“During my Independent Study project, I followed the schedule of a final-year medical student in Sri Lanka for three weeks in the gynecology and obstetrics wards, as well as attended lectures. I made a lot of good friends during this time.”

JASMIN MAHABAMUNUGE, ISLE ’14

“I loved the simple lifestyle and the sheer kindness my host family always showed me. It was great to spend time with such good people, enjoy amazing food, and learn and live directly within Sri Lankan culture.”

SAM KING, ISLE ’12

Sam was a 2014 Fulbright recipient. He returned to Sri Lanka to teach English and conduct research.

“I have returned to Sri Lanka three times since my first ISLE semester—twice working with the program and, most recently, completing research for my master’s degree. My thesis was inspired in part by an ISLE panel talk for our cohort in 2004.”

FLYNN JEBB, ISLE ’04

Flynn was a 2012–14 Rotary Peace Fellow with a master’s degree in public policy and social research concentrating in Peace and Conflict Studies from International Christian University in Tokyo.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR ISLE STUDENTS?

- Self-confidence through navigating a new culture
- A strong foundation in field research
- Continuing Independent Study as a senior project
- Returning to Sri Lanka as an ISLE program assistant
- Applying for a Fulbright—15 percent of ISLE alumni have applied and returned to Sri Lanka as Fulbright recipients
- Many ISLE alumni are scholars teaching at universities and colleges across the country and around the world

ISLE PROGRAM APPLICATION DEADLINES

Early Decision Deadline:
December 1

Rolling Admissions for Fall Semester:
December 1 – March 1

Rolling Admissions for Spring Semester:
December 1 – October 7 (following year)

For more information and to complete an application, go to bowdoin.edu/isle. For photos and updates, go to facebook.com/isleprogram or tumblr.com/blog/isleprogram.

Questions, contact:
Dr. Sree Padma Holt
Executive Director
ISLE Program
Bowdoin College
4400 College Station
Brunswick, ME 04011-8435
207-725-3874
isle@bowdoin.edu

Professor John Holt
Department of Religion
Bowdoin College
21 Ashby House
Brunswick, ME 04011-8435
jholt@bowdoin.edu

The ISLE Program, as a nonprofit incorporation in the United States of America, complies with applicable provisions of federal and state laws that prohibit discrimination in employment, admission, or access to its educational or extracurricular programs, activities, or facilities based on race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or expression, age, marital status, place of birth, veteran status, or against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability.

Top cover image: Perahera in Kandy during the Vesak Festival. Bottom cover image: Students and friends visit the famous frescoes at Sigiriya rock.
ISLE is a consortium-run study abroad program affiliated with the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka. The semester-long program combines cultural immersion with academic study and research to give students the tools to understand Sri Lanka from a well-rounded perspective.

**Location:**
Kandy, Sri Lanka

**Length:**
One semester, 16 weeks (fall or spring)

**Total Credits Earned:**
16 semester credit hours (or 4 semester course credits)

**Program Structure:**
- Session I: Intensive language study and field lectures
- Session II: Elective course study
- Session III: Independent Study Project

**Living Arrangements:**
Home-stay Family

**Affiliate Institution:**
University of Peradeniya

**Consortium Colleges:**
Amherst, Bates, Bowdoin, Carleton, College of the Holy Cross, Gustavus Adolphus, Swarthmore

**Website:**
bowdoin.edu/isle

The intensive language study and field lectures give students the tools to navigate Sri Lanka as cultural insiders. ISLE encourages students to pursue their own academic interests through a combination of elective courses, volunteer experiences, and an Independent Study Project.

**Required Courses/Credits:**
- Conversational Sinhala I
- Sri Lankan Studies Seminar and Independent Study
- Two elective courses

(4 semester credit hours or 1 semester course credit for each)

**Elective Course Options**
- Buddhist Ethics
- Environmental Science
- Ethnicity and Social Identity
- Images of the Feminine and the Social Experiences of Women
- Post-Colonial State and Politics of Post-War Sri Lanka
- Sinhala II or Tamil languages
- Religion and Ritual in Everyday Life
- Traditional Medicine

(Sinhala II and Tamil language elective courses and two other electives will be offered every semester. The offerings will depend on student interest.)

In addition to academic study, students live with home-stay families and cultivate relationships with locals and university students as they study spoken Sinhala and/or Tamil languages. This combination of classroom and real-world exposure to Sri Lankan culture and society allows for a rich and transformative experience.

**ISLE SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS**
- Courses with renowned faculty at the prestigious University of Peradeniya
- 4-week immersive field research of your choice
- Lasting relationships with your host family
- Resource-rich library and friendly staff at the ISLE Center
- Opportunity to learn Kandyan dance, batik, cooking, meditation, and more
- Traveling the country to experience the diversity of the island through field-based talks and tours