

Education in Dael Riata

Summary

Education holds a profound cultural value in [Dael Riata](#), spanning from widespread foundational literacy among the common folk to advanced scholarly research within its three major universities. The kingdom's educational tradition emphasises both spiritual divinity and the pragmatic application of knowledge in engineering and statecraft.

Description

Literacy and Basic Schooling

For generations, the kingdom has maintained a strong cultural emphasis on basic literacy. It is common practice for skilled craftsmen to teach both their sons and daughters to read and write. This standard ensures that the artisan and merchant classes are proficient in managing accounts, correspondence, and technical instructions.

The Universities of Dael Riata

The wealthiest knights and landed gentry typically send their children to one of the three established universities in the kingdom. While all three teach core subjects such as Liberal Arts, Philosophies, and Law, each has developed a distinct specialist focus:

- **University of Dalreoch:** The oldest institution in the realm, pre-dating the kingdom itself. While it began with a focus on divinity and literacy, it is now the premier centre for “fire and transmutation” (alchemy). It is currently seeking a charter for a Chair of Naval Engineering.
- **University of Caer Riata:** Founded by **King Ruaridh III**, this university remains a bastion of traditional culture with a heavy emphasis on divinity and classical philosophies.
- **University of Dalmuir:** Founded by **Ian Gilruary** as an outer college of Dalreoch, it focuses on the practical application of knowledge, specifically engineering and maritime sciences, aided by its proximity to the royal shipyards.

Curriculum and Philosophies

Beyond the core trivium, Daelian universities teach languages, natural philosophy, and advanced alchemy. Students are also exposed to a range of influential [Philosophers and Strategic Thinkers](#) and theorists from the central sea and beyond:

- **Elenchus:** An ancient figure whose central tenet is that absolute knowledge is impossible and that the path to truth begins with acknowledging one's own ignorance.
- **Tatù:** A modern theorist focused on the practical maintenance of power and “armed diplomacy,” teaching that negotiation is most effective when backed by a strong arm.

- **Cliasophes**: An ancient military strategist who pioneered the concept of servant leadership and strategic prioritisation (Weapon, Horse, Men).
- **Mukul**: A cartographer and strategist known for the maxim that “planning and preparation prevents poor performance.”
- **The Clewgist Faith**: A widespread philosophical sect. The Estreham branch focuses on communal discipline and self-mastery through criticism, while the Yendorian branch views life as a “garment of illusion” and seeks harmony with nature.

Foreign Scholasticism

Ambitious noble families sometimes look beyond the kingdom's borders for education. In the [Kingdom of Berencia](#), the **University of Stylhet** is noted for its extensive library resources, which have been used by the [Earl of Stylhet](#) to research and identify the strength of heroic bloodlines.

Relationships

People

- [King Alasdair V](#): A royal alumnus of Dalreoch, educated under a council of regents.
- [Sean Alpin](#): Earl of Ardmor and former regent who oversaw the King's university education.
- [Diarmid Murchadh](#): A Master of Arts (756) from Dalreoch who studied Liberal Arts and Philosophy.
- [Lady Senga Riata](#): A noblewoman highly educated in statecraft, economy, and the philosophies of the age.
- [Earsaid Alpin](#): The current Reader of Naval Engineering at the University of Dalreoch.
- [Ian Gilruary](#): The 1st Earl of Dalmuir and founding Chancellor of the University of Dalreoch.
- [Bernard Wallis](#): Earl of Stylhet and Chancellor of Berencia, known for his patronage of foreign libraries.

Places

- [University of Dalreoch](#)
- [University of Caer Riata](#)
- [University of Dalmuir](#)
- [Dalreoch](#): The capital and centre of Daelian academic life.
- [Stylhet](#): Home to the Berenician university specialising in heroic bloodlines.

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