



## STUDENT HANDBOOK

[www.apollolanguagecentre.com](http://www.apollolanguagecentre.com)

Approved by Apollo Team on March 25th 2026

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## Welcome to Apollo Language Centre!

We hope you have a great learning experience with us. These are some of the people who work at Apollo Language Centre:

Aoife Govern – Co-founder /Director  
Steven O’Dwyer – Co-founder/Director  
Guil Siqueira – Managing Director  
Ligia Fornazieri – Office Manager  
Kieranne Hogg, Ailen Galera & Geovanni Pinheiro - Academic Team  
Bruna Borges – Bookings Manager  
Shannon Morgan – Sales & Marketing  
Stefany Araujo – Front Office Manager & Student Services  
Rose Duggan – Accommodation Manager  
Felipe Abdalla – Operations & Mini-Stay Manager  
Belén Arana - Operations Assistant  
Vaia Galousi - Finance Manager  
David Quigley - Summer Programme Manager  
Mackenzie Kavanagh – Social Programme Coordinator

### **And all Apollo Teachers!**

Steven & Aoife, Apollo’s Directors have a combined experience of over 25 years in the study abroad industry and therefore have a very clear understanding of what is required to be able to give you the experience you deserve. We will help you in any way we can to ensure you enjoy your time in Dublin and at Apollo, as much as possible. We strive to meet the highest of standards and your feedback is greatly welcomed, as we continually try to improve, and be the best language school in Ireland. We are committed to ensuring you reach your goals and will provide you with a quality learning environment to be able to achieve this.

The Student Handbook will provide you with a guide on how we at Apollo Language Centre work, what is required of you as students, plus answer many questions you may have about your time here. We hope you find it useful, and if you have any questions we would love to hear from you. We are always here to help!

Steven O’Dwyer & Aoife Govern  
Owners / Directors



## **A Welcome Note from our Academic Team**

At Apollo Language Centre, we have built a great team of teachers who provide a professional language learning experience in an open, personal and motivating environment. Our teachers have worked around the world in places as far away as Brazil, Vietnam, Middle East, Japan and Korea to places nearer home such as Spain, Italy, Poland, Portugal, and Germany. They bring with them a wide range of key experiences and knowledge of different cultures and learning styles. Teaching methodology at Apollo is based on the communicative approach and a focus on language use, rather than just memorising form (grammar). We believe that learning a language means developing active, engaged learners who are able to take control of their learning and link their classroom learning experience to life outside the class. As such, each day you have two lessons taught by different teachers to give you exposure to a variety of accents and teaching styles. Lesson 1 focuses on grammar, structure and vocabulary development. These are taught with an emphasis on developing your reading and writing skills. Lesson 2 focuses on interactive communication with an emphasis on effective real-life communication and ways of practicing and achieving it (listening and speaking skills).

The courses are based on a textbook published in conjunction with our publishing partner, but our teachers try to connect to your life and your interests by using a variety of supplementary materials such as newspapers, magazines, audio and video files, songs, etc. In linking your classroom learning experience to life outside the class, a lot of these materials will have a focus on Dublin and Irish life and culture. For those interested in an external exam, we introduce all students to internationally-recognised exams appropriate for their level and also offer additional IELTS, and University of Cambridge exam preparation (PET, FCE, CAE, etc.).

*Kieranne Hogg, Ailen Galera, Geovanni Pinheiro*  
Academic Team

**Apollo Language Centre**

Apollo Language Centre is a leading English language education provider in Ireland, founded in 2016 by Steven O'Dwyer and Aoife Govern, who together bring over 30 years of professional experience in the international study abroad sector. Apollo began by offering adult English programmes at its flagship premises at 5 Lad Lane, Dublin 2, before expanding into junior summer programmes the same year at Maynooth University and University College Cork. A further junior centre at Sutton Park School in Dublin was added in 2018, followed by the addition of its Limerick summer centre to the portfolio in 2023, marking continued demand and an expanding national footprint.

The school opened in 2017 with premises at 5 Lad Lane, Dublin 2 offering classes for adult learners & mini-stay groups. That same year, they ran their first summer schools for teenagers based at Maynooth University in Co. Kildare and at University College Cork. These were followed in 2018 by a third centre based at Sutton Park School in Dublin 13, on Dublin's Northside & we opened our fourth centre at University of Limerick in 2023.

The new enterprise quickly gained a great reputation and since 2018 has been the proud winner of ten Study Travel Star Awards! Apollo is the only English language school in Ireland to have won in the 'Star Junior Programme for under 18s' category and has won this award for five years in a row in 2018, 2019, 2020/2021, 2022 and again in 2023. We also won the 'Star New School' Award in 2019 as well as winning in the 'English Language School – Europe' category three times in 2022, 2023 and 2024. The most memorable achievement for Apollo was winning in the 'Leading Star' category in 2024, becoming the second organisation in the world to win this prestigious award.

In 2019, the school was accredited by Equals, an international organization which fosters excellence in language education across the world by providing leadership, guidance and support to governments, teaching institutions and individuals.

Apollo is also deeply engaged in sectoral leadership. In 2019, the school cofounded the Independent Language Schools Group (ILSG), created for non EEI (formerly MEI) schools, with Steven O'Dwyer serving as Chair. The group played a vital role during the COVID19 pandemic, offering support and advocacy, and later merged with EEI (formerly MEI) in 2021 following a sector wide mandate to unify representation for English language schools in Ireland.

In 2023, the Centre was accredited by IALC (International Association of Language Centers), a worldwide association of leading language schools. IALC is an award-winning association of leading language schools worldwide and we are proud to have become members and accredited by IALC in 2023. The IALC Quality Scheme is updated regularly to meet changing consumer expectations and current best practice in international language education.

All these endeavours related to teaching & learning have been complemented by the full upgrade and renovation of the building at the start of 2023. This has created a stylish and comfortable learning environment with improved technology and excellent facilities for staff and learners.

In September, the school was re-inspected by Equals as part of their four-year cycle of quality assurance before deciding if standards were stable or improved. The school was congratulated on the high standards and accredited for a further four years.

At the start of 2024, after careful consideration, the Co-founders of Apollo made the decision to change the ownership structure of Apollo & form a new strategic partnership with WEP, a highly respected European agency with a shared vision and commitment to excellence. There has been no change to the structure & management of Apollo and Aoife Govern & Steven O'Dwyer continue to lead the day-to-day operations of the school. This transition has and

will continue to enable Apollo to benefit from WEP's extensive resources and global network, allowing us to offer enhanced services and new opportunities for growth.

In 2025, Apollo joined *My Erasmus Course*, a collective of leading Dublin-based institutions dedicated to delivering high-quality language and professional development programmes for international educators and learners. As part of this recognised network, Apollo reinforces its commitment to academic excellence, innovative teaching practice, and meaningful cultural exchange. By collaborating within this vibrant community, Apollo contributes to a shared mission of providing outstanding Erasmus+ experiences that promote professional growth, intercultural understanding, and practical classroom innovation.

Apollo's mission is to create a caring and effective learning environment that supports meaningful communication and learner autonomy. Its educational philosophy is grounded in a principled eclectic approach that allows teachers to tailor lessons to students' needs while following a structured, CEFR aligned curriculum. The school places strong emphasis on functional language use, reflective learning, cross-cultural engagement and real-world communicative competence. Recent investments in facilities, technology and learning spaces have enhanced the overall environment, ensuring students and staff benefit from a modern, supportive and dynamic educational setting.

With adult and junior centres operating in Dublin, Kildare, Cork and Limerick, Apollo remains committed to delivering high quality English language education and an outstanding learner experience, while supporting Ireland's reputation as a global destination for excellence in education.

## Strategic Framework – Apollo Language Centre

### Vision Statement

Our vision is to be a leading English Language Education provider in Ireland, recognised for delivering an exceptional, student-centred learning experience that empowers every learner to achieve their personal, academic, and professional goals. We strive to create an inclusive, safe, and inspiring environment where excellence in teaching, learner wellbeing, and academic integrity form the foundation of everything we do. Through strong partnerships, responsible governance, and a commitment to continuous improvement, Apollo aims to contribute meaningfully to Ireland's reputation as a world-class destination for English language education.

### Mission Statement

To become the leading provider for international education and student experiences worldwide, and to be renowned for excellence in service and quality.

### Values

#### Passion for Service

We utilise the talents and experience of our team and infuse that with a passion for service. Every day, we choose to view every action through the prism of excellence in service.

#### Strategic Objective

Apollo Language Centre is committed to delivering a high-quality, student-centred English language education experience that meets and exceeds the TrustEd Ireland standards. By 2030, we aim to be recognised as a leading English Language Education provider in Ireland, known for excellence in service, teaching quality, learner wellbeing, academic integrity, and operational transparency. Through strong partnerships, continuous quality enhancement, sustainability, and a culture of inclusion, we will ensure that every learner at Apollo achieves their full potential in a safe, supportive, and inspiring environment.

### Core Strategic Goals

#### 1. People – Fostering Learner Success and Staff Excellence

We will create an inclusive, supportive learning environment where students can thrive and staff are empowered through continuous development. Learner wellbeing, staff professionalism, and the consistent delivery of service excellence will guide our daily operations.

#### 2. Quality Education – Ensuring Academic Excellence and Compliance

We will deliver academically robust, learner-centred English language programmes aligned with QQI ELE requirements and the TrustEd Ireland Code of Practice. Our Quality Assurance framework will ensure consistency, transparency, CEFR alignment, and strong academic integrity across all programmes.

#### 3. Partnership – Delivering Shared Impact Through Collaboration

We will strengthen local, national, and international partnerships to ensure ethical recruitment, smooth student transitions, and enriching cultural and academic engagement. Collaboration with agents, community organisations, and sector bodies will enhance our students' experiences and amplify shared impact.

#### 4. Sustainability & Operational Integrity – Ensuring a Safe, Ethical, and Future-Ready School

We will maintain responsible governance, strong financial management, and full compliance with Irish regulations and TrustEd standards. We will invest in modern facilities, digital innovation, and environmentally conscious practices to ensure Apollo remains safe, resilient, and future-focused.

### **Student Welfare**

At Apollo Language Centre, student wellbeing is our priority. We want all students to feel safe, supported, and included throughout their stay in Ireland. Our dedicated Student Services are available to assist students with personal, academic, medical, or accommodation concerns, and students can speak to us at any time if they need help or advice. From the first-day induction to weekly check-ins and ongoing guidance, we ensure students have the information and support needed to settle comfortably into life in Dublin. We provide clear safety advice, access to medical assistance, emergency contacts available outside office hours, and a welcoming environment where all students are treated with respect and care. Whether students are experiencing a problem, feeling unwell, or simply need someone to talk to, our team is here to support their wellbeing so they can enjoy their experience and make the most of their time at Apollo.

### **Courses**

We have a variety of different courses, some of our most popular are listed below. For a full list of our courses please see our brochure or website - [www.apollolanguagecentre.com](http://www.apollolanguagecentre.com)

### **Courses & Programmes**

- Morning Real World English
- Afternoon Real World English
- Real World English Plus
- Professional English Courses ( Marketing/Business/Leadership)
- Exam preparation
- Gap Year
- Professional Gap Year
- Teacher Training
- Erasmus+ Programmes
- Mini-stay programmes
- Junior Summer Programmes
- Summer Young Adult Programme
- Internship Programmes

### **Classes:**

Each class is taught by two teachers and has a maximum of 16 students in each class, ensuring a high level of individual attention. We offer a variety of courses at different levels and have a team of qualified and experienced teachers who are committed to your learning success. Most courses are structured to allow students time to explore the sights of Dublin and to become immersed in the surrounding culture and lifestyle.

Our full-time classes start at 09.00 every morning and finish at 13:15. Break time is from 11:00 to 11:15. For students enrolled in a 25-hour programme, the extra afternoon classes start at 14.00 and finish at 16.30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Real World English 15-hour afternoon programme starts at 13.45 and finishes at 17.00 break time is from 15.15 to 15.30. Students must participate in a minimum of 20 lessons per week (15 if you have purchased the afternoon course). As a courtesy to your teacher and other students please arrive on time. Students who arrive more than 15 minutes late will not be admitted to class. If you have any problems with your class (for example, you think that the class is too easy or too difficult) please speak to our Academic Team. There are free elective classes some afternoons. If you would like to attend any of these please go to reception to register.

## Your Level and Assessment

### Assessment before arrival:

Before arrival you must complete our online placement test – link can be found in the booking confirmation letter. You will be tested in grammar and vocabulary.

### Assessment on arrival:

On your first day in school, you will do a short writing test and a speaking test. The average of both scores will determine your level of English.

You will then be placed in a class suitable for your English language level; from Elementary (CEFR A1) through to Advanced (CEFR C1). On your first day, you will be welcomed by our support staff and our Academic Team. During your course your progress is assessed through regular testing by your teachers. As you progress, you will also change classes to ensure that you are in the most suitable class for your English language level.

### Exam Registration for Non-EEA students

As part of their induction, non-EEA Academic Year students are required to sign an agreement stating that they will take an end-of-course exam. The agreement states that the student understands that these exams are mandatory and that they agree to sit them. Once this agreement is signed by both parties, the student is automatically registered into an Exam by the Exams Coordinator, Ailen Galera or Academic Student Services.

One day/week prior to the exam date, the student will receive a reminder email stating the time, date and location of the exam.

### Assessment at Apollo:

#### 1. Weekly Tests (Every Friday)

Every Friday, you will complete a short test on the grammar, vocabulary, and skills you learned during the week.

- You complete the test using a QR code on your phone.
- Your teacher will review the results with you.

These tests help show your progress and areas where you may need more practice.

#### 2. Mid-Term Test

Halfway through your 12-week programme (around Week 6), you will take a mid-term test.

This test helps you see:

- how you are progressing,
- what your strengths are,
- what you should continue practising.

Teachers will give you clear feedback so you know what to focus on in the second half of the course.

#### 3. End-of-Course Test

At the end of each 12-week level, you will complete a final test covering the language and skills you learned during the course.

This helps your teachers understand your overall progress and your readiness for the next level.

#### 4. Exam Preparation & Training

At Apollo, all students receive exam practice that matches their level. This helps you improve your English and prepares you for internationally recognised exams if you choose to take one.

Exam Practice by level:

A2 Level → TIE exam

Includes working with TIE logbooks.

B1 Level → TIE exam

Continued preparation and logbook work.

B1+ Level → Cambridge PET (B1 Preliminary)

B2 Level → IELTS Academic

C1 Level → IELTS Academic

This exam practice is part of your normal classes and helps you build confidence, improve your skills, and understand the types of tasks used in real exams.

## 5. Why we use tests

Assessment helps you:

- see your progress clearly,
- understand your strengths,
- identify what you need to practise,
- stay motivated,
- move through your levels at the right pace.

The record of the grades the student receives in these exams are securely stored by the Academic Manager or Academic Student Services and are available to view by the student, INIS and relevant internal personnel.

### Apollo Language Centre Certificate

A Certificate of English Language (level or proficiency) is issued to all students who successfully complete their course. The Certificate states which course the student completed, the dates the course ran, and the level the student attained, based on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR).

To improve your English skills, it's important to set aside regular time for self-study. This will not only help you practice what you've learned in class and remember new sentence structures, but also keep you connected to the language and internalize its patterns more naturally.

To make self-study easier for you, Apollo has created an online bookshelf with a list of suggested websites. These websites are great resources for students at all levels of English proficiency, and you can use them to practice and learn on your own.

The bookshelf can be accessed through this link:

[Apollo Online bookshelf](#)

### End-of-Course Documents Celebrating your success is important to us!

- **In Class:** On your final day, you will be presented with your physical **Certificate of Completion** by your teacher. This document confirms your course dates and English level and the **CEFR "Can Do" descriptors** (e.g., "*Can produce clear, detailed text*"), providing a detailed academic record for future employers or universities.
- You can request a digital copy of your certificate by sending an email to [experience@apollolanguagecentre.com](mailto:experience@apollolanguagecentre.com)

**Documentation for Visa-Required Learners**

We recognize the critical importance of accurate data for learners on Study & Work (ILEP) programmes.

- **Standard Procedure:** General learners receive all documentation on their final day.
- **Study & Work Verification:** To ensure absolute accuracy for immigration authorities (ISD), attendance data for visa-required students undergoes a rigorous final audit at the end of the final week. Consequently, the official Immigration Attendance Letter is issued electronically within 3–5 working days of course completion.

**Progression and Pathway Programmes**

At Apollo Language Centre, we support students in progressing through their English studies and in planning their next steps in education. Students who wish to advance to higher levels or explore further or higher education options are guided throughout the process. Progression begins with successfully completing an approved external English exam appropriate to the student's level, such as TIE, Cambridge PET, IELTS, or higher Cambridge qualifications.

Students are then encouraged to explore suitable programmes offered by colleges and universities in Ireland, and our academic team provides information sessions, guidance on entry requirements, and support in understanding the language and academic standards needed for admission.

Where required, students are assisted with application preparation, documentation, and clarification of cultural or procedural differences. Through this structured approach, Apollo ensures that students have the information, preparation, and confidence needed to successfully progress to the next stage of their academic journey.

**Data Protection & Your Privacy (GDPR)****1. Our Commitment**

Apollo Language Centre is a Data Controller. We process your personal data in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). We only collect information necessary to provide your educational programme and ensure your welfare while in Ireland.

**2. Seamless Service Delivery (Third-Party Sharing)**

To ensure the services you have booked are delivered professionally and safely, we must share relevant parts of your data with our trusted service partners.

- **Accommodation Partners (Host Families & Residences):** We share your name, age, nationality, gender, and arrival/departure details. Crucially, we also share any dietary requirements or medical allergies you have disclosed to ensure your safety and comfort during your stay.
- **Airport Transfer Services:** We share your name and flight details with our transport partners to facilitate your pick-up and drop-off.
- **Excursion & Activity Providers:** For high-risk activities or day trips, we may share your name and emergency contact details with third-party providers as part of our safeguarding and health and safety protocols.
- **Medical Insurance Providers:** If you have purchased insurance through the school, your identity data is shared with the provider to activate your policy.

### 3. Statutory & Legal Reporting

We recognize the critical importance of accurate data for learners on Study & Work (ILEP) programmes. As a provider of English Language Education, we are legally required to share data with:

- Department of Justice / Immigration (ISD): We report on the attendance and enrolment status of all Stamp 2 visa students.
- PEL (Protection of Enrolled Learners): In the event of school closure, your data is shared with the PEL provider to ensure you can complete your course.
- Standard Procedure: General learners receive all documentation on their final day.
- Study & Work Verification: To ensure absolute accuracy for immigration authorities (ISD), attendance data for visa-required students undergoes a rigorous final audit at the end of the final week. Consequently, the official Immigration Attendance Letter is issued electronically within 3–5 working days of course completion.

### 4. Photos, Videos, and Social Media

We enjoy celebrating student success! We may take photos or videos during classes or social activities for our social media and marketing materials.

#### Opt-Out:

For Adult students: If you do not wish to be photographed, please inform the member of staff taking the picture/video.

For Junior Students: Parents can opt out in the parental consent form completed before arrival, and students will receive a different colour lanyard to be easily identified so they are not included in photos/videos.

### 5. End-of-Course Documents

- In Class: On your final day, you will be presented with your physical Certificate of Completion by your teacher. This document confirms your course dates and English level and the CEFR "Can Do" descriptors (e.g., "*Can produce clear, detailed text*"), providing a detailed academic record for future employers or universities.
- You can request a digital copy of your certificate on the final feedback form or by sending an email to [experience@apollolanguagecentre.com](mailto:experience@apollolanguagecentre.com)

### 6. Data Protection and Records

- **Digital Archive:** Don't worry if you lose your paper certificate! We securely retain a digital copy of your academic history (Attendance & Results) on our Student Management System for **6 years**.
- **Tracking Progress:** Remember, you can check your weekly attendance anytime on the **Apollo Student App**.

### 7. Your Rights

You have the right to access your data, request corrections, or ask for your data to be deleted (once our legal requirement to hold immigration and academic records has expired).

**Learner Protection**

In the highly unlikely event that Apollo Language Centre ceases trading during your course here, you have a guarantee that your student fees are protected against school closure. Apollo Language Centre, in partnership with Aviva Insurance Ireland DAC, Arachas and Study&Protect provide Learner Protection in line with QQI standards to offer students peace of mind in terms of fee security and guaranteed course sustainability.

**How?**

Aviva Insurance Ireland DAC:

All students who register for a course which is on the Interim List of Eligible Programmes (ILEP) will be covered by "Learner protection" This is an insurance policy which guarantees that in the event of a closure all students will be fully refunded for all costs (tuition, accommodation) "Learner Protection" is provided by the insurance company "Aviva Insurance Ireland DAC"

Every student who purchases a course of 25 weeks will automatically be provided with cover. Apollo Language Centre and the Student will receive a certificate of insurance at the beginning of the course.

Aviva Insurance Ireland DAC Aviva Insurance Ireland Designated Activity Company, trading as Aviva, is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland. A private company limited by shares. Registered in Ireland No. 605769. ECOAG15685 12.2025 Registered Office: Building 12, Cherrywood Business Park, Loughlinstown, Dublin 18, D18 W2P5.

**PayToStudy:**

"Escrow Account facilities" describes the mechanism that enable student funds to be held by an independent third party and released only to the payee account on the fulfillment of stated conditions. Students coming to study at Apollo Language Centre on an International Student visa, can pay their fees into the Apollo Language Centre PaytoStudy Escrow account. All funds will be held by PaytoStudy on behalf of the student and Apollo Language Centre pending the visa decision. Where the visa decision is positive, Apollo sends a copy of the visa and passport to PayToStudy once the student arrives for the course and the funds are transferred to Apollo Language Centre. If the visa application is refused, the funds (less any pre-agreed charges) are refunded to the student. Payments can be made using all standard banking methods as well as credit & debit cards. PaytoStudy are the leaders in money management and have a reputation for excellence in service. Interpay Ltd, trading as PaytoStudy, is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.

**Pre-Arrival Information****Safety Tips**

The Irish Tourist Assistance Service helps victims of crime. Phone: 1890 365 700

**Mind Your Money**

- Make arrangements to store your excess cash, passport and other valuables in a safe place in your accommodation.
- Don't carry all your money together. Only carry what you intend to spend in that day.
- If you have to carry excess cash or valuables, use a discrete money belt inside your clothing.
- Be careful when withdrawing money from cash machines.

**Out and About**

- It is not a legal requirement to carry your passport or ID card in Ireland. Some students like to carry a photocopy and leave their passport at home.
- Mind your bag when in crowded areas. Use a handbag or shoulder bag that can be held securely.
- Keep to populated areas. Avoid deserted streets at night.
- Don't wear expensive jewellery or leave belongings exposed. If you are travelling to a remote area to walk or cycle, inform somebody where you are going.

**Public Transport**

Dublin offers three kinds of public transport – train, bus and tram.

**1. Train - [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)**

Iarnród Éireann is the national railway system operator of Ireland. The Dublin Area Rapid Transit (DART) is part of the suburban railway network in Ireland, running mainly along the coastline of Dublin Bay on the Trans-Dublin route, from Greystones in County Wicklow, through Dublin to Howth and Malahide in County Dublin.

**2. Bus - [www.dublinbus.ie](http://www.dublinbus.ie)**

Dublin Bus is the bus operator in Ireland. It operates an extensive network of routes in the city of Dublin and the Greater Dublin Area. Apollo Language Centre is located near the stops for the following bus numbers: 18 / 25x / 26/37/38/39/39a/51d / 51x / 66x / 67x / 70/77x

**3. Tram - [www.luas.ie](http://www.luas.ie)**

Luas is the name of the light rail or tram system serving Dublin. There are currently two Luas lines, the Green line and the Red line. Trams operate from 05:30 to 00:30 Monday to Friday. Apollo Language Centre is located 10 minutes walking distance from the Charlemont stop on the Green Luas line.

**Living in Dublin City**

Dublin is a lively, modern, and cosmopolitan city with a population of approximately 1.3 million people. It is located on the east coast of Ireland, at the mouth of the River Liffey. Dublin has many of the advantages of a larger city while retaining the charm and tradition of a smaller one. With increased prosperity the city has been attracting more and more people from all over the world to live and work here, and today it boasts a cultural diversity to match the most cosmopolitan tastes. Over the years there has been an explosion in foreign cuisine, with European, Asian and South American restaurants now a common sight around the city. Surrounded by mountains and located on the coast, visitors to Dublin are never too far away from a scenic view. As the transport hub of the country it also makes it the perfect base from which to explore the rest of our beautiful island. To learn more about our great city check out the websites below:

[www.visitdublin.com](http://www.visitdublin.com)   [www.dublin.ie](http://www.dublin.ie)

**Dublin Seasons / Weather**

Dublin experiences four seasons of summer, autumn, winter and spring. It has a mild temperate climate, which means that our summers don't get too hot and our winters don't get too cold! Generally, the average temperature in winter is about 5°C and in summer it is around 20°C. One thing to note is that the weather is very changeable, so be prepared for everything!

**Shopping in Dublin**

Shopping in Dublin focuses on the two main pedestrianised shopping streets of Grafton Street/Stephen's Green on the southside and Henry Street on the northside and their surrounding

streets. The two streets are just either side of the river, a few minutes' walk apart, but are somewhat different.

### **Southside**

Grafton Street, located between Trinity College and St Stephen's Green is the more smart shopping area with St Stephen's Green Shopping Centre and fashionable stores such as Brown Thomas, the department store catering for many designer showcases, both foreign and local. Dublin's leading and most exclusive jewellers, Weirs, is also here, as well as the most popular of the famous Bewley's Cafés. Other principal shopping streets in the area include Wicklow Street, Dawson Street, and South Great Georges Street. The nearby Powerscourt Towncentre is one of the nicer, albeit small, shopping centres in the city. Also close by is The Georges Street Arcade, an indoor market well worth a visit.

### **Northside**

Henry Street has department stores such as the popular Arnotts, and an assortment of popular clothing and footwear stores. The ILAC shopping centre, and the newer Jervis Street Shopping Centre are both here. The well-known outdoor food market of Moore Street is always full of bargains. The nearby O'Connell Street, Dublin's main thoroughfare, is home to Eason's Booksellers as well as several other shops.

### **Dublin Markets**

Dublin also holds various markets in and around the city. Some well-known ones include:

- Temple Bar Food Market

Venue: Meeting House Square Date: Every Saturday (weather permitting) Time: 10.00 - 16.30

- Temple Bar Book Market

Venue: Temple Bar Square Date: Every Saturday and Sunday (weather permitting) Times: 11.00 - 18.00

- Blackrock Market - Open every Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday

### **Accommodation Homestay**

Ireland has always been famed for its hospitality and staying with a host family is one of the best ways to experience this first-hand. Many students find staying with an Irish family a very rewarding experience as it offers them a unique insight into Irish culture and provides the perfect opportunity to improve their English by practicing it in a natural everyday context. Over the years, we have built up strong relationships with a number of local families who host our students during their time in Ireland, all of whom are personally interviewed by our Accommodation Team and are chosen for their experience and friendliness.

It should be noted that Irish families do not typically live in the city centre. It is for this reason the majority of our homestays are located on the outskirts of the city. The average time taken to travel from the homestay to the school is 60-minutes, but all host families are walking distance to the public transportation.

Students will be provided with a Half-Board service unless specified otherwise. Therefore, students will receive Breakfast and Dinner, Monday – Friday provided by the host family, with Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner on weekends.

We recommend speaking with your host family on your arrival to ask them on the rules of the house, e.g., at what time you will be able to shower (as the hot water must be turned on to warm up in many homes), if you will have a curfew in the house, what rooms you are permitted to use in the house, etc. It is a good idea to exchange phone numbers so that you can communicate directly with

your host family during you stay if you have any questions.

Your host family is there to help you during your stay. If for any reason you are unclear on the rules of your homestay or have any other related issues, we recommend speaking with your host family first to dissolve the issue directly. If these issues persist our Apollo Accommodation team is located in the adult school for further assistance on these issues.

If for any reason you wish to move host family students must speak with our Accommodation team first to see what action may be taken. Students will only be relocated due to issues of the utmost concern. Students may be denied a relocation of host family if the issue does not meet the recommended criteria.

### **Residence**

For students who do not wish to stay with a host family, we have a number of modern, fully serviced apartments available for short-term rent in the very centre of the city. Due to demand, apartment accommodation generally needs to be booked at least 4 weeks before a student is due to arrive.

The Apollo Adult Residence is conveniently located in Point Village, in the heart of Dublin's regenerated Docklands area. That makes for waterside views, impressive transport links, a short stroll to the 3 Arena and a 20-minute walk (or 10-minute tram ride) into the city centre. The distance to the Apollo Adult School is 40 minutes' walk, 40 minutes by public transport or 10-minute cycle.

Each apartment has between 8 bedrooms centres around a spacious shared living space and kitchen with oven, hob, fridge/freezer, microwave, toaster and kettle. The lounge and dining spaces come fully furnished including a 50" TV, giving you everything you need to make yourself at home.

Each bedroom has a private en-suite shower room, double bed (4'6 / 121x182cm) with built-in under-bed storage, wardrobe with hanging space and shelving, coat racks and a full-length mirror. All bedrooms come with a desk and chair so you can study in peace. The desks also have integrated lighting and pin boards. Each room contains USB charging points and Wi-Fi connection as standard

### **COMMON ROOM:**

Common areas with big TVs & comfortable seating are perfect for socialising and getting to know the residents and staff that make. Point Campus the best student accommodation in Dublin. Whether you want to just relax with your roommates and watch some TV or show off your competitive edge with pool tables and games consoles, there's something for everyone

### **GYM:**

The on-site gym available to residents has state of the art cardio and weights equipment.

### **STUDY ROOM:**

There is a spacious study area where students can quietly study alone or in small groups with wifi and charging docks for laptops.

### **LAUNDRY:**

There are laundry facilities on-site for washing and drying open 24/7. Residents are notified via an app on your phone when your washing is ready.

### **24 HOUR ONSITE STAFF/SECURITY:**

There is a 24-hour reception area where a member of staff is available day or night. They've been hired for their friendliness so will happily help you with any requests or problems you may have. The residence is also monitored by CCTV 24 hours a day.

### **Hotel / Hostel**

If students require hostel or hotel accommodation during their stay in Ireland we are happy to help students book suitable places to stay in the area. Generally, the price you pay for accommodation will determine its quality. However, it can be expensive to live in a good quality hotel for a long period of time. Backpacker accommodation is relatively inexpensive but you should consider bringing your own sleeping bag and pillow if you opt for this kind of temporary accommodation.

### **Permanent Accommodation**

Once you have established a routine in Dublin, you may want to move from your temporary accommodation into something more permanent. You could continue with homestay or perhaps find somewhere else to live - either sharing with other students or renting a place on your own.

### **Rental**

The price of renting accommodation can vary greatly, depending on the location and facilities and whether furniture is provided or not. The best idea is to find something you like and compare with other accommodation in the same area.

### **Where to Look for Accommodation**

Properties for rent are advertised in the "to let" section of newspapers, on the internet and through Real Estate Agencies and on websites such as [www.daft.ie](http://www.daft.ie) and [www.rent.ie](http://www.rent.ie).

### **Things to Keep in Mind When Renting**

#### **The Weekly Rent**

The weekly rent you pay does NOT cover the cost of electricity, gas or telephone charges. Rent is generally paid two to four weeks in advance with the agent or landlord asking you to pay a security deposit equal to an additional four weeks' rent before you move in. This deposit is refunded to you when you leave, provided you have not caused damage to the property and have paid your rent.

#### **Signing a Lease**

To secure a property, you will need a security deposit plus a payment of several weeks' rent which has to be paid in advance. In some cases, you will also be required to provide references. As a tenant, you have rights and obligations – make sure you know these before you sign any document. Make sure you know all of the costs and that you understand the documents you are about to sign. If you need help, you should contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau at [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie) before you sign.

#### **Restrictions**

The lease may contain restrictions, such as not permitting animals or children in the dwelling. Ask the landlord about his/her particular requirements. Make sure that you know and understand these restrictions before signing the lease. If you do not obey the restrictions on the lease, the landlord can ask you to leave.

**Inspecting a Potential Property**

Most landlords will inspect the property with you on commencement of your tenancy. This is done with a list of furniture and fittings in each room of the property so that the two of you can agree on the condition of the property at the commencement of the tenancy. You should note on this document anything you notice during the inspection that is not already listed, and keep a copy that has been signed by both of you. Once you are the tenant, the condition of these things will be your responsibility. This will be done again at the end of your tenancy and the final condition of the property may determine the return of your full security deposit. If this inspection is not suggested, you might suggest it yourself as a means of ensuring fair treatment for all parties involved.

**Studying in Dublin — Simple Cost Guide for Apollo Students**

A quick, easy-to-read guide to help Apollo students understand typical weekly and monthly costs while living and studying in Dublin.

**Immigration Requirement (Visa Students)**

- €6,665 mandatory funds to show for immigration (Study & Work Programme).
- IRP (Irish Residence Permit) Fee: €300 per student.
- Visa application fees (when required): vary by country

**Accommodation (Dublin Examples)****Apollo Options:**

- Student Residence: €350/week
- Host Family: €275/week (includes breakfast + dinner)

**Private Market (Dublin):**

- Shared room / house share: €150–€300/week
- Single room in shared house: €250–€400/week
- 1-bedroom apartment: €500–€700+/week

**Event Programme Costs (Apollo Social Programme)**

- Many activities are free for Apollo students
- Some premium activities may cost: €10–€70, depending on the event (e.g., trips, cultural visits, workshops)
- Food & Groceries
  - Weekly supermarket shop: €60–€120/week
  - Eating out (casual restaurant): €12–€25 per meal
  - Coffee / snack: €3–€6

**Transport in Dublin (Leap Card)**

- Student/Young Adult Leap Card recommended
- Typical daily travel: €3–€6
- Typical monthly spend: €40–€140 depending on zones

**Bills & Essentials**

- Electricity + Heating + Wi-Fi: €50–€120/week (shared costs)
- Phone plan: €10–€30/month

**Travel & Leisure**

- Bus/train to nearby cities: €10–€40 (return)

**Example Monthly Budgets (Dublin)**

- Budget student (shared room, cook at home): €900–€1,200/month
- Typical student (private room + some eating out): €1,300–€1,900/month
- Comfortable (1-bed + frequent eating out): €2,000–€3,000+/month

### **Social Programme**

The social programme co-ordinator organises all the trips and activities each week. Every Monday morning the social and cultural activities for the following week are posted in the cafe. Keep an eye on this for upcoming events and trips.

On Monday, or Tuesdays when Monday is a bank holiday, there is an Orientation tour of Dublin for all new students. You will be informed to meet in the lobby at a specific time and our guide will take you around Dublin to introduce you to some places we think are important to see at the start such as where to get your travel pass, landmarks, shops and pubs.

We organise workshops and visits on weekdays, evening activities and weekend trips so please keep an eye on Apollo App. If you'd like to go on any of the trips or do any of the sports activities, you can book through the Apollo App.

If you would like to plan your own trips or activities you can arrange to meet our social programme coordinator. We have lots of ideas and are always happy to help!

If you are under 18, you may need your parents' permission to go on some trips.

### **Services Telephones**

#### **Calling Emergency Services DIAL 999**

In Dublin dial 999 from any phone for fire, police or ambulance services. 112 may also be dialed from mobile phones. Dialing 112 will override key locks on mobile phones and therefore save time. Emergency Services operators answer this number quickly and to save time will say, "Police, Fire, or Ambulance". If you are unsure of what emergency service you need tell the operator what the emergency is. You will then be connected to the appropriate service to assist.

#### **Making an international phone call**

Dial – international access code + the country code + the area code (if required) + phone number (when adding a country code to a number, any leading 0 (zero) on the area code following it is NOT dialed).

- National Operator: 10
- International Operator: 1141
- Directory Assistance Ireland: Ireland 11811
- Directory Assistance Rest of the world: 11818 Mobile/Cell Phones

There are three main mobile phone operators in Ireland. They are: Vodafone; Meteor; 3 (Three).

Services are provided on either a pre-pay or bill-pay basis. If you use a bill pay phone your calls will be cheaper but you will have to sign a contract, normally for 12 - 18 months. For a comparison of mobile phone plans with the various providers see: [www.callcosts.ie](http://www.callcosts.ie)

### **Medical Care**

#### **1) Pharmacy Visit:**

If you are unwell, the first thing you should do is to visit a local pharmacy. Pharmacists, who are qualified healthcare professionals, can assist you with the following:

- Provide over-the-counter medications that don't require a prescription.
- Explain how to take your medications correctly to ensure effectiveness and safety.
- Offer advice on managing minor illnesses and guide you on whether you need to see a doctor.

2) If you need to see a Doctor:

2.1) Private Healthcare:

Online Appointment

Online consultations offer a convenient way to access healthcare from any device, with availability seven days a week, including evenings and public holidays. You can schedule an appointment for either the same day or the following day. Prices range from €25 to €50, depending on the provider. Once your booking is confirmed, you'll receive a link to access your online consultation or, if you prefer, you will receive a phone call from one of the doctors, depending on the type of consultation selected. If you choose a phone consultation, please ensure you provide an Irish phone number for communication. **DO NOT SELECT PHONE CONSULTATION WITHOUT AN IRISH NUMBER.**

During the consultation, the doctor will conduct a thorough review of your medical concerns, asking questions about your symptoms, overall condition, and general wellbeing.

Online options:

[www.dronline.ie](http://www.dronline.ie)

[www.webdoctor.ie](http://www.webdoctor.ie)

[www.eirdoc.ie](http://www.eirdoc.ie)

[www.boots.ie/online-doctor](http://www.boots.ie/online-doctor)

Out of hours appointment:

If you need to be seen by a doctor outside of regular working hours, 9:00 – 17:00, Monday – Friday, you can contact the Out of Hours Service. When you call the service a call-taker will take all your details and then a triage nurse will call you back. The triage nurse will discuss the nature of the medical problem and will decide the best course of action for you to take. This might be simple advice from the nurse, a call from the doctor, the arrangement of an appointment to see a doctor the next day. In exceptional cases and based on medical need and other factors a home visit will be arranged, or you may be advised to go to the Emergency Department. Prices range from €50 to €110, depending on the provider.

Out of hours options:

[www.northdoc.ie](http://www.northdoc.ie)

[www.gp24.ie](http://www.gp24.ie)

2.2) Public Healthcare:

Information for EU Students:

- All EU students must have a European Health Insurance Card in their own name. If you have an EHIC you can get necessary medical treatment in Ireland free of charge. An EHIC only covers public healthcare, it does not cover private healthcare.
- Apollo will direct students to attend a Doctor who accepts the EHIC.
- Same day appointments are usually not possible.
- If you are using your EHIC there will be no charge for your appointment.
- Tell the doctor you want to be treated as a public patient (not a private patient). Treatment by specialist consultants is free with an EHIC if you're a public patient.
- If you need medicine a doctor will write a prescription for you. There's a €1.50 charge for each item but you only pay up to €15 a month per person.
- If a doctor thinks you need to see a specialist, they will refer you.
- If you don't have your EHIC or you're not able to use it, you will be asked to pay directly for your visit (with an average charge of €70-100). You can then claim reimbursement from your health insurer when you get home only if this is covered by the EHIC.

Information for Non-EU Students

- It is compulsory for non-EU students to purchase private medical insurance for the duration of their programme in Ireland.

- Students can purchase their medical insurance directly from Apollo or independently from any insurance company. Apollo requires proof of the medical insurance policy if not purchased through Apollo.
- Non-EU students must pay directly for each visit to the Doctor and the average charge is €70-€100 per visit.
- The student must keep all receipts for doctor's visits and/or prescription medicine to claim back through the insurance company.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for claiming back any medical expenses incurred.
- It is important that parents/guardians read the insurance policy document for information about what costs are covered and what costs are not covered with their policy.

#### What to do in an emergency?

- If it's an emergency, call 999 or 112 for an ambulance to take you to hospital.
- When you dial 999, the operator will ask you what service you want – that means, do you want the fire brigade, an ambulance or the police. Then they will ask you your name, address, telephone number and what you require assistance for. If your English is not good, say "Fire/Police or Ambulance" and tell the operator what country you are from, and you will be put through to a translator. Note about mobile phones 112 will work even if no credit or out of service for their provider.
- If you have an EHIC, there's no charge for hospital treatment.
- In an emergency, transport by ambulance to a hospital is covered by the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC).
- Please note that waiting times in the emergency department can range from 10 to 15 hours, depending on the severity of the situation.

#### Please note:

- Any taxi expenses incurred are to be paid for by the student. Apollo does not cover the cost of taxis for students.
- Apollo does not have any responsibility for covering medical costs or claiming for medical costs on any insurance policy.

#### **Important!**

Get a medical certificate. If you are away from your classes, you will need to prove you were sick. A medical certificate from your doctor will show that you were unable to attend classes.

#### **Medicines**

If you are sick, your doctor or GP might prescribe medicine. Prescription medicines are available at chemists and pharmacies. If you normally take any prescription medicines, you should have a letter from your regular doctor with details about your condition and the medicine you are taking. This will help if you need treatment or medicines for your medical condition.

#### **Prescription Medication**

Medication prescribed by your doctor is not free. You must pay the pharmacy. Depending on what type of health insurance policy that you have you may be able to claim back the cost from your health insurance provider.

#### **Pharmacies**

GP surgeries do not have medications to dispense to you. You must take the prescription given to you by the doctor to a Pharmacy or Chemist to obtain the medication. You are able to walk in off the street to any pharmacy/chemist/drug store in Dublin and will only have to wait a short while for your prescription medicine to be prepared.

**Dental, Optical and Alternative Therapies**

Dental, optical and alternative therapies are not covered by your Health Insurance and may be expensive compared to your home country.

**APOLLO EMERGENCY CONTACTS:**

The following Apollo Emergency contact details are to be used in case of emergency, outside of normal office hours which are 08.30-17.00 Monday-Friday:

Emergency Phone/Whatsapp: +353 85 844 1219 Email: [emergency@apollolanguagecentre.com](mailto:emergency@apollolanguagecentre.com)

**Managing Your Finances Exchanging Money**

The currency in Ireland is the Euro (€). Money exchanges can change your country's currency into euro. You can exchange money at dedicated money exchanges at the airport or at any bank. Rates will vary between different banks and exchanges, so check before you exchange money to get the best rates.

**Banks and ATMs**

Banking services are provided by banks, building societies and credit unions. There are a number of major banks that operate across Ireland. They include Bank of Ireland, AIB (Allied Irish Banks), Ulster bank, and Irish Life and Permanent. All banks have automatic teller machines throughout Dublin. Banks in Dublin are generally open from 10.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday.

**Revolut**

Revolut is a great banking option to consider. It's a fully online bank that works internationally, making it easy to manage your money across different countries. Plus, Revolut now provides an Irish IBAN, meaning you can get paid directly into your account by your employer in Ireland.

Getting started is quick—just download the Revolut app, sign up with your passport or national ID, and verify your address. Once set up, you can easily send and receive money, manage your spending, and exchange currencies at great rates—all from your phone.

**Working in Dublin****Applying for a PPS number**

Your Personal Public Service Number (PPS No.) is a unique reference number that helps you to gain access to social welfare benefits, public services and information in Ireland. In order to work in Ireland, you will need a PPS number. If you live in the Dublin region you will have to book an appointment online at <https://services.mywelfare.ie/en/topics/appointments/ppsn-appointment/>

To receive a PPS number you will need to fill in a form and bring the following documents:

- Your passport.
- A letter from the school saying that you are a registered student (if you are not a European citizen)
- You may also be asked to provide a letter from your employer.

If you live in the outskirts of Dublin, please contact the school administration to check what Social Welfare Office you should go to apply for your PPS number.

The Social Welfare Office is open from 9.30am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday.

**Finding Work**

If you have your PPS number and your student study-work visa you are eligible to work legally in Ireland (if you are a non-EEA citizen) for 20 hours a week, at certain times of the year it is permissible to work 40 hours per week (June, July, August, and from 15th December – 15th January) The first thing you will need is a Curriculum Vitae (CV). The CV should be a single page and there must not be any errors in the English.

Each Monday afternoons we have a Job Shop session at 2.00pm where you can ask a teacher to have a look at your CV before printing it. The best way to look for a job is to leave a copy of your CV with the managers at pubs, restaurants, shops, supermarkets, etc.

Dress in a professional and serious manner when you drop your CV in somewhere or attend an interview. Remember that for any kind of job it is important to create a good first impression with your future employer. Pay attention to any signs saying "Staff Wanted" on the shop windows. You may also look for a job on the internet. Here are some useful websites: [www.jobs.ie](http://www.jobs.ie), [www.irishjobs.ie](http://www.irishjobs.ie), [www.loadsajobs.ie](http://www.loadsajobs.ie), [www.monster.ie](http://www.monster.ie).

### **Health Insurance**

Health cover is compulsory for international students wishing to obtain a student visa to study in Dublin. You must have paid for health cover in order to be granted a visa into Dublin. This health cover must remain in force during your whole stay. You can arrange to pay for this health cover through Apollo Language Centre or make your own arrangements prior to leaving your home country.

Apollo organises Health Insurance through Aviva Insurance Ireland DAC, Arachas and Study&Protect. This is usually arranged before students arrive in the country. The cost is EUR75 for up to 90 days cover and EUR140 for one year's cover.

### **School Policies**

This section includes important school policies such as refund policy, holiday policy and other additional policies.

### **Refund Policy**

**Cancellations Due to Reasons other than Visa Rejections:**

A full refund of tuition fees, with the exception of the registration fee, may be available to a student if the student cancels an enrolment with the school no later than 14 days prior to commencement of the course. The request to cancel an enrolment, or a request for a refund, **MUST** be made in writing to Apollo Language Centre.

- a. Cancellation 4+ weeks before start date: registration fee of €75 will be charged.
- b. Cancellation 2-4 weeks before start date: 20% of the total invoice will be charged.
- c. Cancellation within 2 weeks of start date: full amount will be charged.

Any refund payable will be paid directly to the person who originally paid the course fees. For refunds made payable overseas, bank charges deducted will be borne by the student. All monies due, will be refunded within 4 weeks of the date Apollo Language Centre receives the written request from the student.

### **Cancellations Due to Visa Rejections**

All course fees are refunded with the exception of the registration fee, if a visa application is rejected and the applicant provides a copy of the refusal letter from the Department of Justice.

### **Refund Procedure**

1. Enquiries regarding refund calculations must be made in writing to the Bookings Office at [bookings@apollolanguagecentre.com](mailto:bookings@apollolanguagecentre.com).
2. If a refund request is valid it will be processed and funds transferred to the original account within 30 days.
3. Students, parents/legal guardians have up to 30 days to lodge a formal grievance from the date they receive the remittance advice of their refund. This must be done in writing and addressed to the School Director, Steven O'Dwyer. The School Director will consider the formal grievance. After consideration of all the available evidence, the Director may decide to

(a) uphold the grievance and issue a refund of the appropriate amount, or (b) dismiss the grievance.

4. If the grievance is not resolved to the satisfaction of the student, parents/legal guardians or nominee, a copy of the written complaint together with the reasons for the grievance should be forwarded to the Directors for review. This agreement, and the availability of complaints and appeals processes, does not remove the right of the student to take action under the relevant Consumer Protection Laws.

### **Complaints Procedure**

In situations where Apollo Language Centre's internal complaints and grievance procedures do not lead to a mutually acceptable resolution, each case will be reviewed individually, taking into account the nature of the concern and the parties involved.

While Apollo is committed to ensuring a fair, transparent, and impartial process, the resolution will be managed internally where appropriate to achieve an equitable outcome. Where an additional level of independence is required, Apollo may appoint an external body to support the resolution process.

In such cases, complaints may be referred to English Education Ireland (EEI) or Independent Quality Assurance and Complaints Mechanism (Eaquals) as recognised independent complaints parties.

### **Holiday Policy**

Holidays can be taken in one-week blocks, and you must notify the office in advance of your intention to use your holidays. Please note that holidays won't be given after the week has already begun.

#### **Holiday Policy for Short-term (less than 25 weeks) students**

Students on courses of 12 weeks or less

Generally, no holidays are allowed for students who are studying on courses that are less than 12 weeks.

#### **Students studying on courses from 12 to 24 weeks**

One week's holiday is allowed for students who are studying on courses from 12 to 24 weeks. To request a holiday, please go to reception. This request will be logged on the school online system. Holidays must be requested at least one week in advance.

#### **Holiday Policy for long-term (25 weeks) students**

An Academic Year course lasts for 25 weeks. Students are entitled to take up to 10 weeks' holiday before their visa expires. Two weeks of the ten weeks must be taken over the Christmas holiday period (if applicable to your course dates). Normally Academic Year holidays are taken AFTER a student finishes their 25-week course.

**In the case where a long-term non-EEA student wishes to take holidays during their course, this holiday period must be requested BEFORE starting their programme and/or registering with Immigration.**

In addition, holiday periods cannot at any point exceed 1/3 of the total weeks elapsed. This means that to take one week's holiday during the course a student will have had to complete at least 8 weeks of course first.

Non-EEA students are not permitted to take holidays in the first 8 weeks of their course.

Compulsory Exam courses at Apollo Language Centre for long term students (25 weeks plus+)

- Cambridge (PET, FCE, CAE and CPE)
- IELTS <http://www.ieltsdublin.com>
- TIE (Test of Interactive English) <http://www.tie.ie>

In the first week of your course, you will take part in an induction which introduces you to the school and to Dublin and which advises you on the requirements of your visa. This induction is held by Kieranne Hogg, Director of studies, and Stefany Araujo, Student Services, who will prepare the letter for IRP.

Students, along with Stefany Araujo on behalf of Apollo Language Centre, sign an agreement confirming the following:

- That you understand that the exam is obligatory
- That you will sit the exam
- That Apollo Language Centre will prepare you for this exam
- That Apollo Language Centre will help you register for this exam
- That Apollo Language Centre will store your results securely
- That your results will be accessible to Apollo Language Centre staff members and also to INIS.

### **Attendance Procedures**

The attendance of all students enrolled at Apollo Language Centre is monitored closely to ensure that everyone in class is following the whole course and able to maximise their opportunities for success. An attendance is taken at each lesson by the teacher and entered into our school database at the end of the week. Students are requested to attend a minimum of 85% of classes each week but are strongly encouraged to attend 100% of classes to ensure successful academic outcomes in their studies. Any class session missed regardless of cause reduces the opportunity for learning and can adversely affect a student's achievement on their course. Missing a series of classes can also disturb the learning of other students because the student who was absent will have some gaps in knowledge that are required building blocks for learning further language items.

We also monitor the attendance of non-EEA students on Academic Year courses to ensure that they meet the requirements of their student visa as set out in the Department of Justice's Guidelines for Language and Non-Degree Programme Students (January 2011).

Monitoring of attendance involves marking registers, reviewing medical certificates and the sending of caution and warning letters by the school. To have full attendance marked for any one day a student must be present for both classes from 09.00 to 13.15. Generally, if a student is more than 15 minutes late for their class then they will not be admitted to that class.

Apollo Language Centre endeavours to intervene with the student to improve attendance by counselling students when their attendance begins to fall. It is the responsibility of the individual student to ensure that the contact details Apollo Language Centre holds are up-to-date.

European students or students on a Tourist or Working Holiday Visa will also have their attendance recorded. Failure to attend classes will result in your inability to attain the level of English you set out to achieve, and possibly failure to receive an end-of-course certificate.

### **Attendance rules for students:**

If you are on a student visa, the Irish Government has stated that you need to attend a minimum of 85% of your lessons. This is important for many reasons:

1. To help you focus fully on your studies in English
2. To avoid visa problems with the Irish Department of Justice
3. To allow you to be able to renew your visa

**Punctuality**

Class starts punctually at 09.00 every morning. If you have a problem arriving for 09.00, you can enter the class until 09.15. After 09.15, you may not enter the class (you must wait until the second lesson at 11.15) and the teacher will mark you absent.

**Absenteeism**

We understand that sometimes, students have problems and are unable to attend class. However, if you do not have a good reason for your absence, this may affect your attendance and cause problems with your visa.

There are certain legitimate reasons for absence, including, but not limited to:

**1. Illness**

If you are ill, we understand that you can't come to class. On the first day you are ill, you must email student services at [experience@apollolanguagecentre.com](mailto:experience@apollolanguagecentre.com). If you do not have access to email, you may text our emergency phone on +353858441219 to inform us that you are ill and that you can't come to school.

If you are ill for more than 2 days, you must provide a doctor's certificate to prove the reason for your absence. In this situation, your attendance will not be affected.

**2. Serious illness of a family member**

In the case of serious illness of an immediate family member (mother, father, brother, sister or child), the following procedure must be followed:

- Email the student welfare officers at [experience@apollolanguagecentre.com](mailto:experience@apollolanguagecentre.com). If you are unable to access email, you may text the emergency phone number +353858441219.
- You must provide some evidence of the family member's illness.
- Student Services will take the situation into consideration and respond to your request as soon as possible, depending on the nature and seriousness of the illness. Please note Requests must be made by the student in question and not by a third party.
- Requests made to staff members other than Student Services will not be considered.
- Requests made on social media or by any other means will not be considered.

**“Freezing your course”**

If it is necessary for you to return home due to the illness of a family member, the following procedure must be followed:

- Follow the steps above regarding illness of a family member.
- Request temporary leave from your course to be with your family member during their illness.

Student Services will “freeze” your course, meaning, you may take the remainder of your course at a later date. This means that you will not lose any tuition and you will be able to complete your course at a later date.

**3. Bereavement**

In the unfortunate event of the death of a close family member, we understand that you will not be able to attend school. Please email [experience@apollolanguagecentre.com](mailto:experience@apollolanguagecentre.com) or text the emergency phone on +353 85 844 1219 to inform us of your bereavement and that you can't come to school.

In the case of an immediate family member's death (a spouse, parent, child, a person in a relationship of domestic dependency) 3 days' bereavement leave will be allowed.

In the event of an extended family member's death (a grandparent, parent-in-law, spouse-in-law) 1 day leave will be allowed.

No leave is allowed in any other circumstances. Please note

- Requests must be made by the student in question and not by a third party
- Requests made to other staff members will not be considered

- You must contact Student Services at [experience@apollolanguagecentre.com](mailto:experience@apollolanguagecentre.com) or by texting the emergency phone +353 85 844 1219
- Requests made on social media or by any other means will not be considered

Important: Please note that it is only in these circumstances that your attendance will not be affected. If you do not provide a legitimate reason for your absence, then the following steps will be taken:

### **Problems with attendance**

If you cannot provide a legitimate reason for your absence (see above), then you will be marked absent for your lesson and your attendance level will be reduced.

### **Attendance Policy**

- If a student's attendance falls below 75% for the first 6 weeks of their course, they will be reported to Irish Immigration.
- For the remainder of the student's course, if his/ her overall attendance falls below 85% at any point, they will be given further warnings to notify them of this.
- If a student reaches the point of their course where they can no longer meet an expected overall attendance of 85%, they will be reported to Irish Immigration.

### **Expulsion Policy**

- Consistent problems with attendance, without providing legitimate reasons for their absence and continuing to ignore written warnings may be expelled by Apollo Language Centre.
- If after 3 written warnings regarding attendance, there is no improvement, the student may be eligible for expulsion.
- This decision will be at the discretion of Apollo Language Centre, Mr. Steven O'Dwyer.
- If a student is expelled due to attendance issues, Apollo will notify all relevant parties i.e. Irish Immigration and student's agent

## **Apollo Language Centre – Student Complaints & Grievance Procedure**

### **Our Commitment**

Apollo Language Centre is committed to providing every student with an excellent learning and living experience. If an issue arises, we aim to address it quickly, fairly, and respectfully. We always try to resolve concerns through our internal processes first, and we encourage students to speak with us directly so that we can work together to find a satisfactory and timely solution.

### **Informal Complaint Process**

Speak to the relevant staff member (Front Office Manager, Centre/Office Manager, Operations Assistant, Accommodation Manager, Bookings Manager, or Academic Director). Issues are usually resolved quickly at this stage.

### **How to Provide Feedback or Raise a Complaint**

**Adult Students:** Week 1 feedback, weekly feedback, end-of-course feedback.

**Junior Students:** Welcome talk feedback, weekly Friday feedback, end-of-course feedback.

**Mini-Stay Groups:** Final-day feedback.

If you feel that Apollo Language Centre's internal complaints and grievance process has not resolved your concern in a fair or satisfactory way, you still have options. Once all internal steps have been

completed, your case can be looked at individually, taking into account the situation and everyone involved.

Apollo always aims to be fair, transparent, and impartial, and in some situations we may bring in an external, independent organisation to help reach a fair outcome.

**Below are the external bodies you can contact if your complaint remains unresolved:**

**English Education Ireland (EEI)**

If you have completed all internal steps and still feel your complaint has not been resolved, you can contact English Education Ireland (EEI). EEI is an independent organisation that supports students by offering a neutral, structured process for reviewing complaints that cannot be resolved within the school.

Email: [info@englisheducationireland.ie](mailto:info@englisheducationireland.ie)

**EAQUALS**

You may also submit a complaint to EAQUALS, an internationally recognised quality assurance organisation. This option is available once all internal steps at Apollo have been fully completed. EAQUALS can review concerns related to service quality, ethical issues, or your experience as a learner, and provides an impartial and professional complaints process.

(Eaquals – [Click here to see Eaquals Complaints Procedure](#))

**Your Language Course**

- Examples of Legitimate complaints relating to your Language Course:
- You feel that you are in the wrong level
- You have received consistently incorrect information about language
- You have not had the opportunity to discuss your interests or language/ skills needs
- You have not been active enough in your lesson
- Your lesson appears unplanned and chaotic
- You have focused on one aspect of language learning to the exclusion of everything else, for example you have only covered grammar lessons
- Your teachers have consistently repeated material and appear not to be co-operating together

**Your Accommodation**

Examples of legitimate complaints relating to your accommodation:

**Host families**

- Your house is consistently unclean
- Your host family does not speak to you
- Your host family does not include you in family activities
- The food you receive is sub standard

**Apartments**

- The facilities are broken/ not usable
- Your room is unclean
- Your bed linen is unclean

**Social Programme**

Examples of Legitimate complaints relating to your Social Programme:

- You do not receive information about the social programme on a daily basis
- The co-ordinators are not available to meet you at break time

- The tours are consistently badly organised
- Your input in the programme is not considered and not asked for.

At **Apollo Language Centre** we value:

- Difference and diversity
- Cooperation
- Respect
- Tolerance
- Academic debate
- Freedom of expression balanced with social responsibility

While on campus or engaged in any Apollo Language Centre sponsored activity, all students, staff, contractors and visitors are expected to behave in a considerate and courteous manner when dealing with other staff, students and members of the public.

Apollo Language Centre aims to provide a quality education and training service in which all students are encouraged to strive for excellence and fulfil their potential. Unacceptable behaviour can hinder the academic progress or work performance of others. The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to clearly define student and staff rights and responsibilities that relate to appropriate behaviour. The intent is to foster a learning environment in which all students and staff can participate safely and effectively.

#### **Teaching and Learning Code of Behaviour**

In order to achieve a happy, healthy and positive working and learning environment, where a sense of mutual respect is fostered, all staff and students are expected to follow the rules set out in our Teaching and Learning Code of Behaviour.

1. We aim to provide a fully immersive environment, so students can meet a variety of people from around the world and maximise their opportunities to practise their English. Please speak in English inside the school and on Apollo-organised trips at all times. Not speaking English in the school limits your learning opportunities and damages the learning environment for others.
2. Arriving late, even by 5 or 10 minutes, can be disruptive for others in the class. Students who arrive late may miss opportunities to review work or might need the teacher to start a presentation again. The first lesson starts at 9.00am and the second lesson starts at 11.15. Afternoon classes start at 14.00. Please be on time. Students
3. Participation in all classroom activities and staying on task are essential for success. So as not to annoy or distract other learners, mobile phones, tablets, and any other electronic devices must be turned off during class time unless the teacher has specifically permitted their use for a particular purpose or period.
4. Apollo Language Centre is a language teaching organisation with an international outlook. We value difference and diversity, cooperation, and freedom of expression balanced with tolerance and social responsibility. While in school or engaged in any Apollo-sponsored activity, all students, staff and visitors are expected to behave in a considerate and courteous manner when dealing with others. You should treat staff members and fellow students with respect and politeness.
5. Apollo Language Centre prohibits discrimination towards any group or individuals in any form, inclusive of, but not limited to age, gender, sexual orientation, race or nationality, ethnic or ethos-religious background.

Teachers are responsible for setting the tone within the learning environment and upholding the principles of respect, cooperation and equal opportunity. The Academic Manager is responsible for

assisting students and staff in resolving complaints of unacceptable behaviour and discrimination in the learning environment by ensuring fair processes are understood and adhered to.

### **Unacceptable Conduct**

Disciplinary action will be taken against students for breaches of Apollo Language Centre rules and directions concerning acceptable and unacceptable behaviour either on campus or where such breaches occur off-campus while on course related activities.

Unacceptable behaviour includes but is not limited to:

- Disobeying any reasonable direction by an Apollo Language Centre staff member;
- Not observing class rules set by the teachers;
- Smoking in the building (You may only leave the building to smoke during scheduled breaks);
- Swearing, abusing or disrespecting other students or staff;
- Endangering the lives of others;
- Selling, using, distributing and/or being in possession (under the influence) of drugs whilst attending classes;
- Selling, consuming, distributing or being under the influence of alcohol whilst attending classes;
- Willful damage to or theft of Apollo Language Centre property, or property entrusted to the School's care;
- Accessing, storing, processing or transmitting any information deemed to be threatening, obscene, pornographic or harassing in nature;
- Unauthorised use of Apollo Language Centre intellectual property including School name, logo, training manuals/materials, trademarks, designs, confidential information and copyright material;
- Behave in a manner that interferes with the learning of others;
- Failure to return library or other property loaned by Apollo Language Centre property by the required date;
- Viewing or distributing offensive material via the Internet, e-mail or other means;
- Discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- Bullying and intimidation;
- Making racist or sexist comments;
- Behaving in a disruptive manner such as swearing, yelling or using offensive language;
- Stealing, vandalising or causing wilful damage to Apollo Language Centre property;
- Assaulting or attempting to assault anyone while on Apollo Language Centre premises;
- Inappropriate possession of guns, knives or other weapons while engaging in Apollo Language Centre activities.

### **Consequences of Unacceptable Conduct**

Where behaviour is unacceptable, disciplinary action can be taken. A teacher can ask a student to leave the classroom or refuse entry to a classroom if behaviour is disruptive or dangerous. The teacher issuing the suspension will advise the Academic Manager immediately and complete an incident report.

The Academic Manager will discuss the reason for suspension with the student and will give the student reasonable opportunity to be heard in respect to the misconduct. At this point the Academic Manager will:

- modify or dismiss the charge;
- reprimand and warn the student against repeating the behaviour;
- recommend that further action be taken.

A student may also be suspended by the Academic Manager or expelled by the school Director for behaviour that threatens the safety of others, interferes with the duties of staff or other students' study, damages or threatens Apollo Language Centre's property, or the good order of Apollo

Language Centre. Violence, intimidation, theft and harassment are not consistent with a safe and supportive learning environment and will not be tolerated. The police will be contacted in cases of alleged criminal behaviour.

### **Academic integrity**

At Apollo Language Centre, we expect all students to complete their work honestly and show their true level of English. Academic integrity is essential for your learning, for fair assessment, and for maintaining a positive learning environment for everyone.

#### **1. Academic integrity means:**

- Doing your own work
- Showing your real English ability
- Following test rules given by your teacher
- Being honest in all assessments and assignments

This helps ensure you are in the correct class and receive the right support for your progress.

#### **2. Cheating and unacceptable behaviour**

Cheating is not allowed at Apollo. Examples include:

- Looking at another student's answers
- Using your phone, notes, or translation apps during a test
- Getting help from someone else during assessments
- Copying or submitting work that is not your own
- Cheating is taken seriously and will affect your academic record and progression.

#### **3. How teachers monitor tests**

During tests, teachers will:

- Supervise the room and walk around
- Make sure phones and notes are put away
- Ensure everyone is working independently
- Observe quietly to make sure test rules are followed

If a teacher notices behaviour that looks like cheating, they will report it privately to the Academic Team after the test.

#### **4. If cheating is suspected or confirmed:**

- Your test may not be counted
- You may receive a warning from the Academic Team
- Repeated or serious cases may lead to further disciplinary action

These steps are in place to protect fairness for all learners.

#### **5. How you can show integrity:**

- Always follow your teacher's instructions during tests
- Keep your phone and notes in your bag
- Complete your own work
- Ask if you are unsure about the rules

We are here to support you — if you need help understanding test rules or expectations, just ask.

### **Disciplinary Appeal Process**

If the student wishes to appeal the decision made they must complete a Student Complaints and Appeals Form within 7 days of the decision being made. The appeal will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy and Procedure.

**Access and Equity Policy**

At Apollo Language Centre, we have an open access policy and encourage participation in our courses from the whole of the community. We seek to meet the needs of individuals and the community through the integration of access and equity guidelines to ensure all people are provided with the opportunity to participate and successfully achieve their outcomes.

We will ensure that equity principles for all people are implemented through the fair allocation of resources and the right to equality of opportunity without discrimination. We will increase opportunities for people to participate in the vocational education and training system, and in associated decisions, which affect their lives.

Apollo Language Centre prohibits discrimination towards any group or individuals in any form, inclusive of, but not limited to:

- Gender
- Marital Status
- Pregnancy
- Parental status
- Race or nationality, ethnic or ethos-religious background
- Sexual orientation
- Age
- Impairment (physical, mental or illness) Lawful sexual activity
- Political belief or activity Trade union activity, or
- Association with a person having any of these attributes.

**Additional School Policies****Mobile Phones**

Mobile phones should be switched off during class. Urgent messages may be left at Reception and can be passed to you in your break time. However, in the event of an emergency, messages will be passed on immediately. It is unfair to your fellow students if you receive phone calls in the middle of class.

**Book Policy**

All students are expected to have a book in class and all your course books are included on your initial invoice.

**Meal/Coffee Breaks**

Your timetable will show the time of your lunch and any other breaks. Please note that food or drink is not to be taken into the classroom.

**Smoking Restrictions**

Under Irish law it is illegal to smoke in any public building.

**Changes to Personal Details**

Apollo Language Centre needs to keep all student records up to date. Should you change your name, address or contact number please inform Student Services immediately.

**Valuables**

Apollo Language Centre cannot be held responsible for items of value that are stolen or go missing. Please try not to bring these items to school., if possible. Keep your purse, wallet, or other items of value with you at all times. Students who are found to have in their possession the property of other students or staff, without the express permission of that other person, risk expulsion from Apollo Language Centre and further legal action.

**Academic Conduct**

Students are expected to perform academically in order to maintain enrolment. Students having difficulties with their English language studies will be provided with counselling and given additional assistance. It is a requirement of international student visas that students meet course requirements, including satisfactory academic achievement.

**Emergency Contacts**

Apollo Language Centre

Phone: +353 1 9060192 Opening Hours: 08.15 – 17.00 (Monday – Friday)

Apollo Emergency contact details are to be used in case of emergency, outside of normal office hours which are 08.30-17.00 Monday-Friday:

Emergency Phone/Whatsapp: +353 85 8441219

Email: [emergency@apollolanguagecentre.com](mailto:emergency@apollolanguagecentre.com)

**Police, Fire, Ambulance**

Emergency telephone numbers: 999

**Medical Centres**

D2 Medical

**Leeson Medical**

Email [info@leesonmedical.ie](mailto:info@leesonmedical.ie) to book an appointment.

01-5547822

56 Adelaide Road, Dublin 2, D02 H337

**Hospitals**

Mater Hospital: Eccles St. Dublin 7 Phone: 01 803 2000

St. James Hospital: James Street Dublin 8 Phone: 01 410 3000

St. Vincents Hospital : Elm Park Dublin 4 Phone: 01 221 4000

**Garda Station (Police)**

Pearse St.

Dublin 2 Phone: 01 666 9000

**Apollo Language Centre contact details:**



Address:

5 Lad Lane, Dublin 2 Phone:  
+353 1 9060192

Email: [experience@apollolanguagecentre.com](mailto:experience@apollolanguagecentre.com) / [www.apollolanguagecentre.com](http://www.apollolanguagecentre.com)