enriched by extracurricular activities which include community service, excursions to some of NYC's many cultural landmarks and on-campus team-building activities.

#### **Who is eligible for the SJU Global Innovators Academy (GIA)?**

The SJU Global Innovators Academy is designed for international high school students. Students must be 15 years of age or older, and enrolled in high school.

#### **What are the 2017 dates for the SJU Global Innovators Academy?**

The 2017 SJU Global Innovators Academy (GIA) will take place from Sunday, July 23-Saturday, August 5 at the Queens campus of St. John's University (SJU) in New York City.

#### **What is the program fee and what does it cover?**

The program fee is \$3,975. It excludes airfare, visa costs and travel insurance. It includes

- Tuition
- Accommodation on the St. John's University Queens campus
- All meals
- Medical insurance during stay at the program
- Entry to all off-campus activities and venues

#### **Will students receive a certificate upon completing the SJU Global Innovators Academy?**

All students who complete the program will receive a certificate of participation. Students must attend and participate in all program activities, and maintain good conduct during the program. Students not meeting these criteria may not receive certificates.

#### **Will attending the SJU Global Innovators Academy help me earn admission into St. John's University?**

The admission process for the program is completely independent from that of St. John's University.

Participation in the SJU Global Innovators Academy does NOT guarantee admission into St. John’s University. However, the SJU Global Innovators Academy is a unique opportunity for high school students to experience an American city campus and education. The program includes a session on U.S. college admissions to help students understand the nuances of applying to American colleges and universities.

**Are scholarships available for the SJU Global Innovators Academy?**

Not at this point, but we anticipate the availability of scholarships in the future.

**How many students participate in each session of the program? From which countries can students apply?**

We typically welcome about 45 students per session. The GIA accepts students from all countries.

**Can I arrive late and/or leave early for the program?**

No. Due to the intensive nature of the GIA, we require students to commit to and participate in the full two weeks.

**Can I earn college credits by participating in the SJU Global Innovators Academy?**

No. The SJU Global Innovators Academy is a non-credit program.

**I don’t have standardized test scores, such as the TOEFL, ACT, SAT, or PSAT. Will that hurt my chances of being accepted?**

No. Although standardized test scores are often very useful in gauging an applicant’s academic achievement and potential, we understand that some students will not have standardized test scores available by the time of application. We do, however, expect applicants who have received standardized test scores to report those scores to us.

**When will we receive the program agenda/schedule?**

Tentative agenda/schedule details are typically shared two weeks prior to the program start date.

**Can I connect with other participants in my session before the program starts?**

Yes. We will help you connect to other participants through social media groups and WhatsApp closer to the program start date.

**I am having problems with the online application. Whom do I contact for assistance?**

If you have a question or query about the program, feel free to reach out to us at [stjohns@braingainmag.com](mailto:stjohns@braingainmag.com) or +91-9971500580

## APPLICATION

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**How do I apply for the SJU Global Innovators Academy?**

Students apply to the SJU Global Innovators Academy [online](#). Applicants will need the following to be considered for the program:

- ☐ A completed online application
- ☐ A High school transcript
- ☐ A 500-word essay

### **What is the SJU Global Innovators Academy admission deadline?**

We have a rolling admission, and admissions are on a first-come, first-served basis, so applying earlier will increase your chances of acceptance. No applications will be accepted later than 30<sup>th</sup> May 2017 or if all the slots have been confirmed -- whichever happens first.

### **When will I find out if I have been admitted to the SJU Global Innovators Academy?**

We review applications as we receive them. You will be notified of the status of your application within 7-10 working days of the submission of the application.

### **How do I know that you have received my application?**

Applicants can check the status of all application requirements in real time by logging in to their online accounts. Please regularly check the "Alerts" tab on the top right-hand screen of your portal for updates about your application.

## **TRAVEL**

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### **How do I apply for a visa for the SJU Global Innovators Academy? What kind of visa should I get?**

If you hold a passport from a country in the [Visa Waiver Program](#) (VWP), you do not need a visa to attend the program. In order to travel without a visa on the VWP, you must have authorization through the [Electronic System for Travel Authorization](#) (ESTA) prior to boarding a U.S. bound air or sea carrier. The SJU Global Innovators Academy is a short-term, non-credit program, so international students can come on a [B-2](#) Business Visitor visa for educational travel (a student visa is not required as B-2 permits enrolment in a short recreational course of study, not for credit toward a degree), which will allow them to participate in the SJU Global Innovators Academy as well as tourist-related activities that are a part of the program. It is each student's responsibility to obtain the necessary visas and meet the requirements.

### **When will my visa letter be issued?**

If required, we will provide each selected candidate with a visa sponsorship letter, which can be used to apply for the B-2 visa. The visa letter will be issued after receiving your payment and signed forms.

### **What about travel arrangements? Will we be traveling as a group?**

Students have to plan their own travel. Students can either travel to the U.S. on their own or choose to travel with our GIA group. If traveling on their own, they can meet us at the arrival airport or campus. We will provide shuttle service from the airport to the campus. On the return we will provide a drop-off to the airport in New York at a scheduled time. Detailed information will be provided post selection.

### **Will someone accompany us for the program?**

Yes, a chaperone will be present during the course of the program. Chaperone and other participant details will be shared once students are completely committed to the program.

### **Do we need insurance?**

Yes, you will be required to purchase a special medical insurance to cover you during your stay on campus which will be provided by St John's University. The US \$50 that we have collected is the fee towards this medical insurance. Additionally, we strongly suggest that you also purchase international travel insurance from your home country to cover you during travel and off-campus stays.

**In order to get to the program from my country, I need to arrive in the United States a little earlier than it starts and leave a bit later. Do you offer any housing or other type of travel assistance in that case?**

No. We do not provide housing before or after the program dates. You can only arrive on campus on the program start date and leave the campus no later than the program's last day.

## **LIVING ON THE ST JOHN'S UNIVERSITY QUEEN'S CAMPUS**

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### **Where will I live during the program?**

During the program, participants will live in dormitories on the St. John's University Queens campus.

- Dormitories are staffed 24/7 with security personnel. Students swipe their StormCard (SJU ID) to enter the building.
- All housing is triple occupancy, and students are randomly assigned, based on gender.
- All buildings are air conditioned.
- Linens are provided.
- Free washing machines and dryers are available.

### **What are the New York State Public Health Law requirements from participants?**

New York State Public Health Law requires completion and submission of the following forms for every student:

- Health Examination Form** – A medical examination within one year prior to arrival is required. The form must include your Physician's signature and date, Physician's license number and stamp. A list of immunization records is required.
- Meningococcal Meningitis Letter & Vaccination Response Form** – Required if the length of stay is seven (7) or more consecutive nights. St. John's University is required to provide information about meningococcal meningitis. A parent or guardian should complete and sign the Meningococcal Meningitis Vaccination Response Form indicating whether the child has been immunized against meningococcal meningitis within the past 5/10 years. St. John's University strongly recommends the meningococcal meningitis vaccination.

### **Can parents stay on campus during the course of the program?**

Parents cannot stay on campus during the program.

### **Can parents and family visit the students during the program?**

No, parents cannot visit students during the program.

### **How much money should the child carry for field trips and otherwise?**

We suggest \$55 per day for meals. Other than that, spending money amounts are at your discretion. Please note, however, that students should not carry more than \$5,000.

### **Can I go and visit my family/friends in the U.S. once the program ends?**

Yes, once the program ends you are free to travel as you like.

### **Can students leave campus during the program after classes are over for the day?**

No. Students are not permitted to leave campus after classes.

**Do students have a curfew? What are other significant rules? Are students always supervised by adults?**

The program takes student safety and security very seriously. We provide 24/7 adult supervision. Students do have a nightly curfew and must be inside their rooms before 10:00 p.m.

**Will students have access to a gym?**

Yes. Students have access to the University's fitness centre.

**I have personal dietary restrictions. Will I be able to eat in the university dining halls?**

Yes. University dining halls offer a buffet style of meals and can cater to personal dietary needs due to allergy restrictions or religious observances. The dining halls also offer a variety of vegetarian/vegan meal selections. We will be in touch with you regarding your dietary requirements once you have been selected into the program.

**Will we have access to Wi-Fi on campus?**

Yes. The program provides campus-wide Wi-Fi.

**Can we carry our mobile phones to the program?**

Yes. All participants should have a U.S. mobile number or international roaming on their mobiles prior to reaching the U.S. You can also purchase a local sim card at the airport.

**Do we need to carry our laptops /I Pads? Will we have access to a printer?**

Portable technology (i.e.: a laptop or iPad) is required so you can take notes and complete the group project. However, using technology for unrelated purposes during classes is prohibited. Printers are available on campus, and you will need to pay for the service.

**What do we need to carry for the program?**

A packing list will be shared with students once they have secured a spot in the program.

**Should I carry any medicines?**

You should carry any prescription medicines that you are required to take on a regular basis. You should also carry some over-the-counter medicines for colds, headaches, fever, minor pains, as well as band-aids, antiseptic, and the like.

**OTHER IMPORTANT RULES AND REGULATIONS**

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**SJU CODE OF CONDUCT**

All students are required to abide by the St. John's University [Student Code of Conduct](http://www.stjohns.braingainmag.com), including policies with respect to alcohol, drugs and smoking. Under no circumstance are drugs or alcohol allowed anywhere on the St. John's Campus. Possible sanctions that may result in choosing to violate this policy are: fines (\$100-\$300+), expulsion from the St. John's University Global Innovators Academy, and/or legal sanctions. Smoking is not allowed anywhere on the St. John's premises, including rooms, hallways, bathrooms, classrooms, or the courtyard. No refund will be provided for any student expelled for violation of these policies

