

OLDENBORG SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP (SIG) APPLICATION

Due by 4:00 p.m., Friday, March 6, 2009 in the main office, Oldenburg Center

Students with a special interest focusing on International Relations or on a single language (languages not supported by the Language Resident Program) may apply to live together in a Special Interest Group (SIG) in Oldenburg.

Groups are limited in size and must be 4, 5, or 6 students who agree to live together. Oldenburg reserves the right to approve group members individually based on eligibility. Accepted groups will be placed in rooms (in a quad or a quad/single combination) prior to Oldenburg Room Draw. SIG placement is intended for small groups of students who convincingly demonstrate their interests cannot be accommodated from within a language hall.

ELIGIBILITY

Students must be eligible to apply for a SIG. Eligibility is determined by:

- Language proficiency. Applicants must be able to participate regularly in Oldenburg language tables. Minimum proficiency is one year of college-level coursework or equivalent.
- Convincing proposal. Tell us why your interests can only be accommodated outside of a language hall.
- Two faculty recommendations: One from a language faculty member or language resident confirming applicant language proficiency; one from a faculty member who knows the applicants and whose work is related to the stated area of interest to confirm applicant knowledge of, and commitment to, the area of special interest. (Each SIG member should submit a language proficiency recommendation. But only one area of interest recommendation is necessary for the SIG as a whole.)
- Convincing demonstration of commitment to Oldenburg's mission of promoting the teaching and learning of non-English languages and international studies. Oldenburg is a community, not simply a place to live. How will you give back? Are you part of Pomona College's Model Arab League? Model UN? Are you the next Oldenburg band? Stated programming elements should demonstrate how you will meet minimum guidelines on language table attendance, IRC involvement, participation in study breaks, cultural activities, Special Dinners, interaction with language residents, and more. Remember: SIG placement means you get to select your room before April 2nd, thus bypassing Room Draw! In return, SIG applicants should be prepared to meet a high(er) level of good citizenship at Oldenburg.

APPLICATION

From each member of the group:

- Application form
- List of relevant coursework (language courses and courses relating to the theme of your group)
- Essay (see attached)
- Faculty recommendations (language proficiency and SIG interest area commitment)
- Oldenburg agreement.

From the group as a whole:

- Special Interest Group cover sheet
- Interview with Oldenburg Director on March 24th, 25th, or 26th. Contact Oldenburg for an interview time.
- List of alternates for every member who has also applied for the Sponsor program **if** this means losing a group member drops your SIG number to less than four people.

Please staple each individual's application and put all the applications together with the SIG cover sheet in a Campus Mail or other envelope. Thank you!

Note: SIGs are a full-year commitment. If a SIG member leaves for any reason, the remaining SIG members will be asked to fill the vacancy or Oldenburg and the Office of Campus Life will place someone in the vacancy.

Can't decide between a SIG and a language hall? That's OK! You can apply for both.

- Students applying for a Language Hall and a Special Interest Group **MUST** complete separate applications.
- If you apply for more than one opportunity, indicate your first choice in your essay. If dropping from your SIG means your SIG goes down to less than four people, indicate an alternate on your SIG cover sheet.

Oldenburg Center and Residence Hall – SIG Application Form

(to be completed by each individual SIG member)

SIG Name: _____

Your Name: _____ Class of: _____ Email: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Current Residence Hall: _____

Concentration: _____ Permanent Address: _____
Street City State Country

Birthdate (MM/DD/YYYY): _____ Gender: F M

Which language(s) do you claim proficiency in _____

Are you applying to for the Sponsor program? Y N

If yes, you must provide an alternate to take your place in the SIG if this drops your group number to less than 4. This is because SIG placement is primarily in quads

Alternate Name (please print): _____ Signature of Alternate: _____

LIST OF RELEVANT COURSEWORK

- On a separate sheet of paper, list the courses of the high school and/or college language courses you have taken or in which you are currently enrolled. If courses were taken at the 5Cs, include your instructor's name.
- List the courses you have taken at the 5Cs that directly relate to your SIG. Include your instructor's name.

ESSAY

- Tell us why your interests can only be accommodated outside of a language hall. Tell us how you will contribute to the Oldenburg community and integrate yourself into existing programming elements. Tell us how you obtained your language proficiency and how this may relate to future educational or career goals. What inspired you to form a SIG and what does the SIG experience mean to you?

I will participate actively in Oldenburg's foreign language and international relations programming. I understand this means, **at a minimum**, that I am expected to attend language table three times a month—just as often as language hall students—and to help organize and participate in one Oldenburg SIG activity per semester. I understand I am expected to participate in and attend Language Special Dinners and study breaks and to be helpful to and respectful of the language resident. I am welcome to participate in language hall cultural activities. I understand Oldenburg is more than a place to live; it is a community of which I wish to be a part.

I also understand that, if I fail to meet these minimum requirements or fail to honor the spirit of Oldenburg, the Director may ask me to leave and that I **will** be placed at the bottom of my class in the following year's room draw. I will also become ineligible for future housing in Oldenburg.

Today's date

Signature

Please return this application by 4:00pm Friday, March 6, 2009.

A complete application includes: *From each SIG member:* this application form, list of relevant coursework, the faculty language proficiency recommendation form, essay, signed Oldenburg agreement. *From the group as a whole:* All the above pieces put together in an envelope or folder PLUS the faculty recommendation form RE SIG interest and commitment PLUS the SIG cover sheet. Also, sign up for your SIG interview in the main office.

FMI: oldenburg@pomona.edu or Luz Forero, Oldenburg Assistant Director, x. 7-1159

Oldenborg Center and Residence Hall – SIG Cover Sheet

SIG Name: _____

Names of group members—4, 5, or 6 members ONLY:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Please circle the names of those listed above who may also have applied for Sponsor. If SIG member(s) drop to take Sponsor, will you have fewer than 4 members in your group? If so, you must provide the name of an alternate below.

Alternate Name: _____ Alternate Signature: _____

Alternate Name: _____ Alternate Signature: _____

Please list three examples of possible activities for your group next year at Oldenborg:

REMEMBER: Sign up for your SIG interview in the main office when you drop off your group application. Interviews will take place March 24th, 25th, and 26th.

Name of student: _____

Name of Special Interest Group: _____

Language Proficiency Claimed In: _____

OLDENBORG ROOM DRAW

2009-2010

Faculty Language Proficiency Recommendation Form for Special Interest Groups

Students applying to live in Oldenburg are expected to meet with Language Faculty or Language Residents to request validation that the student evidences:

- 1). The minimum language proficiency to live in Oldenburg (one year college-level coursework or equivalent)
- 2). Motivation to continue engagement with the target language and to participate in a community that promotes the teaching and learning of non-English languages and international studies.

Students: Please be respectful of the multiple demands on faculty and language resident time. Language faculty and language residents are often accessible at language tables Monday through Friday. If they are busy mentoring their table and request a longer conversation with you in order to ascertain your proficiency and motivation, you may have to schedule a separate appointment with them.

IT IS OK FOR THE FACULTY MEMBER TO TAKE THIS FORM FROM THE STUDENT, COMPLETE IT IN PRIVACY AFTER SOME REFLECTION, AND THEN SEND IT TO OLDENBORG VIA CAMPUS MAIL. **DUE DATE: ON OR BEFORE FRIDAY, MARCH 6th.**

Name of Faculty member: _____ Department: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Campus extension: _____

I have met with this student and can verify ___ **Elementary** ___ **Intermediate** ___ **Advanced** language proficiency.

Please **initial** all relevant statements. (Oldenburg does not expect faculty to respond affirmatively to each statement).

____ Student attends language tables on a regular basis.

____ Student participates regularly in Oldenburg cultural activities.

____ Student has attended my class(es). List class(es): _____

____ Student demonstrates an active interest in the language and culture of the section to which student is applying.

We welcome additional comments:

Name of Special Interest Group: _____

Names of Group Members: _____

**OLDENBORG ROOM DRAW
2009-20010
Faculty Recommendation Form for Special Interest Groups**

Students applying to live in an Oldenburg Special Interest Group are expected to meet with a faculty member and discuss their ideas for a Special Interest Group and possible Oldenburg programming.

IT IS OK FOR THE FACULTY MEMBER TO TAKE THIS FORM FROM THE STUDENT, COMPLETE IT IN PRIVACY AFTER SOME REFLECTION, AND THEN SEND IT TO OLDENBORG VIA CAMPUS MAIL. **DUE DATE: ON OR BEFORE FRIDAY, MARCH 6th.**

Name of Faculty member: _____

Department: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Campus telephone: _____

- How long have you known the student(s)? _____

- Has the student(s) attended your class(es)? If so, which one(s)?

- Does the student(s) demonstrate an active interest in learning about the language and/or topic of the special interest group? If so, how? For example, do you know if the student participates in lectures or extracurricular activities related to the special interest group topic?

- Are you able to serve as a mentor to the proposed Special Interest Group next year, to collaborate with Oldenburg and advise group members on appropriate programming activities?

- Has the student adequately explained the Special Interest Group proposal? Can you describe your level of support and/or comfort with it? Is this idea something you can reasonably envision contributing to Oldenburg's mission and also student development?

THANK YOU! We welcome further comments or suggestions. --Oldenburg

OLDENBORG SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP AGREEMENT 2009-2010

I knowingly and voluntarily agree to live in OLDENBORG for AY 2009-2010.

- I understand that the mission of Oldenburg is to promote the teaching and learning of non-English languages and international studies.
- I understand that I am expected to collaborate with members of my SIG on activities.
- I understand that Language Residents mentor and prepare events such as language tables, study breaks, cultural activities, and Special Dinners. I intend to participate in those activities and collaborate with the Oldenburg Language Residents.
- I understand that Oldenburg dining hall is reserved for those who:
 - 1). participate at language tables
 - 2). attend a luncheon talk.

If I want to speak English, I will attend another dining hall.¹

- I understand that, **at a minimum**, SIG members are expected to:
 - 1). attend language table three times a month
 - 2). help organize and participate in one Oldenburg-appropriate SIG activity per semester.
- I understand that Oldenburg is a smoke-free building and I will comply with regulations regarding the smoke-free environment.
- I understand that the language lounges are considered public space (classroom space) and not private space. Balconies are also considered public space.
- I understand that Oldenburg is more than a place to live; it is a community. For this reason, if I fail to meet these outlined requirements or fail to honor the spirit of Oldenburg, the Oldenburg Director may ask me to leave and I **will** be placed at the bottom of my class in the following year's room draw. I will also become ineligible for future housing in Oldenburg.

I have read and agree to comply with the conditions set forth in the above contract.

Name (please print): _____

Room # _____

¹ If a lunchtime student meeting or activity requires the use of English, I may ask the Oldenburg staff to help me reserve an alternate Oldenburg venue (e.g., Private Dining Room, Glass Conference Room, TV lounge).