IELA
HIGH SCHOOL **PROGRAMME**
BROCHURE

IELA HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMMES

HIGH SCHOOL EXPERTS IN IRELAND

We're with you every step of the way

Contents

IELA – About Us.....03

IELA High School Programme.....04

Why study in Ireland?.....05

Irish Education System.....06

High School Curriculum.....07-08

Extra-Curricular Activities.....09

Choosing a school.....10

Homes Stay and Guardianship programme.....11

Boarding and Guardianship programme.....12

Testimonials.....13

Frequently Asked Questions.....14

Public Schools Partner Locations.....15

IELA - your trusted partner for High School Programmes in Ireland.

The IELA journey commenced in 2014, from our experiences as host families for international students in the picturesque villages of Sutton & Howth. Our IELA goal was to offer a unique, personalised, and student centric service in safe and beautiful communities, ensuring that every student enjoyed a high quality experience.

From humble beginnings, IELA has evolved into a trusted and professional provider, dedicated to nurturing relationships and facilitating experiences for students from around the world having fostered invaluable partnerships with like-minded institutions overseas.

Our journey wasn't without challenges, but our combined expertise in leadership, organisation, communication and problem-solving, allowed us to grow into the reputable brand we are today.We approach our work with unwavering passion, enthusiasm, drive, and commitment, allowing us to build an extensive network of industry experts and knowledge in what we do.

As proud Irish hosts, we thrive on establishing warm relationships with our students, their parents, and agents and proudly welcome students into the 'IELA family'. Our reputation as a professional, trustworthy, and hands-on provider has continued to grow and we have evolved to focus entirely on High School Programmes and now consider IELA to be expert in our field.

We understand the trust that parents place in us when sending their children to Ireland. Each student that enrols in our High School Programme becomes part of the IELA family, and we take their well-being to heart from the moment they arrive long after their departure.

Young learners in a foreign country need support and guidance, and we're dedicated to providing it when they need it most. What sets us apart is not only our readiness and responsiveness to help but also our skill in managing any situation that may arise. At IELA, we're proud to boast a resilient, multi-talented and integrated team, each member bringing a wealth of expertise and life experience to the table.IELA wouldn't be complete without our extraordinary host families. We're deeply grateful to work with these remarkable individuals who share our values, commitment, and reliability. They are not just a part of our service; they are an extension of our family.

As we look ahead to the future, our aspiration is to continue growing and evolving, serving more students, fostering wider international connections, ensuring that every educational journey with IELA is exceptional. We aim to remain at the forefront of the industry, providing trust, support, and warmth to students and their families as they explore the world with us. With IELA, your global educational journey is in safe and caring hands.

Emer & IELA Team

IELA High School Programme

IELA provide **High School, Homestay & Guardianship services** tailored for students in Ireland between the ages of **13 – 18 years.** We understand the importance of finding the best partner to support your child throughout their academic placement and we believe our tailored quality service will ensure your child is safe, happy and supported.

Choosing the best school - We will assist you in selecting the best available school option, , i.e. Public or Private, Boarding or Day School.

Host family Accommodation – We provide a warm and welcoming host family which meets with the highest quality and standards, IELA host families are regularly visited to ensure standard quality assurance and are vetted by Irish Police (Garda Vetted).

Guardianship – IELA provide a unique 'hands-on' personalised guardianship, from before a student leaves home until they finish their High School programme.

Our team are parents themselves and bring a wealth of expertise in guiding each student along their academic journey. As well as being located close to our partner schools, they know the subtle differences and details which make each school stand-out. If your child has a special interest or ambition, we know which school will help them reach this potential and prepare them for making their dreams a reality. Our students' health, happiness, education, and safety is pivotal to IELA's core ethos and culture.

Why do I need a Guardian?

IELA are with our student every step of the way on their academic journey, caring, nurturing, supporting and creating solutions to any issue, however big or small. We have the experience to know how to manage any situation and treat each student individually. Any grievances or issues are handled in a timely, professional manner with the utmost sensitivity and no matter what surprises arise, we always manage to resolve a situation quickly and effectively.

Why Chose IELA?

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Why Study in Ireland?

Ireland, also known as the Emerald Isle is one of the most beautiful countries in the world and is famous for its breath-taking scenery, rugged coastline,rolling hills, lush green fields, beautiful forests and trails, beaches, intriguing culture and folklore, and much more.

Dublin is Ireland's capital city, located on the east coast and is a vibrant young city famous for its history, charm, museums, galleries, theatres,shops, pubs, restaurants including its friendly people with their unique sense of humour and fun.

There are hundreds of beautiful, enchanting villages and towns dotted around Ireland including some of the larger cities of Cork, Galway, Waterford, Limerick and Wexford all of which offer an abundance of culture, relaxed charm and friendliness.

Ireland's quality of life ranks amongst the bestin the world, which is partly due to the excellent Educational system. It ranks in the top 10 globally as an education system which meets the demands of its competitive economy.

Ireland is headquarters to hundreds of global companies including, Apple, Google, Facebook, Paypal, Microsoft, Yahoo, eBay, Twitter, TikTok and Intel.

Irish Education System

Ireland has one of the best education systems in the world and has an internationally renowned reputation for academic quality. Education in Ireland is compulsory from ages 4 to 16 or until students have completed three years of Second Level (Post-Primary)Education. First level students typically start at aged 4 years and finish at aged 12, whilst second level students finish at aged 18 years old.

Schools are open for approximately nine months between late August and June. There are three school terms in the academic year:

1. Late August to December 2. January to Easter 3. April to June

Secondary School System in Ireland

Junior Cycle (1st year, 2nd year, 3rd year)

The junior cycle covers the first three years of secondary school. Children begin their second level education around the age of 12 or 13. The Junior Cycle examination is held at the end of the Junior Cycle in post-primary schools and students normally sit the exam at the age of 15.

Senior Cycle (4th year (Transition year), 5th year and 6th year)

The Senior Cycle caters for students in the 15 to 18 year age group. It includes Transition Year, which follows immediately after the Junior Cycle.

Transition Year (TY) or 4th Year is a one-year programme between Junior Cycle and Senior Cycle. It is designed to act as a bridge between the two by facilitating the smooth transition from the more dependent learning of the Junior Cycle to the more independent self-directed learning required for the Senior Cycle.

5th & 6th Year follows Transition year and aims to provide learners with a broad, balanced education while also offering some specialisation towards a particular career option.

The Leaving Certificate Examination is held at the end of the Senior Cycle, 6th Year and is internationally recognised for all degree programmes at Irish, UK, US and European universities.Entry to third level education is closely linked to the results achieved by students at this examination.

High School Curriculum

All High Schools in Ireland follow the curriculum set out by The Department of Education and Science in Ireland. Public, Private, Boarding or Day Schools follow the same curriculum and take the same state examinations - Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate.

Junior Cycle

Students study up to 12 subjects including the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Geography, History, Religion, Science and Civics. Students must study one modern language (Normally French, German or Spanish) and can chose some elective subjects. Irish students study Irish language as a compulsory subject but International students have an exemption.

Senior Cycle

Minimum of 6 academic subjects
Taken at a Higher or Ordinary level

Senior Cycle Core Subjects (Maths • English)

Elective subject

1 modern language of choice- French, German or Spanish

Other subject choices: Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Agricultural Science, Home Economics, Engineering, Business Studies, Accountancy, Economics, I.T, Applied Mathematics, Music, Design and Technical Graphics, Art, Technical Drawing, Construction Studies, History, Geography, Classical Studies and others.

While most schools offer the same subjects, some choices vary from school to school.

How do students choose their subjects?

In most cases students will chose their elective subjects on their first day of school. Some schools may ask students to make their choices in advance- in such case IELA will be in touch with you when required.

Is an academic entrance exam required for international students?

Most schools do not require an entrance exam. Normally a copy of two recent school reports is sufficient. Some private and boarding schools do conduct an English and/or Maths test along with an on-line interview.

What is the minimum level of English required?

Minimum Level of English: Junior cycle 1st - 3rd year (ages 12-15)

Elementary level is accepted but additional support is recommended. We would also suggest a pre-school intensive English course before students begin their IELA High School Programme.

Minimum Level of English: Senior cycle 4th - 6th year (ages 15-18):

For entrance into 4th year of the Senior Cycle, we recommend an intermediate level of English (B1). For the 5th or 6th year students should at least have an upper intermediate level of English (B2) as the academics are more demanding.

What certification do students receive upon completion of IELA High School Programme?

IELA will arrange transcript documentation from the students' Irish school to enable a smooth transition into school in their country of origin.

Validation of Studies:

All students will receive a transcript with grades for their time spent at an Irish School. This can be submitted for validation at their local Ministry of Education.

Extra Curricular Activities

IELA assist our students to arrange and organise activities and sports outside of the school. For example, many of our students participate in sports such Gaelic Football, Hurling, Hockey, Rugby or Swimming.

Other activities include music lessons, choir, horse-riding, dance lessons or debating.

Extra English language tuition can be arranged at an additional cost during the academic programme, although some schools include extra tuition as part of International students' timetable.

Choosing a School that's right for you
Boarding or Day School. Public or Private

How do I choose a school?

At IELA, we work with many schools in Dublin and throughout Ireland. As there are many different types of schools and options available to international students, Public, Private, Boarding or Day. Our expert High School Team will help you in choosing the most suitable school for your student.

Irish Secondary Schools:

There are 729 secondary schools (High Schools) located throughout Ireland. They vary between single sex (all boys or all girls) and mixed Gender. They provide diverse choices including religious or secular education. The number of students in each school varies greatly depending on the location.

Our partner schools are located both in Dublin neighbourhoods and also in more rural locations throughout Ireland.

Early application is essential to secure a place.

Public schools are only available to EU students.

Non-EU students must attend private day or boarding schools. Private day and boarding schools are also open to EU students.

High School, Homestay & Guardianship Programme.

Most students chose our High School Homestay & Guardianship Programme and live with an Irish host family for the duration of their stay.

Each student is assigned an IELA Student Co-ordinator who takes an active interest in ensuring your child is safe and receives the highest quality individual support from the moment they arrive until after they leave.
Each dedicated student co-ordinator monitors the students' academic progress, provides emotional support, attends Parent-Teacher meetings and writes regular reports back to the natural parents.

The Co-ordinator not only monitors the academic and social development of each of our students, but also become friends. They are also an essential link for the school and host family during unforeseen situations such as an accident or illness.

"100% of IELA High School Students progressed to 3rd Level Education"

Geraldine, Programme Co Ordinator

"At IELA we look after your child and offer the same level of support that we would expect for our own family."

– Fiona, Student Co-ordinator.

Will I have to travel far to school?

At IELA we believe you should live as close as possible to your chosen school and enjoy an immersion within the local community. All our host families are located as close as possible to your chosen school, generally within walking distance or a short bus ride away (10 - 15 minutes). Students can travel by bus, train or tram.

Boarding School & Guardianship Programme

IELA provide a Guardianship Service for our Boarding School Students.

Boarding schools require that all international students appoint a local Guardian when their parents are not living in the country. It is essential for both the school and the student that they have someone on the ground who can respond quickly when any problem or need arises.

Pre-arrival Our IELA student co-ordinators purchase books and uniform and assist with choosing subjects and extra-curricular activities.

Once arrived they continuously monitor each student's academic and social progress. They provide emotional and practical support for the student, helping them with any material needs while also resolving any social problems they may have inside the boarding school. They make sure each child is always safe and happy.

Academically, the co-ordinator deals with issues the student may have in their studies. They also attend Parent Teacher meetings and send full reports on the student's academic progress to their home agency or natural parents.

An IELA Co-ordinator is also an essential link for the school and natural parents during unforeseen situations. When a child is sick and the school is unable to provide the appropriate support on site; the IELA co-ordinator is called upon to organise and accompany the child to doctor or hospital visits.

The goal of the IELA Team is to look after your child and offer the same level of support that they would expect from their own family.

Host Families:

Boarding school students will require host families on several occasions throughout the academic year. As well as taking half term breaks (9 nights) in October and February, boarding schools will have several 'exeat' or closure weekends during the academic year.
The IELA co-ordinator will foresee these events and organise suitable host family accommodation for the student.

IELA host families are carefully selected, based on their skills, hobbies and interests. All IELA host families have been inspected and police checked.

If students prefer to go home during half terms the Co-ordinator will organise airport transfers and assist them with check-in when needed.

Visa and Immigration:

All non-EU students whose parents are not living in Ireland are required to appoint a local Guardian. For students applying for an entry visa, the co-Ordinator's details and required documents will be provided before they apply for an entry visa.

Once in Ireland all Non-EU students need to get a residence permit to remain in the country legally. The IELA co-ordinator will organise the immigration appointment and accompany the student to their appointment. They will also take the lead in gathering all the documents required for the appointment.

Testimonials

"Fantastic Experience!"

"IELA was the agency chosen for our son to study 6th year and Leaving Certificate in Ireland, and it was a total success. High professional standards of management and kindness shown during the stay, a perfect combination. It has been wonderful to have Emer and Nicky to our side. They are more than an agency. They are two involved women getting everything working in a more manageable way"

-Nacho, Zaragoza

"Unforgettable Experience!"

"I have not got enough words to describe how much I miss Ireland and Sutton and even Sutton Park School, I won't lie about it. I am really glad that I have been so fortunate to be a part of the IELA experience, it has been the most memorable time of my life actually! I wish you all the best of health and miss both of you really bad! I really wish to visit Ireland and re-connect with the memories of the past, and, of course, get those spicy O'Connell's wings"

-Vlad, Russia – Sutton Park School

"A great team!"

"I have been a host mother for many agencies in Dublin and IELA are the most professional with an excellent student-centred approach. They manage to balance the needs of the students & host families flawlessly. I now only work with IELA because of how great a team they are"

-Ciara Moen

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a student expense account (contingency fund) and how is this fund managed?

We request a contingency (expenses) fund to pay for additional expenses during the student's stay. Any unused funds monies are returned to the family after the student's departure, with balancing statement. If funds become low during the academic year a supplement will be requested. Please be assured that no major payments will be made without parental permission. Actual amount can vary depending on the duration of stay and costs at each individual school.

School uniforms & books - who will buy these items?

IELA will purchase the uniform and books for each high school student before arrival. Simply include the student's measurements with our application form (Height, Chest, Waist and Inside leg) and IELA will do the rest!

Do I need medical & travel insurance for my time in Ireland?

EU students must bring their European Health Insurance Card which will cover most medical expenses they may incur. Travel insurance is available to purchase through IELA.

How much 'pocket money' is recommended?

We recommend €30 per week. Students must have access to their own personal funds. Parents should arrange a debit card for their child in which they can deposit funds on a weekly or monthly basis. Cash is not available from IELA for students under any circumstances.

What do students plan during holidays (mid-term breaks/Christmas/Easter)

IELA will organise an excursion for students during October and February mid-term breaks.

Please note that our High School Programme includes accommodation during mid-term breaks but does not include accommodation during Easter and Christmas holidays. We recommend that all students return home for Christmas and Easter holidays.

When will I receive details of my host family?

Host family profiles will be shared a approximately three weeks in advance of a students' arrival. In our experience, to avoid disappointment to our students overseas, sharing family information earlier is not recommended as family life is constantly evolving and sometimes situations arise which force them to postpone their hosting plans.

Partner school locations

IELA HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMMES

Your Irish *adventure* starts here!

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