

Limerick Course Information and FAQs

THE COURSE IN LIMERICK

1. What does the fee for the program include?

The fee includes tuition, course materials, certification, and moderation fees. Airfares, accommodation, and food are not included. See the section on housing for accommodation prices. Accommodation charges will have to be paid on arrival at your accommodation in Ireland.

2. How do I pay for the course?

You may pay the entire course fee at the time of registration, or you may pay a deposit of US\$500, and pay the balance of the course fee of €1,000 before the beginning of the course or on its first day. Late payments will be subjected to a late fee of €25.

You may pay by cash or cheque (made payable to Limerick College of Business Studies). Alternatively, you may pay electronic fund transfer. Please contact the college for the relevant account information in order to complete this transfer and our administration staff will gladly assist you.

3. What is an average program day like?

From Monday to Friday, students will have class from 9.30am – 4.00pm, where they will learn the essentials of teaching grammar, phonology, teaching in new cultures, lesson planning, classroom management and other practical aspects of the course. Lunch is from 12.45pm to 1.45pm.

In the evenings (Monday-Friday) students will complete at least 4 hours of observation of experienced teachers and 6 hours of observed teaching practice over the four weeks. These lessons are followed by feedback from the instructors. On Friday from week two, trainees are free after 1pm, and all weekends are theirs.

Students are, however, encouraged to take their books with them, so that they can study over the weekend. In addition to those hours, there is also time that must be spent preparing materials and completing various assignments.

During the course, you will learn a little of another language using the same techniques as you will use to teach English. This is so that trainees can see the problems that students will face from their perspective.

4. What are the teaching practice students and classes like?

We use local non-English-speaking students for the trainees' teaching practice. Our students are very keen and enthusiastic. They welcome all new staff and trainees and will be very interested in all lessons devised by the trainees.

5. What are the programme accommodations like?

Students will have a choice of accommodation in Limerick. They can choose between private accommodation and hotel accommodation

Private Accommodation

The least expensive way to live in Limerick is in a private residence. To rent them is very easy. The easiest way to find private accommodation in Limerick is through www.daft.ie. You will pay anywhere from €50 per month for a furnished 2 bedroom apartment room.

Students can then share costs and have a private room, and shared kitchen/dining/bathroom for roughly €275 per month. If students would prefer to live alone for the duration of the course, one bedroom apartments are also available, starting at €100 per week. Larger houses are also available to rent to groups of students.

Please note these prices do change depending on what accommodation is available at the time. Students may also have to provide a deposit which would be returned to them at the end of the month, provided that no damage is done to the house/apartment.

LCBS will gladly support students to obtain apartments or houses. The transportation system in Limerick is quite good and takes you to the city centre and the campus area quickly, no matter where you live.

Hotels

The price of this type of accommodation depends on the type and rating of a hotel. Accommodation can cost between €30 per night and €80 per night depending on the hotel that you choose from. LCBS would be happy to provide you with a list of suitable hotels and their locations and contact details. Please email michelle@lcsb.ie for further information.

Healthcare

EU students are welcome to take our Health Insurance through LCBS if they do not have their own. Non-EU student must take out appropriate Health Insurance in order to satisfy Irish visa requirements. All students have to pay for dental and ophthalmic treatment. If necessary our administration staff will help you to find a doctor in your local area.

7. Can I bring my laptop?

Yes we would encourage you to bring your laptop, particularly for work on assignments. The centre offers wireless access to all students. PCs are also available for student use in the centre.

8. What clothes will I need?

For Daily Classes

Attire is casual and relaxed, we encourage you to dress comfortably.

For Practice Teaching Sessions at the training centre:

Your clothing should be smart and conservative. Your shoulders must be covered, and any skirt or trousers must cover your knees when you are sitting down. For women, be careful that your shirts are not too low cut. Jeans are not acceptable.

Please remember that the weather in Ireland is unpredictable and often quite cold in the winter months. Please ensure that you are adequately prepared for all eventualities.

THE JOB MARKET AND TEACHING IN Ireland: PAPERWORK AND DOCUMENTATION

1. What is the TEFL job market in Ireland like? Will I have trouble getting a job?

The TEFL job market in Ireland is growing steadily and the market for teachers has grown significantly in the last number of years. With just a little patience, you should locate work, usually in one of Ireland's major cities, Dublin, Limerick, Cork, Galway etc.

2. When do I need to start looking for work? Where do I start?

We suggest you begin setting up interviews and sending resumes in the second or third week of the course after we have covered job-related matters during input sessions. There are a large number of TEFL employers in Ireland. Of course, you're certainly not limited to working in Ireland – remember the world is your oyster!

3. What will TEFL International do to help me secure employment?

We can give you a list of available jobs in Ireland and provide schools lists for most countries worldwide. We will also help you with resume writing and interview preparation. We guarantee job placement assistance. This job placement assistance is an integral part of the course, and is available for the duration of your teaching career.

4. What is the average salary like?

The average TEFL salary in Ireland is about €1000 - €1500 per month, though of course this varies depending on what type of school or company you work for, and whether you work full or part-time.

5. Can I return to my own country and teach with my certificate?

Yes, though the requirements for working in ESL or TEFL in many western countries are different, and sometimes need graduate education in ESL or TEFL.

STUDENT LIFE AND LIVING IN LIMERICK

1. How do I get to the training location?

The easiest way to reach Limerick from any of Ireland's main airports is through the airport bus system. Please contact LCBS for a list of the bus companies, times and fares and we will gladly assist you with booking tickets.

If you would prefer to be picked up from the airport, LCBS will gladly assist you and pick you up for a nominal fee. This service is available from Monday to Friday each week.

In order to be picked up by an LCBS representative, please let us know the date and time of arrival, and the flight number if you are flying in, no later than one week before the start of the course. This is so that we can make arrangements to meet you,

and take you to your accommodation. If we receive your arrival details after that time, we can't be sure that we'll be able to meet you.

2. Students and Immigration (Non-EU students)

When you arrive in Ireland you will have either received permission to remain as a student for a specified period of time or you will have been given temporary admission. Contact our office immediately if you were not able to obtain the right to stay in the Ireland as a student.

Registering with the Police

The stamp in your passport will tell you whether you must register with the Garda Siochana or not. If you are one of the few students who have to register, you must do so within 7 days of your arrival in Ireland. To register you must take your passport, two black and white passport-size photographs of yourself and the appropriate registration fee to your local Garda station. LCBS administration staff will gladly assist you in locating the Garda station closest to you.

Working and Studying

If you intend to work while you study, check your passport and Visa to ensure that you are legally entitled to do so. LCBS staff will gladly advise you on your right to work and the work hours that you are entitled to undertake in relation to your visa.

Important Precautions against Fire and Fire Accidents

- Make sure that you are familiar with the emergency fire exits in all parts of the building and the location of fire extinguishers. In the event of a fire, use the fire extinguisher only if your life is not endangered by doing so.
- Read the instructions on what to do in the event of the fire alarm sounding.
- Be safety conscious: **Do not smoke in any parts of the building or in front of the building. It is now against the law to do so.**
- Always pull out the plugs of electrical appliances after use. Turn power switches off.
- Do not interfere with any fire appliances.
- Do not remove fire signs from doors, walls, etc.
- Do not block fire exits by placing furniture or other large obstructive objects against them.
- Fire safety drills are regularly held and these must be treated seriously, so that everyone knows proper fire evacuation procedures in detail. In the event of a fire, this may save lives.

Accidents to the Person

If you have an accident, which results in some form of bodily injury or you feel ill, you should contact the trainer or another person in authority immediately. There is a First Aid box at the reception desk on the ground floor, which can be used in cases of slight injury or minor illness. More serious cases will be referred to a local doctor or hospital. If you are responsible for having caused an accident in which someone is hurt, or you see an accident occur, report the occurrence to someone in authority without delay. Do *not* attempt to move the injured person if it is clear that he/she is unable to move. If the accident is less severe, help the person to get comfortable and then seek medical attention.

Illness

If you fall ill or don't feel well, see the Administration staff or someone else in authority as soon as possible, who will then take appropriate action. If you are unable to do so, ask a student or a lecturer to do it on your behalf.

Wilful and Accidental Damage to College/Personal Property

If you observe anybody who is wilfully damaging or stealing the centre's property or property belonging to others, please inform the trainer immediately. Any person to have committed such an offence may be immediately expelled from the centre. Accidents involving damage to the centre property must likewise be reported. The centre cannot accept responsibility for damage or loss which occurs to your property. You bring personal possessions to items to the centre at your own risk.

Other Considerations

- Anyone known to be under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs shall not be knowingly allowed to work whilst in that condition.
- No one shall knowingly be permitted or required to work or study while his or her ability or alertness is so impaired by fatigue, illness or other causes that might expose the individual or others to injury. Anyone knowing another person to be so impaired, or under the influence of alcohol or drugs, to such a degree that his or her condition might expose that individual or others to risk or injury, should report that person's condition to the trainer, so that appropriate action may be taken.
- Horseplay, fooling around thoughtlessly and other acts which may tend to endanger the safety or well-being of employees or students are prohibited
- Employees and students must not handle or tamper with any electrical equipment or machinery in any manner not within the scope of their duties unless they have received instructions to do so.

Classroom Regulations

Smoking is not permitted at any time in classrooms or the building.

Noise

Students should at all times keep the noise down to an acceptable level in classrooms and corridors.

Personal Property

Students bringing personal property into the building do so at their own risk. In the event of any property being stolen or mislaid, the centre cannot be held responsible. Any thefts must be reported to the trainer and the police after the training.

Drugs

Use of possession of any illegal drugs at any time will make you liable to prosecution by the Irish Authorities. Conviction may lead to deportation and/or heavy fines. If a student is found to be in possession of drugs, he or she will be expelled from the school (without refund of fees) and reported to the police.

First Aid

There is a First Aid box at the reception desk on the ground floor. There are members of staff in the building who are qualified in the use of First Aid.

LIVING IN LIMERICK

Transportation in and around LIMERICK

The **bus system** covers the whole of Limerick and a further network extends throughout the country. The destination of each bus is shown on its front. Bus timetables are available online and can be used to plan your journeys with ease. The bus service runs from 7am – 11pm. These times vary depending on the route. Bus timetables are available online at www.buseireann.ie.

Trains

The Irish rail service (Iarnrod Eireann) enables you to travel throughout Ireland with ease. Please see www.irishrail.ie for timetables and fares of all trains running throughout Ireland. The Limerick train station is located within walking distance of the College.

Travel cards are available for fixed periods, for buses and trains, if you expect to be travelling frequently, in which case such cards are more economical. Finally,

Taxis/Cabs are readily available throughout the City and can either be waved down as you see them passing by on the street, or ordered in advance. Transport outside Limerick is best achieved via the bus and rail services and full travel details are available at Limerick Station.

Entertainment in Limerick

Theatre/Galleries

Limerick has its own theatre called The Belltable. It was established in 1981 and was the first regional arts centre in the country. The Belltable is multi-disciplinary with an alternating programme of theatre, dance, visual arts, music, film and comedy. The Limerick City Art Gallery, located in the city centre, has a permanent collection of Irish art and is the city's main exhibitor of contemporary art.

Films/Concerts

There are also two cinemas in Limerick, Storm Cinema in Castletroy and the Omniplex Cinema in Dooradoyle. There are also two concert halls in Limerick, one located at the University of Limerick and the other located at Limerick Institute of Technology. They host local, national and international music, theatre and operatic performances.

Sport

Limerick is a famous sporting county and students of LCBS have the opportunity to both view and participate in a number of individual and/or team sports. Rugby is a popular sport in Limerick, which is the home of the Munster rugby team. A new stadium has recently been opened in Thomond, where students can view national and international games. Students can also play basketball, soccer and take part in Gaelic games such as hurling and Gaelic football in the University Arena.

Historical Attractions

Limerick boasts a rich history, dating from at least the Viking settlement in 812. There are a number of historical attractions that will be of interest to students and will give them an insight into Ireland's history. These attractions include King Johns

Castle, Bunratty Castle, the Hunt Museum located in the city centre and St. Mary's Cathedral, Limericks oldest building.