Trek Los Angeles, CA – SUMMER 2023

Application Deadline

Application due: March 31, 2023
Application opens: February 22, 2023
Acceptances are announced: Week of April 24, 2023

Program Description

Trek Los Angeles is a program designed to provide students the chance to learn about and explore the animation, film and game design industries in Los Angeles, California.The trip blends on-site company visits, product demonstrations, panels with alumni, and alumni networking opportunities.

Students that participate in Trek LA will gain a deeper understanding of what it takes to be a new graduate entering into the animation, film, and game design industries. They will develop a clear understanding of how to engage with these types of companies for job and internship opportunities, and also begin to network with industry professionals and mentors.

Trek LA will take place from Sunday, August 20 through Friday, August 25, 2023.

Trek LA is a collaboration between the RISD Alumni Association, RISD Career Center, Alumni Affinity Groups, and the Alumni Club in Los Angeles.

Selection Criteria

Application Materials
- Application materials must be completed by the due date, 3/21/23 and submitted by 12:00 PM ET.
- All requirements must be met and instructions followed.
- Emphasis is on the response to the essay questions and the overall quality of your presentation and materials. Attachments must be formatted neatly and scanned documents must be legible.
- Materials answer the questions asked and responses are clear, concise, and give insight to your interest in Trek LA and how attending will help to meet your professional goals.

Student Readiness
- Student articulates a solid understanding of and interest in the purpose of Trek LA.
- Student demonstrates the ability to be successful as a participant in an intensive off-campus travel program that provides unique exposure to the professional world.
- Student demonstrates interest in animation, film, and/or game design, creativity, and working in one or more of these industries.
- Student presents readiness to engage with alumni and other professionals for networking and possible mentorship.

Student Expenses

- **Selected students are required to pay a non-refundable $100 program deposit fee to hold their space to participate.**
- All program expenses will be provided for students, including: hotel accommodations, travel to and fromTrek LA sites and daily meals. Students are responsible for any and all additional expenses including: personal items, toiletries, additional meals/food outside of those provided and anything done outside of program schedule, ie. entry fees to museums, sightseeing tours, clubs, entertainment etc.
- RISD will book and pay for flights for students who depart from and return to Providence, RI. Students who may be flying from elsewhere will be responsible for booking and paying for their own flights, but can be reimbursed after the trip. The reimbursement amount will be equal to the amount paid for students traveling round trip between Providence and Los Angeles. Some additional financial assistance is available for students who might not otherwise be able to participate due to the non-refundable deposit or cost of flights.

Eligibility

- Students may only attend one RISD Trek trip during their RISD career.
- Undergraduate Students: rising sophomores, rising juniors and rising seniors.
- Graduate Students: non graduating students only.
- Students must be currently enrolled, and enrolled for the Fall 2023 semester.
- Non-U.S. Citizens are eligible.
- Each participating student must ensure that their student account is paid in full both at the time of travel registration and departure. If a balance remains outstanding, the student will be ineligible for travel and may not be reimbursed for travel expenses already paid.
- Students must be considered an active student at the time of departure in order to participate.
- Students must have a current resume, on-line portfolio, and LinkedIn profile.

Application Process & Components

All items are submitted as PDF uploads to the online application
- Students must fill out and submit the RISD Trek LA 2023 Application online by the deadline: 3/31/23 at 12:00 PM Noon ET.
- The link to the online application can be found at: https://risdcareers.formstack.com/forms/risd_trek

The application components include:
- **Applicant Personal and Academic Information**
- **Responses** to the following in 1 PDF. Please include the question text as headers before your responses, and use 1 inch margins, Times New Roman 12-point font, and single spaced rows:
    - Trek Los Angeles Essay Questions:

- ■ ESSAY 1) Why do you want to participate in Trek LA (exploring the animation, film and game design industries in CA)? (200 word max)
- ■ ESSAY 2) What are your professional goals and what do you hope to gain from attending Trek LA? (200 word max)
- ■ ESSAY 3) What makes you a strong applicant for Trek LA? (200 word max)
- ■ ESSAY 4) Please describe any financial barriers that would prevent you from attending Trek LA if you are selected and why you would need additional funding. While most costs are covered, we understand some students may still have a financial barrier to cover the cost of the non-refundable deposit, or flights to LA if you do not plan to depart from Providence. (200 word max)
- **Resume.** Include most recent employment, skills (including languages you speak other than English if applicable), community involvement, volunteer service, exhibitions, awards, achievements, and other accomplishments. Use the Career Center Resume & Career Essentials booklet for tips and advice on creating an effective resume. https://careercenter.risd.edu/resume-cv
- **Linkedin Profile URL.** Consider meeting with a Career Advisor to critique your profile before submitting. https://careercenter.risd.edu/meet-us
- **Portfolio Website URL.** Tips and advice on preparing an online portfolio can be found here - https://careercenter.risd.edu/portfolio-demo-reel
- **Unofficial Transcript.** Go to your RISD Student Planning account and download an "Unofficial" transcript. Upload this PDF into your application. Make sure the PDF is legible. Your submitted transcript should include the courses you are currently registered for this Spring 2023 semester.

Tips For Applicants:
- Each attachment can be up to 3MB, however, please note that the TOTAL upload cannot be over 25MB.
- Avoid submitting at the last minute. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.
- Review the guidelines and required materials carefully before you begin the application.
- Follow all directions carefully.
- Prepare your application in advance in a word document and check your spelling. The application form will not save your answers once you leave the page.
- Documents/Responses within a PDF should be in the same order as listed in the guidelines. Please include the question text as headers before your responses, and use 1 inch margins, Times New Roman 12-point font, and single spaced rows.
- Attachments should be named in the following way: FirstnameLastname.Documenttype. So Jane Smith would name her files JaneSmith.Reponse, JaneSmith.Transcript, etc.
- After you submit you will see a submission screen and receive an email confirming a successful submission.

RISD Contact

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