

Ireland



High School Programmes in Ireland





Declan Millar
Managing Director
High Schools
International

Going abroad to study is a unique opportunity and experience. But it can also be a little scary and most students are uncertain if they will like it, or if they will succeed, and sometimes even if they will survive it!

We are here to take the uncertainty away – to make certain that you enjoy the experience, succeed in your ambitions and become a better person because of the experience. Our business is your success and our team of professionals is dedicated to ensuring that you have access to the best that Ireland and the Irish education system have to offer you.

Since 1988 We have been providing opportunities for international students in Ireland. We have developed a wealth of expertise and experience in all areas of international study programmes – from classroom excellence to the excellence of our support and counselling services. Our programmes are staffed by professionals in the fields of education, welfare and languages. From our own experience we understand and appreciate the particular needs of international students, and our programmes are based on this understanding and appreciation.

HSI is your guide to making the best choices in overseas education

HSI Ireland

With HSI you can be sure that you are getting the best that Ireland can offer.

HSI Ireland is an Irish company, staffed by Irish professionals. Our local expertise – of Irish schools, the education system, locations, host families - and our international experience – international students, education systems, cultures – is your guide to the best choice of programme to meet the specific educational, career, social and personal needs of each and every student.

Ireland

An overseas study programme for teenagers is about a lot more than the quality of the classroom. It is also about environment – cultural, social, personal, educational – and how this environment encourages students to study, to be happy, to make friends, to feel at home.

Ireland is justifiably proud of its long tradition of welcoming international students and of the reputation of the Irish as a warm, hospitable and friendly people. We value family life above almost everything else and this is reflected in the quality of our host families and schools.

Schools

The Irish education system is recognised as one of the most developed and successful in Europe. Irish graduates have always been successful in attracting the best and most innovative multinational companies to set up here and use the knowledge and skills pool formed by Irish schools and universities. Ireland has one of the highest percentages of school graduates, and one of the highest percentages of school graduates who go on to university.

Programme Options

Programme	School Type	Age	Duration	Academic Background	English Level*	Available to
IREDs	Standard Day + Homestay	13/18	1,2,3 + terms	Good Average	Intermediate	EU/EEA**
IRePs	Private Day + Homestay	13/18	1,2,3 + terms	High Average	High Intermediate	All Nationalities
IReBs	Private Boarding	13/18	1,2,3 + Terms	High Average	High Intermediate	All Nationalities
IReSB	Elite State Boarding	13/18	3 + terms	Good Average	Intermediate	EU/EEA
IReBNI	Private Boarding	11/18	1,2,3 + terms	High Average	High Intermediate	All Nationalities

Note: There is limited availability for one term programmes (these are generally not available for the final school term).

* There are Preparation Options available for students who do not meet the English Level requirements.

** Certain fees/restrictions may apply to non EU students who wish to enroll on this programme.

Who / What / When / How

Who should apply?

- Students who want to spend a term or a year in Ireland, experience an Irish school and Irish life and who want to perfect their English
- Students who want to gain entry to an Irish or British university (a minimum of two years is usually recommended and may be compulsory)
- Students who wish to follow the full Irish Secondary School Programme from age 12 or 13

What do I need to apply?

- You must be aged between 13 and 18 years
- You must have a reasonable level of English
- You must have achieved average or better than average grades in your last two school years
- You must be in good health
- You must be positive about participating in the programme and be prepared to make the effort to adapt when you arrive

When should I apply?

We continue to accept applications as long as there are suitable vacancies – usually through the month of August. However you should remember that there are limited vacancies in all schools – and there are more Standard Schools than Elite Schools, and more Elite Schools than Boarding Schools. We strongly recommend that you are **guided** by these dates:

Boarding Schools: September Start: Apply by early April

Elite Schools: September Start: Apply by early May / January Start: Apply by early October

Standard Schools: September Start: Apply by early May / January Start: Apply by early October

Of course the earlier you apply the more choice you may have.

Can I graduate from an Irish Secondary School?

Yes – if you pass the Leaving Certificate in the final year. You will normally need to spend two years in an Irish school before taking this examination. If your grades in the Leaving Certificate are good enough you can then apply for entry to the university of your choice (including British universities).

Can I choose my school?

Of course while you may choose a school, the school will also ultimately choose you! Most schools have their own entry criteria and most schools have a limited capacity – so even if you are a brilliant student with fluent English, there may not be a suitable vacancy for you in your chosen school or school year. Here again HSI can assist you by recommending schools.

Can I choose my subjects?

When you have completed your application and provided us with all the information we need, we will match you to the best school that meets your needs - and this includes subject requirements. If you have specific subjects requirements, it is essential that we are aware of these when you make your application. Remember that not all schools offer the same subjects and this is where our local knowledge and expertise is really helpful.

How to apply: Simple 5 Step Process

We make it as simple as possible. You complete one application form to participate in a HSI programme and we use this to apply to whatever number of schools you have a stated preference for and that we think will be interested in you. Your local HSI representative will give you all the material and information you need for a successful application.

To make an application you need:

- 1 Completed HSI Application form
- 2 Completed School references
- 3 Completed English Test & Report
- 4 Your education details for the past two years
- 5 Payment of a deposit

When you have been accepted for the programme you will be required to provide:

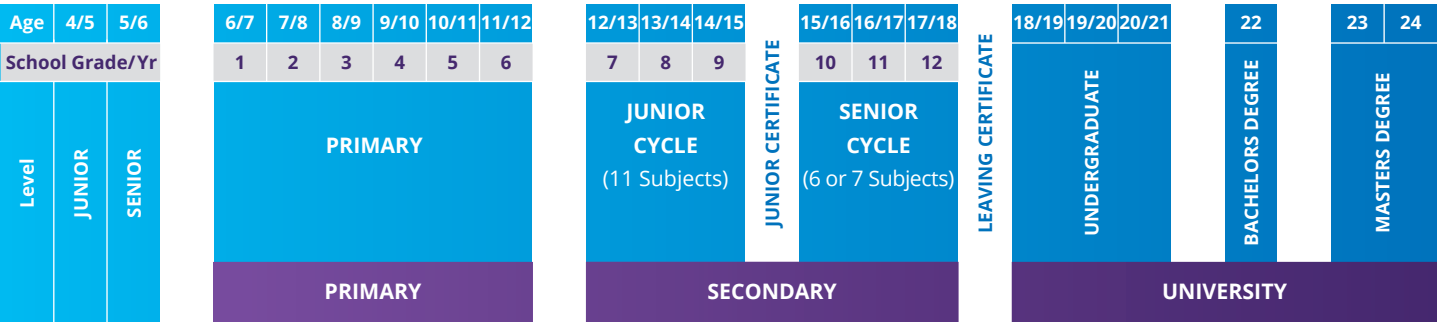
- 1 Completed Medical Report
- 2 Photographs
- 3 Copy of your Birth Certificate
- 4 Completed Contracts

The Irish School System

The Irish secondary school system is divided into two cycles - Junior and Senior - each of three years duration. The Junior Cycle is a non-specialised programme covering a broad range of subjects. The Senior Cycle is more specialised to allow students prepare for university and career choices.

There are two State examinations in Secondary School – the Junior Certificate at the end of the first three years, and the Leaving Certificate at the end of the final three years (the Leaving Certificate is both an exit/graduating exam from school and an entrance exam for universities in Ireland and the UK).

The first year of Senior Cycle is called **Transition Year** and the objective of this year is to promote the personal, social, educational and vocational development of pupils and to prepare them for their role as autonomous, participative and responsible members of society. It combines Life-Skills programmes with a core academic curriculum. The final two years (5th & 6th Years) are preparation for the Leaving Certificate.



The official curriculum of the Junior Cycle programme is:

Art, Craft & Design	Business Studies	Civic, Social & Political Education	Classical Studies
English	Environmental & Social Studies	French	Irish
Geography	German	Greek	Hebrew Studies
History	Home Economics	Italian	Latin
Materials Technology (Wood)	Maths	Metalwork	Music
Religious Education	Science	Social, Personal & Health	Physical Education
Spanish	Technical Graphics	Technology	Applied Technology
Personal Project	Coding	Modern Foreign Languages	Engineering
Chinese Language Culture	Visual Art	Digital Media Literacy	Artistic Performance
Philosophy	Forensic Science		

Students normally take a core program of English, Mathematics, Science, History/Geography, Modern European Language and up to 5 other subjects.

The official curriculum of the Senior Cycle programme is:

Accounting	Agricultural Economics	Agricultural Science	Ancient Greek
Applied Mathematics	Arabic	Art	Biology
Business	Chemistry	Classical Studies	Construction Studies
Design & Communication Graphics	Economics	Engineering	English
French	Irish	Geography	German
Hebrew Studies	History	Home Economics	Italian
Japanese	Latin	Mathematics	Music
Physics	Physics & Chemistry	Religious Education	Russian
Spanish	Computer Studies	Physical Education	Politics and Society
Technology			

Students normally take 6 or 7 subjects (the minimum number of subjects required for university entrance is 6). All subjects are taught at two levels, some at three.

- Note:
- No school offers the complete range of subjects – the normal range offered is between 15 and 18 subjects.
 - Students may also request examinations in up to 16 modern languages not listed in the official list of subjects above.

Academic Timetables & Calendars**

The Academic year in Ireland runs from the end of August to the end of May* and is divided into 3 Terms as follows:

Autumn Term 1	August to December
Spring Term 2	January to Easter
Summer Term 3	Easter to June

*3rd/6th Year Students obliged to sit the Junior/Leaving Cert will not finish until late June.(see potential extras below)

**Typical daily timetable in a day school (Monday to Friday)

09.00 – 09.45	English Literature	12.05 – 12.50	Physics
09.45 – 10.30	Mathematics	12.50 – 14.00	Lunch
10.30 – 10.40	Short Break	14.00 – 14.45	French
10.40 – 11.25	History	14.45 – 15.30	Computer Studies
11.25 – 12.05	Physics	15.30 – 16.15	Business Studies

**Please note the above information is intended for general guideline purposes. Individual Schools may vary their dates and timetables.

Accommodation Options - Residential or Homestay

Your living environment is crucial to your success in Ireland. Not all students are suitable for a residence, but most students are suitable for a host family.

HSI is very careful about selecting families to host our students. Apart from providing a clean and comfortable house, your host family provides a warm, caring family environment – they have an interest in your success – and they welcome you as an additional member of the family.

Furthermore for students who prefer to be part of a residential community, there are a variety of boarding accommodation available. Some schools are 7 Day boarding, and others are either 5 Day or 12 Day boarding. In 5 Day boarding schools students spend every weekend with a host family. In 12 Day boarding schools, students spend every second weekend with a family. 7 Day boarding schools may also close one weekend in every month. These closures are in addition to mid-term breaks in the first and second terms when students also live with host families.

Role of HSI Student Advisers

Supervision & Monitoring

From the time the student arrives until they complete their programme, their assigned HSI adviser will be their primary point of contact. These advisers are experienced educational professionals and in co-operation with the school and local host family seek to ensure that each student maximizes their potential and overall experience.

Guardianship & Emergency contact

HSI provides AGPI & BSA accredited guardianship for all students for the duration of their study programme in Ireland. This involves ongoing student support including 24 hour emergency contact 365 days a year as well as attending parent teacher meetings etc.

Reporting

In addition to maintaining regular contact with the student, host family and school, the student adviser will personally visit the student at school once a month as well as a separate visit to the host family. Where necessary they will liaise between the school and host family on behalf of the student to help resolve any problems or difficulties that arise. At the end of each month they will prepare a personal monthly report for the natural parents detailing how the student is progressing academically (including language skills), socially and personally.



Your HSI Programme

Standard Inclusions for all programmes:

- Selection of a suitable school
- Registration in the school
- Standard school tuition fees
- School uniform
- Class text books
- State examinations where required (3rd & 6th Years)
- Documents required for validation of your studies

Our Support Services include:

- Assistance and support of your HSI Adviser
- Monthly Progress reports
- Local orientation shortly after arrival
- Assistance with visa application
- First and Final transfers
- Assistance with other transfers
- Emergency telephone contact, 24/7

Our Boarding programme includes:

- Dormitory accommodation
- Full board
- Required boarding school equipment (duvet, linen, towels, etc)
- Family accommodation during official school closures (mid-terms, long weekends)

Our Homestay accommodation includes:


- Single room family accommodation
- Full Board
- Access to all house facilities including a study facility
- A warm, friendly environment



Programme Exclusions:

- Accommodation during Christmas/Easter holidays and June examination period
- Local travel and transportation
- Costs of transfers except for first and final transfers
- School extras (sports uniform/equipment, Transition Year expenses, study programmes such as IB or SATS, examination fees etc)
- Personal expenses (pocket money, local travel etc)
- Multi-entry & other visa processing fees
- Insurance (available as an optional extra through HSI)



Programme Options in Ireland

Description	School Type / IREDS*	Key Features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Standard Day school in Ireland is the equivalent of a Public school in most countries Mostly privately owned but maintained by the Irish Government. Located in a wide range of locations throughout Ireland 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local schools & local host families in local communities Single sex/Coeducational, Religious/Non Religious schools Wide range of subjects and good local facilities Good student/teacher ratio Most school graduates proceed to University
Description	School Type / IREPS	Key Features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elite Day Schools are the equivalent of Private Schools in most other countries Partly maintained by the Irish Government Mainly located in cities, with a few located in smaller areas Excellent reputation 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent range of subjects & facilities Smaller class sizes High percentage of graduates go to university Single sex/oeducational, Religious/Non Religious schools Local host families Wider range of optional extras such as IB, sports, music tuition etc.
Description	School Type / IREBS	Key Features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boarding schools in Ireland often accept both day students and boarders These schools are privately owned but receive some maintenance from the Irish Government Boarding schools vary from 5 Day (every weekend with a Host Family) to 12 Day (every second weekend with a family) to 7 Day (occasional weekends with a Host family) Host family accommodation provided during all official school closures except Christmas Excellent reputation & majority of graduates proceed to top level University courses 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On campus accommodation with Irish students Resident pastoral and supervisory staff Comprehensive range of subjects Excellent facilities including sports facilities Excellent student/teacher ratio Most schools are co-educational Religious and Non religious Dormitory accommodation for junior students & single/double rooms for senior students
Description	School Type / IRESB	Key Features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elite State Boarding Schools in Ireland are not very widespread. There are only a very small number of these schools Until recently these were Private Boarding schools but are now maintained by the Irish government These schools also accept day students 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mostly coeducational, non-religious schools Wide range of subjects and good facilities Good student/teacher ratio Most students progress to university
Description	School Type / IREBNI	Key Features
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools in Northern Ireland follow the British curriculum (GCSEs and A Levels) The schools are privately funded Excellent reputation with high progression rates to top universities 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive range of subjects Excellent academic and sports facilities Coeducational, non-religious schools Excellent student/teacher ration and small class sizes Good quality residential accommodation

All schools offer the official curriculum of the Irish Department of Education, except Northern Ireland who offer the UK system

* Certain restrictions apply to non-European students who wish to enroll on this programme

Other HSI Programmes & Locations

			
HSI High Schools	HSI Junior Groups	HSI Guardians	HSI Junior Groups
UNITED KINGDOM HIGH SCHOOL	HIGH SCHOOL IMMERSIONS	GUARDIANSHIPS	SUMMER CAMPS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E: info@hsinet.org • T: +441273 711 606 • State Day Schools (14 – 18 years) • State Colleges (16 – 19 years) • State Boarding Schools (11 – 18 years) • Private Day Schools (16 – 18 years) • Private Boarding Schools (11 – 18 years) <p>See United Kingdom High Schools Brochure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK & Ireland • Groups of 10+ students • 12 – 17 years • 1 – 4 weeks • School Tuition + Accommodation + Transfers • Buddy System with Local Students • Optional Activities and Excursions <p>See Short Term Junior Programmes Brochure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK & Ireland • BSA & AGPI Accredited • Limited and Standard Options* • Various UK and Ireland locations <p>* Limited Guardianship only available in the United Kingdom</p> <p>See Guardianship Brochure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ireland • Classic Residential Summer Programme • English + Sports & Activities • Social Programme • Excursions • Fun and Hands-on Robotics & Coding (Programming) Workshops • 12 – 17 years • 2 – 4 weeks • Throughout July <p>See Short Term Junior Programmes Brochure</p>

HSI Guardianship

HSI in Ireland is a founding member of, and accredited by **AGPI** (The Association of Guardianship Providers in Ireland). With our extensive experience of caring for international students, we can provide a superior level of supervision, guidance and reporting for students in all Irish schools. Whether accommodation is in a boarding school residence or with a host family, we can guarantee a safe, pleasant and productive experience. We apply the same standards and use the same procedures in all of our programmes - so you can always assume that staff, host families and ancillary staff are fully vetted - and equally important, are the best at what they do.



www.hsinet.org

HSI Ireland is a member of the following organisations

