



ATLAS JUNIOR

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMMES

IRELAND

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMMES IN IRELAND

High School Programmes in Ireland are a life learning experience that give young students the opportunity to challenge themselves both personally and academically.

Studying in an Irish high school provides international students with the most effective way of improving their English while also experiencing the unique lifestyle and culture of a country that is famous for its natural beauty, friendly atmosphere and strong educational values.

The Irish education system is internationally recognised and respected as one of the best in the world. Our partner schools offer a wide range of subject choices that will help students develop an awareness of their academic and professional passions. What's more, our schools have strong cultures that are vital in developing students' character, independence and life skills.

**Study Travel Star Award
finalist or winner eight years in a row!**



WHY IRELAND?

- Internationally respected education system
- Safe, friendly, fun & welcoming
- Strong and robust economy
- Wide range of school subjects
- Traditionally low number of international students
- Inclusive and multicultural
- Beautiful natural scenery
- A vibrant culture with a rich history and unique traditions
- Pathway to higher education
- High quality of life



”
“One of the 12 safest
countries in the world.”
Global Peace Index 2020



“
“One of the
10 friendliest
countries in
the world.”
Lonely Planet



WHY ATLAS?

OUR SERVICES

At Atlas we pride ourselves on the quality of our programmes. Our goal is to ensure that you are taken care of from the moment you step off the plane until it's time for you to say goodbye and go home.

We are dedicated to providing the highest level of service in every aspect of your time with us - from your school and accommodation to your extracurricular activities and wellbeing.



EXPERIENCE

We have long standing relationships with a large number of Ireland's top state and private schools. Our team has decades of experience at the heart of the Irish school system and can provide you with expert advice on all aspects of high school education in Ireland. No one understands the school system in Ireland better than we do!



SECURITY

We provide the highest level of monitoring and assessment of any high school placement provider in the country. We constantly monitor the progress of our high school students and have face to face meetings with them continually throughout the year. Our Guardianship service ensures your child is in safe hands from the moment they arrive in Ireland until the moment they leave.



EXCELLENCE

We work with only the best schools in their fields, chosen for their academic, sporting and extracurricular excellence. At Atlas, we pride ourselves on the quality of our programmes and we are dedicated to ensuring each child reaches their potential. We have close working relationships within our partner schools and are assured of their quality educational programmes.

1

SCHOOL SELECTION & APPLICATION

- Review of pre-application and consultation with you to decide on the programme that's best for you.
- Atlas online English test and follow up online interview(s).
- Management and administration of all school application paperwork.
- Ongoing communication with the school to track your application.
- Assistance with visa queries (if required), travel advice, or any other pre-arrival information that you may require.

2

ACCOMMODATION MATCHING

- Full-time accommodation team who will match you with an Atlas family based on your profile.
- Highly experienced, dedicated, warm and welcoming host families.
- A full-time accommodation team that is always available to support you with any accommodation questions you have.
- The reassurance that all Atlas families are police-vetted, and personally visited and inspected by our team.

3

GUARDIANSHIP

- Experienced and professional educational Guardianship team in Ireland.
- Ongoing and consistent support throughout the year.
- Attendance at parent-teacher meetings and regular feedback, updates and reports
- Support with convalidation of final school reports.
- Emergency phone number.

SCHOOLS WE WORK WITH

We work with over 30 schools in Ireland so you can be sure that we will always have an option that is the perfect educational fit for each student. Our network spans across Ireland's vibrant city life in Dublin to the serene landscapes of the West, providing an ideal academic home for every child.

We match each student's profile to a school that best suits their needs and offer a range of school options, including:

- Private or state schools
- City or rural areas
- Day schools or boarding schools
- Single sex or co-educational



DUBLIN

Dublin, the capital of Ireland, is a bustling metropolis that seamlessly blends historic charm with modern innovation. Known for its friendly atmosphere and cultural vibrancy, Dublin offers a rich tapestry of experiences, from its historic landmarks and literary heritage to its thriving tech and business sectors. This dynamic city provides an inspiring backdrop for education, ensuring students not only receive top-notch academics but also grow within a culturally enriched environment.

Schools in Dublin offer:

- Academic excellence: Broad curriculum with a focus on core subjects and electives.
- Extracurricular activities: Wide range of sports, arts, and cultural activities.
- Cultural exposure: Access to Dublin's museums, theaters, and historical sites.
- International Environment: Diverse student body with international programmes.
- Technology integration: Modern facilities and digital learning platforms.



WEST OF IRELAND

The West of Ireland, encompassing the schools in Counties Limerick, Galway, and Clare, is known for its breathtaking landscapes, rich traditions, and welcoming communities. This region provides a serene and inspiring setting for education, offering an environment that fosters personal growth and a strong sense of community.

Schools in this region provide:

- Stunning landscapes: From the rugged coastline of the Wild Atlantic Way to the serene beauty of Connemara, the West of Ireland offers a picturesque environment that stimulates creativity and tranquility.
- Traditional Irish heritage: Immerse in vibrant local traditions, including music, dance, and festivals that highlight the region's cultural heritage.
- Close-knit communities: Schools here foster a strong sense of belonging, encouraging students to build lasting relationships and develop a robust support network.
- Innovative programmes: Emphasis on balanced education with strong academic curricula complemented by arts, sports, and outdoor activities.





THE IRISH EDUCATION SYSTEM

Secondary school education in Ireland consists of a three-year Junior Cycle, followed by a two or three-year Senior Cycle, depending on whether the optional Transition Year is taken.

THE JUNIOR CYCLE (YEARS 1, 2 AND 3 FOR STUDENTS AGED 12-15)

Students begin secondary school at age 12 in Year 1. Over these three years, the main objective is for students to complete a broad and balanced curriculum, that includes humanities, languages, science and technology, music and arts, numeracy and literacy, along with electives. They sit a state examination in Third Year called the Junior Cycle Student Award before they proceed to the Senior Cycle.

JUNIOR CYCLE	
Age 12 - 13	1st year
Age 13 - 14	2nd year
Age 14 - 15	3rd year

THE SENIOR CYCLE (YEARS 4, 5 AND 6 FOR STUDENTS AGED 15-18)

The first year of the Senior Cycle is optional and it is called Transition Year (TY). TY provides an opportunity for students to experience a wide range of educational inputs, including work experience, over the course of a year that is free from formal examinations.

In Year 5 and 6, students prepare for the final secondary school and university entrance examination called the Leaving Certificate. Students study the core subjects of English, Irish and Maths and choose an additional 3-5 elective subjects from a breadth of 30 subjects. Irish is not compulsory for overseas students provided their primary education up to 11 years of age was received outside Ireland.

SENIOR CYCLE	
Age 15 - 16	4th year
Age 16 - 17	5th year
Age 17 - 18	6th year

ACADEMIC YEAR

The standard academic year begins in September, finishes in June and consists of three terms: Sept – Dec; Jan – April and April – June. We can place a student in any of the years 1-6 and termly placements can also be negotiated.

ACADEMIC YEAR	
Term 1	September - December
Term 2	January - April
Term 3	April - June

PRIVATE DAY SCHOOLS

EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION WITH HOST FAMILY ACCOMMODATION

For non-EU and EU students seeking a rich educational experience in Co Dublin, we offer access to prestigious private day schools that provide top-notch academic programmes and personal growth opportunities. Students can enjoy the cultural and social benefits of living with local host families while attending some of Dublin's finest educational institutions.

Why Choose Private Day Schools?

- **Host family accommodation:** Experience local culture and everyday life by living with carefully selected host families, providing a supportive and immersive environment.
- **Proximity to city centre:** Enjoy the convenience of being close to Dublin's vibrant cultural, historical, and recreational offerings.
- **Holistic education:** Access a blend of rigorous academics and diverse extracurricular opportunities, fostering overall personal growth.
- **International community:** Engage with students from various backgrounds, enhancing global awareness and intercultural skills.

EXAMPLES OF PRIVATE DAY SCHOOLS WE WORK WITH:



JOHN SCOTTUS SCHOOL

Population: 200
Gender: Co-educational
Distance from City Centre: 22 km

John Scottus School emphasizes a holistic approach to education with a focus on academic excellence and personal development. The school's innovative curriculum and supportive environment are designed to inspire and engage students.



ST. CONLETH'S COLLEGE

Population: 320
Gender: Co-educational
Distance from City Centre: 3.5 km

St. Conleth's College offers a well-rounded education that combines strong academic programmes with a variety of extracurricular activities. The college is known for its nurturing environment and commitment to fostering individual talents and interests.



NORD ANGLIA SCHOOL

Population: 450
Gender: Co-educational
Distance from City Centre: 10 km

Nord Anglia International School provides a global standard of education with an emphasis on personalized learning and international perspectives. The school's modern facilities and dedicated staff ensure a high-quality educational experience. Nord Anglia International School offer the full International Baccalaureate programme, from Primary Years to Diploma.

PRIVATE BOARDING SCHOOLS

EXAMPLES OF PRIVATE BOARDING SCHOOLS WE WORK WITH:

EDUCATION WITH ON-CAMPUS ACCOMMODATION

For both non-EU and EU students, we work with a selection of prestigious private boarding schools that combine excellent academic programmes with comfortable on-campus living. Our partner schools provide a nurturing environment that supports both educational and personal growth.

Why Choose Private Boarding Schools?

- **On-campus accommodation:** Comfortable and secure living arrangements that foster a strong sense of community and belonging, as well as independence and self-confidence.
- **Exceptional supervision and care:** Boarding staff are counsellors, mediators, comforters and guides.
- **Extracurricular offers:** Free time is filled with options that promote physical and mental health as well as providing lots of fun.
- **Multicultural environment:** Opportunities to engage with students from diverse backgrounds, enhancing global awareness and intercultural skills.



THE KING'S HOSPITAL SCHOOL

Population: 700
Gender: Co-educational
Distance from Dublin Centre: 26 km

The King's Hospital School offers a rich academic curriculum complemented by a range of extracurricular activities. The historic campus provides a supportive environment with modern facilities, ensuring a well-rounded educational experience.



ALEXANDRA COLLEGE

Population: 450
Gender: All-girls
Distance from Dublin Centre: 4 km

Alexandra College is renowned for its strong academic programmes and emphasis on personal development. The school combines tradition with innovation, offering a wide array of academic and extracurricular opportunities for its students.



GLENSTAL ABBEY

Population: 250
Gender: All-boys
Distance from Limerick Centre: 20 km

Glenstal Abbey School provides a unique educational setting with a focus on academic excellence, sporting accomplishments and musical excellence. The school's beautiful campus and dedicated faculty create an environment where students can thrive both academically and personally.

STATE DAY SCHOOLS

HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION WITH HOMESTAY ACCOMMODATION

For EU students, we offer access to a variety of state day schools with homestay accommodation. Whether you're interested in the vibrant atmosphere of Dublin or the stunning landscapes of the West of Ireland, we have exceptional options to fit your educational and personal needs.

Why Choose State Schools?

- **Exceptional, cost-effective Education:** Access to high-quality, government-funded academic programmes and extracurricular activities, reducing the financial costs. **Safe and Supportive Living:** Experiences and vetted host families provide a caring and secure environment.
- **Cultural Enrichment:** Experience the rich culture and traditions of Ireland through daily interactions with local families and local community engagement.
- **Range of Locations:** Choose between the city of Dublin or the incredible landscapes of the West of Ireland, each offering its own unique set of experiences.

EXAMPLES OF STATE SCHOOLS WE WORK WITH:



**ST TIERNAN'S
COMMUNITY SCHOOL**

Population: 540
Gender: Co-educational
Distance from Dublin Centre: 9 km

St Tiernan's is rich in tradition, yet firmly focused on the future. The school fosters the moral development of students through a school ethos based on respect for the dignity of each individual, with a wide range of subjects, academic and practical, in a multi-denominational setting.



COLÁISTE MUIRE MÁTHAIRL

Population: 350
Gender: Co-educational
Distance from Galway Centre: <1 km

Galway's newest secondary school, established by merging Our Lady's College and St. Mary's College, reflects the unique historical, cultural and community spirit of Galway. The school strives to foster charity, cooperation and consideration for others as well as a spirit of responsibility and self-discipline.



**ENNISTYMON COMMUNITY
SCHOOL**

Population: 700
Gender: Co-educational
Distance from Ennis Town: 25 km

Ennistymon Community School is a new school, merged from three previously existing schools in Ennistymon, with the most modern, state of the art building in the country. With the expertise and experience of staff from three previously different schools, Ennistymon ensures that teaching and learning, sporting participation, community spirit, and social inclusion are at the heart of their operation.



PROGRAMME OPTIONS

We offer a range of different programme options across Ireland. There's something for all interests, requirements and price ranges. Students may choose to study for following time periods:

ACADEMIC YEAR	September - June / July	Available in all school options
SEMESTER	September - February or January - June	Available in public day schools in the West of Ireland
TERM	September - December or January - March	Available in public day schools in the West of Ireland
SHORT-STAY	4 - 8 weeks) *Eligible for Erasmus+ pupils	Available in public day schools in the West of Ireland
MULTIPLE YEARS	Students can study for multiple years on all programmes. This is the perfect option for students looking to gain access to a university in Ireland or another English-speaking country.	

APPLICATION PROCESS

1 HIGH SCHOOL APPLICATION FORM

Fill in our application form and send it in together with a copy of your passport / ID and two most recent school reports.

2 FREE ENGLISH LEVEL ASSESSMENT TEST

Once we receive your application we will ask you to do our English test. This is a short multiple choice quiz that gives us a first indication of your level of English.

3 INTRO AND ONLINE CALL

We will organise a meeting with you and your family to discuss your educational plans. This is our first opportunity to get to know you and understand your goals and objectives.

4 PROGRAMME ACCEPTANCE

Using our knowledge of the schools, we will make the application on your behalf. We administer all the paperwork and manage the enrolment process for you.

5 DEPOSIT PAYMENT

Once a place is offered by a high school we ask for a deposit payment to secure your place in the programme.

6 ACCOMMODATION ARRANGEMENTS

For day school options, we arrange the best suitable homestay accommodation according to your requirements.

7 WELCOME & SCHOOL INFORMATION

You will receive a welcome information pack with your school and accommodation information pre-arrival so you will be well equipped for your adventure.

8 WELCOME TO IRELAND!

Start your High School experience and have the time of your life!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is there a minimum level of English that students applying for the high school programme should have?

Junior cycle (years 1-3/ ages 12-15)

Pre-Intermediate (A2) level is accepted but additional support is recommended. We would also advise an intensive course before students start their High School Programmes.

Senior cycle (years 4-6 / ages 15-18) For entrance into 4th year in 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 studies are more demanding at these stages. Some schools require an Advanced (C1) level of English for 5th and 6th Year.

Students can get an indication of their English level by completing our online assessment test on our website: <http://www.atlaslanguageschool.com/online-placement-test/>

Do the fees include accommodation during school breaks?

The fees include full-board accommodation during mid-term breaks (one week usually in October and one week usually in February). The fees do not include accommodation during the 2-week Christmas and Easter breaks. Accommodation over Christmas and Easter can be booked at an additional cost on request. Please inform us as soon as possible if you wish to stay in Ireland during these holidays.

Are airport transfers included in the fees?

The fees include the initial arrival and final departure transfers to and from their accommodation. Any additional required transfers during a students' stay are charged additionally. Public transport is not included in the fees.

Can students purchase insurance through Atlas?

Yes, students can buy insurance through us. Visa required students must have private medical insurance (in English) which they can either organise themselves or book through us at an extra cost of €400 per year. For Non visa required students we strongly recommend that all students take out private medical/ travel insurance. All European students should bring their European Health Insurance Card.

Is the certification of an Irish high school (the Leaving Certificate) recognised in other countries?

Yes, the Leaving Certificate qualification is internationally recognised for all degree programmes at Irish, UK, US and European universities.

Should students bring their own money?

Yes, students have to bring their own money. We recommend that parents get a debit card for their child which they can deposit funds on a weekly or monthly basis. We do not hand cash to students under any circumstances.

How do students get their school uniforms and books?

Students don't have to do anything. We will purchase the uniform and books for our high school students before arrival; we just need the student's measurements (Height, Chest, Waist and Inside leg). The uniform and books will be paid from the Expenses Fund or invoiced additionally.

Are there any extra costs involved for the Transition Year (TY) (4th Year)?

Yes, students have to bring their own money. We recommend that parents get a debit card for their child which they can deposit funds on a weekly or monthly basis.



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