



**Glenalmond College**  
*Space and time to learn*

**A Guide for International pupils**



# What sets Glenalmond College apart?



## Location & Demographics

**Glenalmond College has, without doubt, one of the most stunning locations in the world.**

It is a co-educational, full boarding school set in the beautiful Perthshire countryside in Scotland.

- Glenalmond welcomes boys and girls aged 12-18 years.
- Set in over 300 acres, Glenalmond provides a clean, safe and secure environment to learn and develop.
- We are only one hour's drive from Edinburgh or Glasgow airports. Glenalmond is, in fact, quicker to reach from Heathrow than many schools in England.
- Hainan Airlines introduced a direct service from Beijing to Edinburgh in June 2018
- Of the 360 pupils who attend Glenalmond, around 75% are full boarders, most of whom take full advantage of school life, seven days a week.
- Most of our British boarders, as well as our international boarders, stay in school at the weekends. We have around 160 British boarders and around 120 international boarders.
- 67% of pupils at Glenalmond are British, 33% are from overseas and only 14% are from outside Europe.
- This means that our pupils speak English all the time, and our international pupils benefit from a truly immersive experience, where their command of the English language goes from strength-to-strength



# Provision for International Pupils

## English as an Additional Language (EAL)

- We have an excellent specialist EAL department for our international pupils. This provides general EAL teaching, and work with subject teachers to provide subject-specific vocabulary for each pupil
- All pupils who have a native language other than English are given a diagnostic test by the EAL Department upon arrival at Glenalmond.
- In the Lower School, pupils who require EAL will have between three and seven hours of EAL per week. In the 6th Form they will receive two hours a week if required.
- Pupils can join help sessions to help them prepare for the IELTS exam.
- Pupils are expected to have at least an Intermediate level of English on arrival and they should be able to manage the normal academic curriculum of the school.

## Exam entry for international pupils

- Exam entry and qualifications are geared to age and stage. By arrangement with the English Department, international pupils may sit GCSE or A-Level examinations in English but we also aim to provide pupils with an internationally recognised qualification.
- From the age of 16 and above, pupils may be entered for the IELTS exam (International English Language Testing System). This excellent qualification is recognised by universities world-wide and allows non-native speakers of English to prove their proficiency in the language which is often needed for university entry or employment later on in life.



# Boarding and Pastoral Care

- Boarders stay in school every weekend, including Exeat Weekends and there is a full programme of activities (see page 5).
- There are 7 boarding Houses on campus and all of them have internet access.
- Boys houses are Matheson's, Patchell's, Reid's and Skrine's. The girls' houses are Goodacre's, Home and Lothian.
- Dorm sizes vary by House, and age of the pupils. Older pupils will be in single or twin rooms, while younger pupils may be in bedrooms of 2 or 3 pupils.
- Each house has a Housemaster or Housemistress whose family home is attached to the boarding house.
- There are also Tutors for each house. The Tutors are responsible for a small group of pupils, helping with their academic progress and pastoral care.

## Guardianship

- All pupils whose parents do not live in the UK are required to have a designated UK Guardian.
- Guardianship can be facilitated for international pupils.
- Guardian agencies can provide host families for exeats and half term holidays, or pupils can choose to stay in school for exeats.
- Glenalmond can arrange transport to and from the airport or guardian.



# Curriculum and Facilities

- Glenalmond pupils follow the English curriculum (GCSEs and A-Levels)
- We offer a wide curriculum, with over 25 subjects at A-Level. This means that all pupils are able to select the subjects that best suit their abilities and their university and career ambitions.
- International pupils can be helped to sit GCSE or A-Levels in their own language
- There is a high level of academic achievement across a broad range of abilities. The value-added scores are high compared to other schools.
- One of Glenalmond's academic strengths is its teachers. Most of the full-time teaching staff live on campus, and are dynamic, energetic and committed.
- We have excellent facilities for academia, sport, music and drama. This includes a theatre, music recital hall, indoor swimming pool, and sport pitches.
- As a full boarding school, we have classes on a Saturday and a full weekend activity programme. With over 75% of our pupils staying in school every weekend, we offer a very wide programme of extra-curricular activities, as well as a variety of clubs and societies to support academic work.
- International pupils are encouraged to join clubs and societies, and to take part in the activities available. This helps them integrate with the other pupils, improve their English language skills and enjoy life at Glenalmond.



## Examples of clubs, societies and activities at Glenalmond College:

### Sports

Rugby  
 Hockey  
 Cricket  
 Lacrosse  
 Dance  
 Tennis  
 Cross-country  
 Athletics  
 Swimming  
 Golf  
 Sailing  
 Basketball  
 Climbing  
 Squash  
 Football  
 Fishing  
 Cycling  
 Horse-riding  
 Mountain-biking  
 Yoga  
 Zumba  
 Strength & Conditioning  
 Triathlon

### Outdoor Activities

Community Service  
 CCF  
 Duke of Edinburgh Award  
 Conservation  
 Leadership Training  
 Hill walking (Munro)  
 Wood Chopping  
 Paddle Sports  
 First Aid training  
 Life-saving  
 Basic Fire Training  
 100-mile charity walk  
 Bushcraft  
 Orienteering  
 Canyoning  
 Bothy trips  
 Shooting - Small-bore  
 Shooting - Full-bore

### Academic Societies

William Bright Society  
 Critical Thinking  
 Gladstone Society  
 Debating  
 French speaking  
 Mandarin speaking  
 Spanish speaking  
 Engineering club  
 Lecture Programme  
 Art Master Classes  
 Maths Challenge  
 Maths Olympiad  
 Greek  
 Oxbridge preparation  
 Geographical Society  
 Craft and design  
 Computer club  
 Amnesty International

### Creative Arts

Chapel Choir  
 Chamber Choir  
 Choral Society  
 House Singing  
 String Orchestra  
 String Ensembles  
 Choir Tours  
 Concert Band  
 Wind ensembles  
 Jazz Band  
 Rock Bands  
 Pipe Bands  
 Music Recitals  
 Cantores  
 Chamber Music  
 Musicals  
 Life drawing  
 Drama  
 Film Society  
 Stagecraft  
 Theatre trips

# Exam Results & Universities

## A-Level Exam Results 2019

A-Levels	
Grade	Percentage
A*	12.1
A	18.2
B	29.6
C	21.1

Overall pass rate for A-Levels = 81%

## GCSE Exam Results 2019

GCSE			
Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage
A*	22.8	9	27.7
A	32.8	8	18.2
B	24	7	13.4
C	13.6	6	24.3

Overall pass rate for GCSE A\*ABC = 93.2%

Overall pass rate for GCSE 987654 = 83.6%

## Glenalmond College Leavers' Destinations 2014-18

Oxford	4
Cambridge	5
<b>Top Universities</b>	
Glasgow	26
Warwick	5
Newcastle	22
Queen's University Belfast	3
Bristol	14
Cardiff	2
Edinburgh	14
King's College London	2
Durham	12
Nottingham	2
Exeter	12
Queen Mary University of London	2
Manchester	8
Liverpool	2
York	8
Birmingham	1
Bath	7
Imperial College London	1
University College London (UCL)	7
Leeds	1
St Andrews	5
London School of Economics	1





# Application Process

**The main entry points for pupils to Glenalmond are in Third Form, Fourth Form and Lower Sixth Form (usually age 13, 14 and 16). We are able to accept pupils in January and April, although most will join Glenalmond in September.**

## **Second Form (Year 8, Age 12)**

Entry to the Second Form is subject to our own academic assessment, which involves basic tests in English, Mathematics and a Skype Interview. Pupils wishing to enter this form should be 11 years old by 30 April in the calendar year of entry.

## **Third Form (Year 9, Age 13)**

International prospective pupils take our own assessment tests in English and Mathematics and are also required to do a Skype interview. We will look at school reports for the last two years.

## **Fourth Form (Year 10, Age 14) - GCSE Programme**

At 14+ pupils enter immediately into the two year GCSE course and are assessed through our own tests in Mathematics and English as well as a Skype interview. We will look at school reports for the last two years.

## **Fifth Form (Year 11, Age 15)**

Entry directly into the Fifth Form is possible and we do offer a one year GCSE programme for pupils joining this year group. The admissions process is the same as for Year 10.

## **Sixth Form (Years 12 and 13, Age 16-18) - A-Level Programme**

For entry into the two year A-Level Course, for pupils who have taken GCSEs the minimum entry requirement is 5 GCSE grades at B or above, or equivalent standard. For pupils who have not sat GCSE exams, we will look at school reports and ask pupils to sit our own exams in Mathematics and English as well as a Skype interview.

## **Additional Entry Criteria -**

### **For those whose first language is not English**

For those whose first language is not English, we expect, as a minimum, an Intermediate standard (B1/IELTS Grade 4 or equivalent) of written and spoken English in order for pupils to be able to meet the requirements of academic courses. For entry into Years 9 and 10 International pupils are expected to have a lower intermediate level (B1) of English and for entry into Year 12 a higher intermediate level (B2), although this varies according to the age of the pupil and the subjects studied.

### **Michaelmas Term 2019**

Wednesday 4 September - Friday 13 December

Half Term: Thursday 18 October - Sunday 28 October

### **Lent Term 2020**

Monday 6 January - Friday 20 March

Half Term: Friday 7 February - Sunday 16 February

### **Trinity Term 2020**

Tuesday 14 April - Saturday 27 June

Half Term: Friday 22 May - Sunday 31 May

**For more information please contact the  
Director of Admissions by email:**

**[registrar@glenalmondcollege.co.uk](mailto:registrar@glenalmondcollege.co.uk)**

**or by phone**

**+44 (0)1738 842144**



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