

Accommodation

# Homestay

**emerald**<sup>®</sup>  
cultural institute  
English Language • Professional Development



## Overview

The vast majority of the students who come to the Institute are accommodated with Irish families. Accommodation is offered on a paying-guest basis with carefully-selected families.

We have a large host family database, the majority of which have been with us for at least 12 years.



All our families offer single-room accommodation to our adult students. Adult students attending a course as part of a group may be required to share a twin room with another member of the group. Single-room accommodation for adult groups is subject to availability and depends on the time of year and the size of the group. We can only guarantee accommodation for students who are attending a course at our Institute.

Junior students are usually required to share a room in the host family with another student. All junior students who come as part of a group are accommodated two per family.

Our families provide half-board accommodation for adult students and full-board accommodation for junior students. This consists of:

**Breakfast:** Fruit juice, cereal, bread/toast and tea or coffee.

**Dinner:** A full evening meal comprising a main course and a dessert/fruit.

Students in Palmerston Park and Milltown Park can purchase lunch in the school cafeteria or in shops/ delicatessens near the school. A lunch voucher valid from Monday to Friday can be purchased in the school. The voucher costs €50 and entitles the student to choose from a number of different menu options. Adult students in our Summer Centres can also buy their lunch in the shops or restaurants close to their centre. On Saturdays and Sundays all meals are provided.

**Packed lunches are only included for students attending one of our Junior Programmes.** The packed lunch consists of a sandwich, piece of fruit, drink and a chocolate bar or yoghurt.

A supplement of €50 per week is charged for executive host family accommodation. Executive host families offer students a private bathroom and are subject to availability.

A supplement of €45 per week will apply to students who are accommodated in a host family over the Christmas holidays. Please contact the Institute directly for full details of host family availability over this period.

An administration fee of €75 per person is charged on all accommodation arranged by the Institute.



## Location

Many of our families are situated within walking distance of our learning centres. Those who are not within walking distance are situated on direct bus or tram routes to and from the centres.

All families are situated close to city centre bus or tram routes. We ask our families to bring their student to the school on the first day of their course. During their orientation we explain to the students precisely how to travel from their house to the school.

## Mother Tongue Rule

We do not mix individual students of the same nationality or mother tongue in the same family, unless specifically requested. For groups of junior and adult students it is usually necessary to accommodate 2 students from the same group per family.

## Special Needs

We have families who can cater for special accommodation, dietary or other needs, which our students may have, provided we are informed of them in advance.

These families are subject to availability and must be booked. Examples of these are: vegetarian diets, dislike of household pets, requirement for children of the same age, etc. A supplement of €20 per week may apply to certain special dietary requirements.

## Quality Maintenance

We carefully grade and select each of our host families by visiting the home and interviewing the family in person. We operate an ongoing programme to maintain the quality of our host family base. This involves an annual questionnaire to each of our families and periodic visits to families.

In addition we ask our adult students to use our comment card to give feedback on their family experience and we receive constant feedback from group leaders on how happy their students are in their families.

Using these methods we can ensure that the quality of the accommodation and the standard of care and service are maintained at a high level. The conditions for host family accommodation are included at the end of this section.

## Advance Notification

Upon receipt of payment we provide each of our students and groups with basic family details in advance of their arrival in Ireland. This allows the student to leave contact details with his/her family or friends before coming to Ireland. It also allows the student to contact the Irish family before arrival if he/she so wishes.

Students who want to cancel their host family accommodation during their stay are required to give us a minimum of two weeks' notice. Students who do not give adequate notice will be charged for two weeks host family accommodation.