



# Quest Program IRELAND



**Ireland** is one of the few places in the world so much proof of their long history! Everywhere you look you'll see old castles, forts, monuments and ruins, some even older than the pyramids in Egypt. In Ireland the past is very much part of the present, its residents and its vibrant culture. The Atlantic Ocean's powerful waves have excavated secret caves and high cliffs, leaving a magnificent coastline with long fine sandy beaches. The strong winds of the Atlantic and the warm water of the Gulf current influence the climate, making it temperate with nearly the same temperatures everywhere in the country.

Ireland consists of two countries – Northern Ireland, which is part of the United Kingdom, and the Republic of Ireland. The Republic of Ireland has a long and rich heritage and visitors to Ireland will

enjoy an array of historic places to visit that include Christ Church Cathedral, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin Castle, Malahide Castle, Ardgillan Castle and Demesne. Dublin, Ireland's capital city, lies on Dublin Bay and overlooks the Irish Sea that divides Ireland and Great Britain. The city of Dublin ranks among the top tourist destinations in Europe and has an abundance of tourist attractions. Other interesting places to visit in the Republic of Ireland include Cork, Derry, Limerick, Tipperary, Galway and Waterford – famous for its glass-making industry.

The Irish culture has taken thousands of years to develop, so cherish every moment of your cultural discovery. The bodhrán, which is like a hand-held drum, is one of the most popular instruments in Irish music, along with the fiddle and the tin whistle. Irish dancing is fiercely competitive and taken very seriously with provincial, national and international championships. If you want to have a go yourself, catch a céili, where everyone joins in together. Gaelic football and Hurling are the national sports of Ireland. Gaelic football is a mixture of soccer and rugby that produces a historic game unique to Ireland. Hurling can be described as Gaelic football, but played with sticks and a smaller ball. These sports have played an important role in maintaining Irish culture over many years.

## Ireland Statistics

Area: 70,280 square kilometers  
Population: 3,900,000  
Capital: Dublin  
Language: English and Irish (Gaelic)  
Currency: Euro (EUR)  
Religion: mainly Roman Catholic

Quest International Office 1314 8th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122  
info@questexchange.org www.questexchange.org Skype Quest.International  
(415) 665-3900 (415) 665-3902 Fax



A nonprofit corporation committed to advancing intercultural educational student exchange.



# Quest Program IRELAND



## School Life

The student will attend the local high school in the area where they will be living. Due to new visa regulations, non-European Union applicants to Ireland can now be accepted by Irish public schools. Non-European Union applicants wishing to attend private fee-paying schools can be placed, but will be liable for these costs. There are three terms in the school year: Autumn, Spring and Summer. The school year starts at the beginning of September and ends between the end of June and the middle of July. There is a two-week holiday at Christmas and Easter, as well as a two to three day holiday halfway through each term. The school day at most Irish schools starts at 9:00 am and finishes around 3:45 pm. Lessons are on Monday to Friday only. School uniform is recommended in most schools and compulsory in others. Packed lunch is provided by the host family on school days. Books, other learning materials, uniform, hot school lunches, general pocket money and transportation costs are the student's responsibility. Each student has an area representative allocated to them for the duration of their stay that will arrange individual meetings on a regular basis and an orientation at the start of the program.

## Host Family Life

The student will be a new member of the host family and is therefore required to participate fully in family life. The student may have to share a room with a host sibling or another high school student. A quiet place in the house will be provided where the student can study. The family will welcome the student into their home, but they will not rearrange their lives completely around the student's needs. In many cases both parents work and will have other commitments on the weekend as well.

The student will need to be independent and outgoing, so that they can build up a network of friends and make arrangements to fill their spare time.

## Program Extras

### London weekend

Students will have the chance to spend an exciting weekend with other high school students in London. The weekend includes three nights' accommodation in central London with breakfast included, dinner at Planet Hollywood, a sightseeing cruise on River Thames and entrance to Madame Tussauds. In addition, an optional visit to a famous musical can be arranged. The weekend is accompanied by a guide who also provides a walking tour of the London's city center.

### European Tour

We offer an amazing three-week bus tour around Europe. You get to visit 10 countries together with students from all over the world. The price includes accommodation, half board, sightseeing, most entrances and activities, Disneyland in Paris, and more. Please ask for more detailed information regarding this tour.

## About Quest

Quest International was founded in 1999. We are a nonprofit organization committed to international, educational student exchange. Our goal is to promote cultural awareness and international understanding by offering quality, educational and cultural programs for students, host families and schools. Our staff is dedicated to creating a positive exchange experience for all program participants.