

Milestone Institute

Academic Handbook
Student Life Guidelines
2018-2019



MILESTONE

INSTITUTE

Publication date: April 2018. The materials in this Handbook are intended to provide a general reference or resource only. Although every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of information at the time of publication, some revisions will be made during the academic year regarding information contained herein. We reserve the right to change terms and conditions of this Handbook at any time.



MILESTONE INSTITUTE

Contents

Welcome !	1
Why Join Student Life Activities	1
Student Organisations	3
Societies	3
Arts Society	3
Debating Society	3
History Society	3
Innovation Society	3
Model United Nations Society	4
Natural Sciences Society	4
Clubs	4
Finance Club	4
Jewish Club	5
Rowing Club	5
Sailing Club	5
Socials Committee	5
Essential Information: A Guide to Membership	6
How to Join	6
Membership Obligations	6
Taking on a Role: Presidential Board and Committee Members	6
Useful Contacts	7



MILESTONE INSTITUTE

Welcome !

The Milestone Institute is pleased to welcome you to its lively community of students who share a drive towards excellence in education, an aspiration for leadership and a spirit of adventure.

Student Societies and Clubs are a great way to connect with similarly minded people, establish professional networks in your field of interest and forge a community in which members can learn from each other to work towards achieving extraordinary results. At the Milestone Institute they are run by students with the oversight of the Student Life Coordinator.

Through Student Organisations, students master both transferable skills, such as autonomy, budgeting, transparency or event planning, and specific skills in areas as diverse as sailing, financial market analysis, debating, international political issues, writing reviews or a sensitivity for the dynamics of visual culture. From a rowing competition in Oxford to a Model United Nations Conference in Berlin, Milestone Societies and Clubs have a tradition of crossing borders and providing its member students with a wealth of experience beyond the academic curriculum. Furthermore, participating in Student Organisations often includes Milestone alumni initiatives which provide ample opportunities for volunteering and publication, as well as the possibility to interact with recent undergraduates and postgraduates from the leading universities of the world.

Last but not least, Milestone Societies and Clubs present perfect opportunities to meet new people, enjoy fellowship with like-minded students and have fun.

Why Join Student Life activities?

Antal Nagy - President of the Model United Nations Society

Milestone's MUN society has become a very important part of my everyday life in the past two years. Without the MUN society I would not have found my academic pathway and the area I wish to pursue later on. Because of that I believe that I owe a great duty to Milestone and the Society itself. Having represented Milestone at BERMUN 2017, I developed my MUN skills to a whole new level.

Laura Bánhidi - President of the Arts Society

It is my solid belief that engaging in some form of art is absolutely necessary for the health and balance of the human psyche. Music, in general, I find to be an essential part of my life,



MILESTONE INSTITUTE

as it is nearly unimaginable for me to go a day without listening to or making music. Also, literature has had a huge effect on my development as a person. It is a scientifically proven fact that fiction makes us more empathetic and I am a living example of this claim, as fiction had an enormous role in broadening my horizons and my perspective, while also making me more open-minded. I sincerely believe that a Society which holds together many areas of Arts is extremely beneficial for all students.

Szilveszter Pálvölgyi Jr. - Debating Society Member on Year Abroad

After spending two and a half weeks at my new school in the US, I have been picked to be a part of the Debate Team and to attend a prestigious Debate Tournament. Honestly, when I attended the first Session in the States, I thought I had no chance at all as they used a different format there with only 10 minutes of prep time. However, the result we achieved can simply not be described in words and I am thankful for everyone involved who got me to this point. I can say one thing for certain: It is the quality and professionalism of the Milestone Debate Society that got me to this point. I would also like to send a message to all of you current and future Laika Debaters: you all have potential, there is nobody, not even people from American prep schools whose arguments cannot be refuted. I am truly proud to be a Milestone Debater.

Olivér Pilz - Alumni Member of the Rowing Club

Being an Alumni member of the Rowing Club has provided me with a constant connection to the Institute and opportunity to stay in touch with my peers while also getting know the new students. I believe that the Club's potential to connect alumni with current students and providing a community to which one can return are truly unique elements. Besides the competitive element, such as coming first in the Budapest Cup and receiving training by professional coaches, for me rowing is all about bringing together a great group of like-minded sports-enthusiasts. The 7 am trainings, competitions, the beauty of the Danube and post-training socials certainly form a community which outlasts one's time at the Institute.



Student Organisations

Societies

Societies at Milestone support the academic goals of the four Divisions of Arts, Literature and Humanities, Numerical Sciences, Natural Sciences and Social Sciences, while also providing an excellent opportunity for students to delve deeper into their fields of interest, broaden their horizons, participate in a professional network and create bonds with their like-minded peers.

Arts Society

The Arts Society welcomes anyone interested in any of the arts-related fields such as literature, drama, music, film, photography, fashion, visual and fine arts. With a new topic every month the Society organises talks, attends concerts, plays and exhibitions which are then followed by reflective discussions. Its members also have the chance to make an attempt at arts journalism and criticism as after every topic reviews shall be published on the Milestone website.

Debating Society

The purpose of the society is to encourage critical thinking among its members while honing their public speaking and argumentative skills via competitive and formalised debating. Members learn to express themselves clearly and cohesively in English and to discuss a wide range of social, political and economic issues, thus gaining greater awareness of the world's burning issues. The Society meets weekly in the form of workshops in preparation for debating competitions in which members regularly take part, both in Hungary and abroad. It organises the regional qualifiers of the two most prestigious high school debating competitions hosted by the University of Cambridge and Oxford.

History Society

The History Society creates a flourishing yet challenging environment for students with an interest in History and Social Sciences. It operates on a termly thematic basis around which events are organised. These focus on an engagement in historical debates, asking questions, meeting and learning from scholars in these fields. In addition, preparation sessions are organised for important History academic competitions such as the Cambridge Robson History Prize and The Julia Wood Prize.

Innovation Society



MILESTONE INSTITUTE

The aim of the Innovation Society is to become an interdisciplinary community of students and mentors who meet regularly, exchange ideas, form groups, share opportunities, and support each other in an environment that encourages innovative thinking and a can-do attitude. The Society develops partnerships, hosts speakers, organises workshops, while supporting its members to participate in science/technology events, start-up competitions, and incubation programmes, such as Microsoft Imagine Cup and KutDiak Conferences.

Model United Nations Society

The Milestone Model United Nations Society is for all students interested in politics and international relations and for those wishing to improve their public speaking and argumentative skills. In Model United Nations, students take on the roles of diplomats, representing a country other than their own to discuss actual global issues and come up with resolutions in line with the official UN rules of procedure. The Society has regular sessions at which new members can learn the format. Furthermore, student members prepare for and attend prestigious conferences such as BIMUN in Budapest, BRATMUN in Bratislava or BERMUN in Berlin.

Natural Sciences Society

The main aim of the society is to offer Milestone students the opportunity to gain deeper insights into the work of natural scientists. The Society works towards establishing study groups at which students from all fields of Natural Sciences are welcome. Meetings also serve as a 'stage' for students to present the results of their own research in organised research groups from which the most outstanding are taken to international conferences and competitions such as the Biology and Chemistry Olympiad or the Young Scientists Journal Conference.

Clubs

Milestone Clubs operate on the mutual interests of their members and are not tied to the academic focus of the four Divisions. Clubs provide a great way to get together with a wide variety of other Milestone students and pursue recreational activities. They also present opportunities for acquiring skills and, as they are often led by Milestone Alumni, they provide connections which are beneficial for future academic, career and personal development.

Finance Club

The Milestone Finance Club has the dual aim of educating its members in the art of investing, and of applying that knowledge to achieve the highest possible returns. The Finance Club provides excellent opportunities for learning about financial markets and, in a



MILESTONE INSTITUTE

broader sense, about the business world at large. The Club's lecture series cover a range of finance topics, workshops and mock trading games are organised and feedback is provided through senior and alumni members. Furthermore, advanced members are encouraged to apply for partner positions and to invest their own money in the club which is managed cooperatively.

Jewish Club

The Jewish Club brings together Milestone students who are interested in Judaism and is open to everyone regardless of belief. Through a series of socials, fun events, academic lectures and free time spent together they introduce their members to the religion in a friendly and open-minded environment. Besides enjoying the highlights of Jewish cuisine, they expose the Club members to a variety of forms of Judaism through a series of varied and interesting guest speakers. They also aim to hold events open to the public at which they raise funds for a chosen organisation.

Rowing Club

The Milestone Rowing Club is open to both experienced rowers as well as complete beginners and is based at the Danubius Nemzeti Hajós Egylet on Margaret Island. The ultimate goal is to prepare for university-level rowing and, eventually, to see the club represented at the Henley Royal Regatta and at the Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race.

Sailing Club

Established under the auspices of the OMFB Sailing Club at Lake Balaton, which graciously permits use of its facilities and boats, the Society includes everyone from former national champions to novices taking their first "steps" on the water. During the summer, the Sailing Club organises bi-monthly excursions and also has a special membership for unlimited boat-usage for sailing-enthusiasts.

Socials Committee

At the beginning of the Academic Year, each Year Group can propose members for the Socials Committee which organises the Year Group Socials each term as well as inclusive events such as Christmas, Halloween, Super Bowl and Burns Night gatherings.



Essential Information: A Guide to Membership

How to Join

Students are welcome to join any of the Student Organisations throughout the year. However, it is highly recommended that students do so at the beginning of the Academic Year.

At the **Year Opening Ceremony** in May, students have the opportunity to get to know the leaders and some members of every Student Organisation and sign-up for more information. In the Summer Term, in mid-May, **Student Life Week** provides a series of events held by all Student Organisations. Students are encouraged to attend as many of these events as possible in order to get a feel of Student Life and decide which Societies or Clubs they wish to join.

Membership Obligations

All Milestone Students can join as many societies as they wish. Indeed, everyone is highly encouraged to become an active participant in the Institute's Student Life as it is beneficial for both academic and personal development to do so.

However, members of Student Organisations are required to attend at least two meetings each term, unless they have good cause. Only active members have access to members-only perks, voting rights and opportunities to run for presidential board and committee member positions.

Members of all societies and clubs are asked to keep up-to-date with Student Life news by regularly checking the individual society and club Facebook groups and personal emails for the Student Life Newsletter.

Taking on a Role: Presidential Board and Committee Members

All active members of societies and clubs are eligible to take on roles within Student Organisations. Each Student Organisation must have at least one member on the Presidential Board (President, Vice-President or Secretary) as well as Committee Members (such as Events Manager or Competitions Coordinator). The Presidential Board has the responsibility for running the Organisation as well as coordinating the work of the Committee Members. The Board must keep their membership updated regarding upcoming events, take care of handover arrangements and attend regular meetings with



MILESTONE INSTITUTE

the Student Life Coordinator. If any member of the Board fails to satisfy his/her duties, it must be reported to the Student Life Coordinator immediately.

The Presidential Board and Committee Members are elected annually before the new Academic Year at each Student Organisation's Annual General Meeting, held at the latest in April. The Presidential Board must have a non-Senior Year member and cannot have a Freshman Year member at the time of holding office. For Committee Members, it is possible to postpone elections and hold them separately from those of the Presidential Board in order to allow new students to join the Committee.

Useful Contacts

General Enquiries	Reception	info@msinst.org
Student Life Coordinator	Eszter Jókay	jokay@msinst.org
Arts Society President	Laura Bánhidi	banhidi.laura@gmail.com
Debating Society President	András Sárosi	debatingsoc@milestone-institute.org
History Society President	Kitti Czigler	kitticzigler@gmail.com
Innovation Society President	Melinda Szegedi	szegedi.melibubu@gmail.com
MUN Society President	Antal Nagy	antalnagy99@gmail.com
NatSci Society President	Anna Tímár	natscisoc@milestone-institute.org
Finance Club President	Fábián Somfai	somfaifabian@gmail.com
Jewish Club President	Ráchel Oláh	rachel.olah@gmail.com
Rowing Club President	Bence Bánhalmi	bence.banhalmi@gmail.com
Sailing Club President	Balázs Répási	repabali@gmail.com

Edited by Eszter Jókay - Student Life Coordinator April 2018



MILESTONE

INSTITUTE