

## Work Study Visa Programme

Thank you for considering Donegal English Language School for your English language learning experience in Ireland. We have over 35 years of experience in welcoming students from all over the world and helping them on their language learning journey and Irish experience.

Our team are very aware of what a big decision it is to move to another country with a different culture, language and weather. We are here to help you with each step of the process and give assistance with finding accommodation, jobs, setting up bank accounts and getting your IRP card along with any other help you may need.

## Why choose Donegal?

Over the years, we have asked our students what they enjoyed most about studying in Donegal and why they chose Ireland. Below are some of the main answers.



### The Learning Journey

Students often say to us that when they chose to study in Donegal their primary goal was to learn a language, but they returned home having learned so much more about themselves. Within the classroom, students enjoy the teacher support, feedback and opportunity for reflection and growth as a language learner. They appreciate how the classes are interactive and how flexible the teachers are.



### The People

Donegal people are friendly, welcoming and make you feel at home and honestly our accents are not that hard to understand! Donegal has often been voted the friendliest county in Ireland and was voted the coolest place to visit by National Geographic! Also, the idea of a study abroad experience is not just to learn or immerse yourself in another language, but also to be exposed to a new culture – Bundoran is perfect for this!



### The Landscapes

Donegal has some of the most breathtaking, beautiful landscapes of Ireland. The views are always amazing - the whole country is surrounded by wild, wonderful, natural beauty. Students also love the fact that our excursions regularly visit counties Sligo, Donegal, Leitrim, Fermanagh, Galway and Derry.



### The Friendships

The lifelong friendships that are made with the other students is regularly featured as one of the most memorable experiences by DELS students.



### The Activities

Students love the fact that they can go for a surf, a walk in the mountains, try kayaking, or even horse riding on the beach. Everything is here in Bundoran; right on the doorstep!



### The Culture

Whether is it listening to traditional Irish folk music at the regular music sessions in the local pub, or watching some of the spectacular Irish sports on offer such as Gaelic Football or Hurling. Irish culture really is a joy to see and exciting to be a part of.

# The DELS Experience

## Curriculum

The key focus is on **improving your accuracy, fluency and confidence in English inside and outside of the classroom**. In class, your teachers will monitor your progress and you will receive regular feedback to help you use new language with confidence and to maximise your learning.

## Community

At DELS we encourage a sense of community for all. Our classes are small and interactive and the teachers are always there to support you. You will be invited to join in social events, activities, and workshops to get to know the area and to meet likeminded students who are on the same journey.

## Sustainability

DELS is a Green School Standard accredited school and is also a member of Green Ed Ireland a collaborative group of Educational providers who look at innovative ways of offsetting their carbon footprint and the footprint of the students travelling to them.

## Social

Each week students have the opportunity to join a range of afternoon or evening activities, from cooking popular Irish dishes, listening to some local musicians in the pub or joining a themed conversation class, you will be guaranteed to find something of interest. We also arrange regular excursions to some of Irelands many cultural gems.



## Cornerstones of the Curriculum

### Communication

Classes are interactive, with a focus on emergent language. Teachers are flexible and able to deal with problems and explore new language as it arises.

### Reflection

Self-reflection is vital to learning. We need to be able to identify our own strengths and weaknesses if we want to improve and meet our goals. For this reason, we encourage students to reflect upon their strengths and weaknesses. Formal tutorial sessions are held at the end of every month, during which students can discuss progress with their teacher and identify areas for improvement.

### Assessment

We adopt a combined approach to assessment. Students will have a class test and IELTS mock test, and will also have to give a presentation to the rest of their class in the final week of the month. Feedback on student progress is given in the monthly tutorial session.

### Real-life English

We aim to provide students with as many 'real-life' English language learning experiences as possible. This includes monthly class visits with members of the local community, and the use of authentic materials in class as much as possible.



## Arrival In Ireland

Bundoran is located on the west coast of Ireland on the Wild Atlantic Way. The majority of students coming to Donegal English Language School come through Dublin airport

### Airport Transfers

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### Public Bus

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# Welcome to Bundoran

Bundoran, popularly known as Ireland's Premier Seaside Resort and Surf Capital, is located on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean along the Wild Atlantic Way. This is an ideal place to live, visit, or simply to relax. Bundoran and the surrounding area offers a wealth of activities and facilities to suit all tastes.

Annual festivals in and around Bundoran provide excellent opportunities for international visitors to make friends easily. These include Rory Gallagher Festival, October Country Music Festival and Ballyshannon Folk Festival to name but a few.

With many traditional Irish pubs offering live music, nightclubs, cinema, restaurants, it is easy to find something to do during the evenings

For the outdoor enthusiast activities include golf, hill walking, surfing, kayaking, horse riding, deep sea fishing and cycling.

Bundoran is well located and provides a good base for travelling along the Wild Atlantic Way. Some popular excursions include Giants Causeway, Slieve League Cliffs & Glenveagh National Park.



## Getting Around



### DELS

DELS is located within a 10 minute walk of the town centre and two minute walk of the Atlantic coast. The school is situated in its own grounds with stunning views of the Donegal coastline and mountains



### Walking

As a medium sized town it is easy to get around. You can move around everywhere on foot, which makes it very accessible and suitable for all ages.



### Bus

Bus Eireann is one of the more popular transport services with routes all over the country. The nearby towns are easily accessible with the local link buses. Tickets are more cost effective if bought online. You are able to avail of discounts with a student card.



# Your First Week At School

## Level Placement Test

You should take our online level test at least two weeks prior to your course start date. This is sent to you via email. We will then arrange a call with you to assess your oral level and you will be placed in the appropriate class for your level.

## Induction

The student coordinator will meet with you on your first week to discuss how you are getting on and to ensure you are happy with your programme and accommodation. They will also discuss common queries like bank accounts, CV's Immigration etc.

## Social Activities

We encourage all new students to join our social activity programme as it helps them settle into the local area and make new friends.



# Immigration – Non European Students

All Non-EU students are required to register with local immigration if staying over 90 days.



## Evidence of funds

To register with immigration, you'll need a number of documents, including verification that you have €3,000 in the bank to meet living expenses. A recent foreign or Irish bank statement, as well as a prepaid credit card statement in your name, will suffice.



## IRP card and fee

You will be given an IRP card (Irish Residence Permit) once you have registered, which serves as documentation of your eligibility to live and work in Ireland for the duration of your 8-month visa. The card costs €300 and must be paid in full at the time of your immigration visit.



## Documents you will need

Aside from your passport, you will need to bring the following documents:

1. Letter of Acceptance
2. Medical Insurance (Proof of Address)



## Attendance & Progression

You must maintain an attendance rate of 85%. Students who pass their exit exam will be able to continue on to another 8-month program. Students can study three 8-month programs in total over the course of 24 months.

# Accommodation Options

We have a choice of superb accommodation for our Adult students including our Residential Centre and selection of Host Families.

## Residential

- 5 minute walk to school
- Sea/mountain views
- 5 minute walk to town
- Private, twin or triple rooms
- Self-catering facilities

## Host Family

- A warm welcome
- A private room
- A home from home experience
- Breakfast and dinner included
- Within walking distance of school



## Remember To Pack

### A Mobile Phone

We recommend that you bring an unblocked phone that will work with any mobile SIM card. Prepaid mobile plans with unlimited data start at €20 per month.

### Pre-Paid Debit or Digital Bank Card

Many pre-paid debit cards and digital banking choices are now accessible all over the world. While you wait for an Irish bank account, we recommend that you travel with secure monies.

### Laptop or Tablet

While a laptop is not required for class, it is recommended that you bring one because the larger screen will assist you in studying.

### Travel Charger

We recommend bringing a travel charger along with your favourite clothes and a rain jacket. In Ireland, we use a three-pin G type plug.



## While Studying At DELS We Will Ask You To



To attend at least 85% of all classes and to always provide your best effort in class.



To always speak English.



To treat your classmates, teachers, and community with respect.



To follow all of your host country's and school's laws, rules, and regulations.



Please contact us if you are not happy with anything we do. We will do our best to help you. Only if you tell us what's wrong can we make changes.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **How much will I have to pay for accommodation?**

Rent in Donegal is much cheaper than the main cities in Ireland. Renting a room in a house share is around €100 - €150 per week plus bills. A two bedroom apartment is generally around €800- €1200 per month for long-term rental. Bills include electricity and heating, prices vary depending on usage. We will assist students in finding accommodation.

### **Is there a chance of getting work?**

Typically students at DELS have found it relatively easy to find work March - October. The main thing is that you have a good level of English and the willingness to work. Students mostly get work in hospitality. Jobs such as:- waitressing, reception, shop work, cleaning staff, kitchen staff etc. We will provide CV classes and guidance on where to apply for work.

### **How much will I have to spend on food?**

For food, including eating in cafes you will probably spend between EUR 70 - EUR 100 a week.

### **How much on average will I have to spend on transport?**

As most things are within walking distance in Bundoran, you do not need to get public transport. Many students cycle in Bundoran.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Is socialising in Bundoran expensive?**

Cinema tickets cost around €12. On average, a pint of beer in Bundoran costs about €7 and a glass of wine costs about €7.50. However, prices can vary quite significantly between bars.

### **Why we choose the IELTS exam?**

IELTS is recognised globally, it is accepted in more than 135 countries and by over 9,000 organisations, for education, immigration and professional purposes. As well as its good international reputation, it is the most widely recognised English test across the globe.

### **Transport and travel**

If you plan on travelling by public transport, it is advisable to purchase a Student Travel Card. USIT offers travel options specifically for student travellers, including low cost flexible fares.

### **Telephone Calls**

Mobile phone companies will offer different international rates and all offer the chance to buy credit in advance (a way of controlling your costs more effectively). Another option is to buy a phone card - most newsagents will offer a selection - which can offer very good rates on international calls, especially if you are able to call from a landline.