

# Information for Students Learning English in Ireland

## Information about Ireland

A small island off the north-western coast of Europe, Ireland has a mild, temperate climate, influenced greatly by the warmth of the Gulf stream.

Most visitors are amazed at the sheer variety of Ireland's scenery. Rolling hills, green pastures and rugged mountains contrast with towering sea cliffs, deep valleys and mysterious lakes - these features acting as a backdrop to the ever-changing character of the weather.

## Travelling to Ireland

Ireland is linked to Britain by a selection of ferry routes, served by large, modern vessels, all with drive-on/drive-off facilities. Similar ferry routes to and from France connect Ireland directly to Continental Europe.

Getting to Ireland by sea or by air is easy. International airports are located at Dublin on the east coast, Cork in the south and Shannon in the West. There are regular flights from most major British cities, with almost hourly flights from London. Direct flights operate from most European capitals, with average flying times being about two hours.

Most students visiting this country stay with Irish host families. This gives a perfect opportunity to integrate fully into Irish life, while enjoying the friendliness, warmth and sincerity for which Ireland is renowned. The informal atmosphere of family life also helps greatly in absorbing the language in every day situations.

Students are placed with host families in safe residential areas. Generally student guests are treated as one of the family and are included in family outings and social occasions.

All host families are carefully selected, individually inspected and continually monitored.

## Public Transport

- Major cities are well-served by the national bus and rail network. Normal student travel concessions apply. On arrival, most schools can arrange collection from the nearest airport or station.

## National Holidays

- 1 January
- 17 March
- Easter (Friday and Monday)
- The First Monday of May
- The First Monday of June
- The First Monday of August
- The Last Monday of October
- Christmas (25 and 26 December)

## Time

- Ireland follows the same system as Britain (Greenwich Mean Time)

## Driving

- Driving is on the left-hand side of the road.

## Electrical current

- The standard electrical supply is 230 volts AC (50 Cycles). Small travel transformers and adaptators may be needed to operate small appliances.

## Entry Requirements

- All students need a passport. Visitors from some countries also require a student visa. For further information you should contact your nearest Irish embassy or consulate.

## Travel & Medical Insurance

- If a visitor to Ireland needs medical treatment, drugs or medicines, a general practitioner should be consulted. Students are recommended to take out travel and medical insurance in their own country before departure.

- Visitors from other parts of the European Union can be treated under EU social security regulations. Students from EU countries should therefore bring form E111. Hospital services are provided free in public wards for EU visitors.

## Currency

- The currency in Ireland is the Euro

## Shopping

- Most shops open from 9.00 - 17.30 or 18.00 - Mondays to Saturdays.

- Some smaller towns have an early closing day.

- Late shopping is generally available in shopping centres and towns until 20.00 or 21.00 on Thursdays and Fridays.

- There is also Sunday shopping.

