

## Pre-arrival information and FAQs

### **Are students under the age of 18 currently accepted?**

The minimum age to attend programmes at this time is 18.

### **Do I need to take a Covid-19 test before I travel?**

For information on the most up-to-date travel requirements, please refer to the following websites:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/75d92-covid-19-travel-advice/>

<https://www.dfa.ie/travel/travel-advice/coronavirus/general-covid-19-travel-advisory/>

We recommend that all students take an antigen test prior to travelling to Ireland or before coming to school.

### **What can I expect when I arrive in Dublin airport?**

You will need to complete the following form prior to arrival at Dublin airport:

[Passenger locator online form](#)

Please note, if you are transiting through another airport and country on your journey to Ireland, you may be required to fill out additional documentation for that country. We advise you to carefully check all requirements before traveling as these may change.

### **If I am non-EU/EEA student, what documents will I require for immigration?**

At the border control in the airport, we recommend that you ensure you have copies of all your supporting documentation, as you may be asked to provide additional information. Please see below for list of supporting documentation:

- Acceptance Letter from the School (to be provided by ECI )
- Confirmation of transfer to accommodation (to be provided by ECI)
- Booking confirmation of your accommodation arrangements for at least the first fourteen days
- Proof that you can support yourself financially during your stay - personal bank statements, etc.
- Copy of Health Insurance for the duration of the stay

We would like to highlight that in the current environment, travel recommendations and restrictions may change at any time as a result of COVID-19. We will of course endeavour to keep you informed of any updates in this regard. The Deciding Immigration Officer at the border ultimately retains discretion concerning entry in all cases. Please note that we cannot accept responsibility in the event that a student is refused admittance by Immigration officials or where travel arrangements are disrupted due to circumstances beyond our control.

### **Will I require an airport transfer?**

Department of Education guidelines recommend that you book an airport transfer through the school on arrival to bring you to your accommodation.

To book an arrival transfer, please contact us at [bookings@eci.ie](mailto:bookings@eci.ie), the cost is €85 one way.

Please be prepared to wear a mask or face covering and to lift your own luggage into the back of the car. Passengers must load and unload the cars / taxis themselves.

Your driver will wait for you in the Arrivals hall of Dublin airport, after you have collected your luggage. You will have received an airport transfer confirmation document with all relevant contact and emergency numbers in advance of your journey. Should you have difficulty finding your driver please refer to these.

### **Where can I buy an Irish SIM card?**

We suggest buying an Irish SIM card before placing orders for grocery shopping or takeaway for delivery, as very often it is important for the delivery driver to be able to contact you. The main operators in Ireland are Three, Vodafone, Eir and Tesco Mobile.

## **Accommodation**

All students are advised about the importance of staying in appropriate accommodation during their time in Ireland.

### **What is expected of me if I am staying in a host family?**

We advise you to continue to attentively follow all the guidelines regarding hand hygiene and cough/sneezing etiquette when you are in your host family. It is also important to follow current government advice regarding social visits and gatherings - you are advised to limit the number of people you meet with. The more contact you have - the greater the risk of getting and spreading the virus. You are also asked to keep a daily log of people you meet for contact tracing purposes. Speak to your host family if you have any doubts and always play your part to help prevent the spread of Covid-19.

### **What should I bring with me?**

We suggest that you bring at least one week supply of face coverings, additional supplies can be bought once in Dublin. Hand sanitiser will be provided in the school buildings but it is also recommended that you carry some with you.

We also require that you bring a laptop or tablet to access digital materials. Print-outs and photocopies of materials will no longer be provided as a safety measure.

Finally, we suggest you bring your own water bottle.

### **When will my level test take place?**

We will contact you in advance of your first day of lessons for your level test and to arrange a Zoom call with a member of our academic team to assess your speaking. You will receive an Orientation document after arrival and we will contact you and answer any questions you may have.

### **What precautions should I take while on public transport to get to school?**

It is mandatory in Ireland to wear face coverings while on public transport.

### **What can I expect on my first day of school?**

As you will have taken your level test before your first day of lessons, your class will already be assigned to you. We will inform you in advance of your classroom number and when you arrive you should go directly to your class. The location of your classroom will be clearly indicated in reception. We would ask you not to arrive at the school before 08.30. You will be assigned a space in the classroom and this will be the same every day.

## Who can I speak to if I have any questions?

You can contact our Student Welfare Officer at [studentwelfare@eci.ie](mailto:studentwelfare@eci.ie). An Orientation Document will be provided. A number of our Student Welfare Services are available online. These include:

- Request a letter to open a bank account
- Request a letter for immigration
- Request a letter to apply for a PPS number
- Request holidays
- Request an appointment to speak to a member of our Academic, Accommodation, Admissions or Accounts team

## What are Emerald's Covid-19 guidelines?

For information on our Covid-19 guidelines, please refer to our Covid-19 Protocol and Guidelines document.

If you have any symptoms of Covid-19 we require that you do not come to school on that day. Please call or email us to inform us and we will advise you what to do.

# General Information

## Health Information

The most up to date information about COVID-19 will be available from Ireland's Health Service Executive (HSE) . Here you will find information about the symptoms of the virus, as well as information about when to contact health professionals. You can also find regular updates on the World Health Organisation's website.

Some advice from the Health Service Executive (HSE) is available on how to protect yourself and others from the spread of COVID-19, including advice on washing hands, using face masks, and shopping safely. More information in multiple languages can be found here.

Students should not attend a GP doctor in person if they believe they may have COVID-19. Instead, they should phone the GP in order for a test to be arranged. Any GP can arrange a test for you.

Anyone who may have been in contact with a person who has COVID-19, is advised to contact HSE Live 1850 24 1850 for further information. All international students will have free access to the Irish healthcare system for treatment related to COVID-19.

## Travel Information

***\*\*It is compulsory to wear a face mask on public transport and in retail stores.\*\****

If you have a COVID-19 related travel query, you can call the Department of Foreign Affairs advice centre on (01 613 1733).

*The information contained in this document is subject to change in line with government guidelines and indications and may be updated accordingly.*