



GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
MINISTRY FOR SPORTS, CULTURE, HERITAGE & YOUTH
310 Main Street
Gibraltar

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The Gibraltar Museum and the Gibraltar Archives

The Gibraltar Museum and the Gibraltar Archives recently hosted a group of US students from Dickinson College, who are taking part in a Humanities Programme with the University of East Anglia.

While the students experienced many of the distinguishing features of Gibraltar familiar to most informed tourists, the centrepiece of their time in Gibraltar was an extended presentation/discussion arranged and led by Dr Geraldine Finlayson, the staff of the Gibraltar Museum, and by Dennis Beiso, the Gibraltar Government Archivist.

Dickinson College is a selective undergraduate Liberal Arts institution enrolling 2500 students located in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. A leader in Global Education among U.S. colleges, Dickinson operates over 20 international programs around the globe. Its Humanities Program in England brings students from a number of fields of study in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences to England each year for study in London and Norwich. In addition to five course units which are taken at the University of East Anglia, students enrolled in this program also complete a three section “core” curriculum focused on the development of Cultural identity. The first section—taught in London—focuses on English National identity, with the second—taught in Norwich—centres on Regional identity, specifically that of East Anglia. The third section explores the larger question of “British” identity, including tensions within the constituent members of the United Kingdom as well as issues arising from the history and influence of Imperial Britain.

As part of this third section of the core study, the Dickinson Humanities program visited Gibraltar to experience the British influence in the territory, as well as to explore the ways in which a distinctive Gibraltarian identity has evolved.

“We had just a great time down there with you and the whole place...a very fruitful exploration,” said Professor Todd Wronski, Resident Director, Dickinson in England, “The students ...were uniformly complimentary in regard to the sessions we had at the museum.” Plans are already in hand for another session next year.

“We were delighted to have received such a positive feedback,” said Dr Finlayson, “and that the Gibraltar Museum and the Gibraltar Archives are building a strong international relationship and reputation.”