



Young Scotland Programme Summer 2009

**Developing talent in the
workplace and the community**



About the programme

The Young Scotland Programme exists to stretch the minds and broaden the horizons of people in the early stages of their working lives. It is organised by the Institute of Contemporary Scotland and is open to anyone who lives in Scotland, has left full-time education, and is aged 18 or over (there is no upper age limit).

The programme encourages the research, writing and presentational abilities of delegates, provides a forum for debate and dialogue, and introduces delegates to fresh ideas and creativity.

Registration is now open for the summer 2009 course – to be held at Stranraer in June. As in previous years, this programme will run concurrently with the annual Young Ireland Programme. This vibrant mix of delegates under one roof engenders an invigorating and friendly atmosphere. Both the Scotland and Ireland programmes are constituent parts of the Young UK and Ireland Programme.

A vital part of each course is the presentation by each delegate of a 900-word paper (“Argument”) on a topic – of the delegate's choice – “of current interest or controversy”. Researched and written in advance, the paper is presented and adjudicated during the course. Before the course, delegates receive general advice on the presentation of a paper, including pitfalls to avoid; and on the course itself, delegates have an opportunity to rehearse their paper and to receive expert tuition.

There are stimulating debates on hot issues of the moment, in-depth group discussions, enlightening guest speakers. It all adds up to an intense and deeply rewarding experience.

Each delegate who completes the course receives a certificate – in recognition of an outstanding achievement. In addition, a delegate will win the title **Scotland Young Thinker of the Year 2009** (a title shared with the winner of the autumn course) and will qualify for the prestigious UK and Ireland 2009-10 finals.

By nominating a member or members of your team for the programme, you will:

- ❖ enhance their professional development
- ❖ encourage them to make the best use of their interpersonal skills
- ❖ help develop their written and verbal communication and their research capabilities
- ❖ enable them to benefit from fresh ideas and creativity
- ❖ give them an opportunity to compete for a prestigious title



Young Scotland Programme 2009 (summer course)

Where

North West Castle Hotel
Stranraer
www.northwestcastle.co.uk

The venue is a 4-star hotel overlooking the bay in Stranraer. The hotel's leisure facilities include a swimming pool, sauna, gym and jacuzzi.

When

Delegates arrive in Stranraer on Tuesday 2 June and check-out after breakfast on Saturday 6 June.

Enrolment fee

£1100 + VAT per delegate, inclusive of accommodation (single room occupancy) for four nights plus all meals. Travel costs and arrangements are the responsibility of the nominating organisations.

Who's eligible

People aged 18 or over, living in Scotland, who have left full-time education and are in the early stages of their working lives. There is no upper age limit.

Closing date for registration

Thursday 30 April 2009

How to register

Simply complete the form on the next page – or book online at www.youngprogramme.org Information packs including advice and full details of the event will be e-mailed to delegates on Thursday 30 April.

About the week

Delegates arrive in Stranraer on Tuesday 2 June. The programme continues for the next three intensive days and ends with the awards dinner on Friday 5 June. Delegates check-out on Saturday morning. Main features of the course:

Argument

Before the programme, each delegate submits a paper ("Argument") of around 900 words – six minutes when spoken – on a subject of his or her choice. The only stipulation is that the paper should be on an issue of current interest or controversy, not necessarily related to the delegate's work or professional discipline.

Advice on writing the paper is given to all delegates in advance and a copy of the paper must be submitted by Thursday 21 May.

All the papers are heard during the course and expert tuition on presentation is offered.

The Group Challenge

Delegates are divided into small discussion groups and allocated a question

prompted by current events. The groups are given an hour to prepare an informal presentation.

Yes, No, Don't Know

Lively, sometimes heated, debates are among the most popular features of the course. At the start of each debate, delegates are asked to vote "yes", "no" or "don't know" to a controversial question. The question is debated for an hour. Then a second vote is taken – how many minds have been changed by the discussion?

On The Spot

A test of delegates' ability to deliver a speech unscripted. The brief: to ask themselves a question on a subject of their choice – philosophical, political, ethical, spiritual or personal – and then answer it without notes in as close to two minutes as possible!

Testimony

People with an extraordinary story to tell share the experiences which have helped to shape their lives.



Opposite from the top: delegates are given the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the lectern and receive expert advice before presenting their papers; a group prepares for the Group Challenge session; joint Scotland Young Thinkers of the Year 2008, Madeleine Burns and Anthony Silkoff; a moment of relaxation at a recent programme. Above: a group picture on the final day of the June 2008 Scotland/Ireland programmes.

Registration form

Young Scotland Programme 2-6 June 2009

Return by post: Young Scotland Programme, 66 John Finnie Street, Kilmarnock KA1 1BS
or
Return by fax: 01563 549503
or
Book online: www.youngprogramme.org

Closing date for registration: Thursday 30 April 2009

Please enrol our organisation in the above event

We wish to place _____ delegate/delegates at a cost of £1100 + VAT per delegate

Name/s of delegate/s stated below/to follow (delete as applicable)

We understand that:

our delegate/s will take part in the programme at the North West Castle Hotel, Stranraer, from 2 to 5 June 2009, checking-out on the morning of Saturday 6 June

name/s of our delegate/s must be supplied no later than Thursday 30 April 2009

our delegate/s will receive an information pack including guidance, advice on preparing the Argument paper, and rules, on Thursday 30 April 2009

payment is due no later than Friday 22 May 2009. Please invoice us

travel costs and arrangements will be met/made by our delegate/s or by our organisation

Contact name _____ Post held _____

Organisation _____

Address _____

_____ Post code _____

Contact telephone no. _____ e-mail _____

Name/s of delegate/s (if known) _____

Signature _____ Date _____ Order no. (if any) _____

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