

VERMONT INTERCULTURAL SEMESTERS

Curtis Koren, Director

**P.O. Box 464, Brookfield, Vermont 802-276-3424 curtisk@sover.net
www.vermontis.org**

ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

Calendar: The Spring, 2009 semester will run from late January-mid May, 2009. Applications are considered on a rolling basis.

Admissions criteria: VIS is looking for students in their junior or senior year in 2009 who will take the greatest advantage of an intense academic and intercultural experience in a remote area. This requires motivation, energy, imagination, initiative, the capacity for self-direction and reflection, the ability to work in a team, and strong leadership skills. It is very important that students understand the nature of their commitment to VIS, and our Ladakhi hosts. The application includes written answers to specific questions, two recommendations, a school transcript, and a non-refundable fee of \$75. Official admission is contingent on your physician's approval.

Cost per student: The \$8,750 tuition for the 2009 spring high school semester includes international airfare and covers orientation expenses, preparatory and educational materials; all logistical facilitation; all hotels and guest houses; all meals; all domestic travel expenses abroad; museum, park and temple entrance fees; VIS faculty, instructors and guest lecturers as well as local coordinators and guides; community support/charitable contributions. Applicants from schools that tuition-out may be able to bring one semester of tuition at the announced state average (\$5,460. in 2008) to the VIS semester via The Sharon Academy (TSA), an independent school recognized by the Vermont State Board of Education. In those cases, the projected individual contribution for the semester will be \$3,290. Students are expected to have their own health insurance, and secondary travel insurance (VIS will provide group rates for secondary insurance).

Expenses not covered by VIS include costs of domestic travel to point of departure (Boston or NYC), inoculations, travel insurance and international medical and evacuation insurance; visa/passport processing fees; personal costs (phone calls/emails, souvenirs, etc.) We recommend that students bring @ \$200-\$250 in personal funds.

Credits: Participants will receive one semester's credit in science, English, history, exhibition/independent study, Ladakhi language and physical education. Credits will be granted by The Sharon Academy. Courses will be taught at the honors/AP level.

Detailed description of program is available at: www.vermontis.org

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

STUDENT INFORMATION

Full name _____ Passport # _____

(as it appears on your passport)

Date of birth _____

Home address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

School name, address _____ Current grade _____

PARENT INFORMATION Student primarily lives with (circle one): parents parent 1 parent 2
Mail should be sent to (circle one): parents parent 1 parent 2
Bills should be sent to (circle one): parents parent 1 parent 2

PARENT INFORMATION

Parent 1

Address _____

City, ST, zip _____

Home phone _____

Work phone _____

Email _____

Parent 2

Address _____

City, ST, zip _____

Home phone _____

Work phone _____

Email _____

FOR STUDENTS:

PLEASE ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER. BE SPECIFIC AND INCLUDE DETAILS.

- 1. Why do you want to participate in VIS?
- 2. What do you see as the central challenges of the program?
- 3. What experiences (if any) have you had in the past that might apply to VIS?
- 4. Describe yourself in terms of how you function in a group.

PLEASE INCLUDE two recommendations, a copy of your school transcript, a photo, and a non-refundable fee of \$75 made out to VIS Ladakh Program.

FOR PARENTS:

Please write a letter about your child’s major strengths and weaknesses, and what you hope he/she will gain from the VIS program.

Applicant’s signature _____ Date _____

Parent or Guardian’s Signature _____ Date _____

Send all materials to: VIS/ PO Box 464/ Brookfield, VT 05036

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TEACHER/ADVISOR/COACH RECOMMENDATION FORM

Applicant _____

School _____

Your name _____ **Position at school** _____

To the teacher: VIS takes 12 junior and senior high school students to Ladakh, India for an intensive, rigorous, experiential, intercultural semester. We are seeking students with energy, imagination and initiative who are willing to use those qualities in and out of the classroom. Being able to work well in a group and be self-reliant are of enormous importance in the success of this program. **Your honest and specific evaluation of this applicant with regard to our questions is crucial; please fill out the form in the space provided or attach a sheet of paper if that is more convenient.**

How long have you know the candidate and in what capacity?

Please comment on the candidate's academic work and capabilities.

Please comment on this student's integrity and ability to work with and learn from others. What is the quality of the student's relationship with peers and with adults? Are there specific strengths and weaknesses of which we should be aware?

How does the student confront challenge and uncertainty? How well can the candidate operate independently of direction?

Please evaluate the applicant in the following areas:

	Almost never	Only on occasion	Much of the time	Almost always
Can work without supervision				
Works well with others				
Communicates clearly and logically in writing				
Listens attentively				
Asks questions that move discussion forward				

In comparison to other students whom you have taught, how would you recommend this applicant?

	Without enthusiasm	Fairly strongly	strongly	enthusiastically
For academic strengths				
For personal strengths				

If you have additional comments or anecdotes that describe the student's character, please attach a sheet of paper to this form.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Title

Email

Name of School

Telephone

**Please return this form to:
Admissions, Vermont Intercultural Semesters
PO Box 464, Brookfield, VT 05036**

We attach great importance to what you have to say and we greatly appreciate the effort you have made in filling out this form. Thank you!