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**Simon's Rock is Welcomed by the Montserrat Ministry of Education for Semester Abroad Program**

GREAT BARRINGTON, MA—The Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs, and Sports [welcomed students and faculty from Bard College at Simon's Rock](#) as part of the first cohort of 16 students and 3 core faculty, along with numerous visiting faculty, to spend a full semester studying on the island.

The [Montserrat Semester Abroad program](#) is the first semester-long program by Simon's Rock on the island, although the college has led service-learning programs in Montserrat since 2014 and is the only college with a research station on the island. The program's multidisciplinary curriculum offers students the opportunity to explore a wide range of social and environmental issues on a small island that has suffered significant ecological and social disruption over the past 30 years. All students enroll in three required courses in Environment and Sustainability, Anthropology: Life Histories, and Service Learning: In Praxis, in addition to elective courses for a total of 15-18 credits.

Students will engage with the Montserratian community through working with local government, NGOs (non-governmental organizations), and educational institutions, which is an important element of the service-learning course. Specific opportunities have yet to be finalized but include working with Montserrat National Trust and Botanical Garden, the Montserrat Volcano Observatory, the Montserrat Dept. of Health and Human Services, and the local elementary schools to name a few. Montserratian students enrolled in the program will receive college credit through Bard College at Simon's Rock.

In a statement by Dr. Thomas Coote, Program Director and Faculty Member, "The program is a tremendous opportunity to engage with the people of Montserrat, to learn what they believe is important to achieving a sustainable future, and provide necessary life experience for our students to become productive global citizens."

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education Lyston Skerritt said, “The Ministry of Education is excited about this new strategic partnership. This presents a new model of engaging higher education institutions and new approaches for foreign investment through education. We look forward to the continued expansion of the program in coming years.”

The students and faculty will be abroad in Montserrat for the duration of the spring semester, until May 2022.

### **About Simon’s Rock**

[Bard College at Simon’s Rock](#) is the only college in the country specifically designed for highly motivated students ready to enter college after the 10th or 11th grade. Simon’s Rock offers a challenging program in the liberal arts and sciences, taught exclusively in small seminars by supportive, highly trained faculty, who are leading scholars in their fields. The College grants degrees in more than 35 majors. The Princeton Review’s *Best 380 Colleges* rates academics at Simon’s Rock higher than Harvard and Princeton.

[Bard Academy at Simon’s Rock](#) is the nation’s first two-year boarding and day program designed to prepare 9th and 10th graders to start college early. A student entering Bard Academy as a high school freshman will earn an Associate of Arts degree from Bard College at Simon’s Rock after only four years and a Bachelor of Arts degree after only six years. The Academy curriculum is designed and taught by students’ future college professors who are leading scholars in their fields.

For more information, visit [simons-rock.edu](http://simons-rock.edu) and [bardacademy.simons-rock.edu](http://bardacademy.simons-rock.edu).

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