



DERRY INFO PACK



Foyle International

info@foyle.eu

+44 28 71 371 535

www.foyle.eu

About Foyle International

As Northern Ireland's longest established English Language school, we have been providing English courses since 1990.

For over 30 years we have been running dedicated junior courses at our school in Derry, Northern Ireland for young learners. This includes Summer School programmes, Mini Stays, High School Integration programmes and other linguistic and cultural programmes.

We aim to provide Educational Tourism to our students; improving their English language skills with a focus on learning about local culture, exploring the region and applying skills learned inside the classroom to real life scenarios.

At Foyle International, the needs of the student are paramount, and respect and understanding are central to our ethos. We will do everything we can to ensure that your child will receive the best of Irish hospitality and that their classes are highly productive and enjoyable.

Paul Murray
Director



Welcome Information

We are looking forward to welcoming our new students and ensuring that they enjoy their stay in Derry.

We understand that students can feel anxious or nervous about being in another country, making new friends, trying new food, and learning a new language.

The Foyle International team will guide, support and help the group in everything that they need to feel comfortable. We have also provided some tips and general information to help students prepare for their Derry experience.



Tip #1

The first few days will be full of doubts and changes but students (and parents!) must relax, take time to adapt and be **OPEN MINDED.**

Arrival

On arrival to Derry, the host families will meet the students from the bus. Students will then go home with their host families. *In the case where a host doesn't drive, Foyle will organise a private taxi to take the students to their homestay.*

About Derry

Derry is a small, friendly city located in the North of Ireland. It has a rich history, vibrant culture and welcoming atmosphere.



The city centre is contained with 17th-century-built walls. It is the only completely walled city in Ireland.

The River Foyle is the river that runs through Derry, and it is the fastest flowing river in Europe for its size. Hence, you will notice during your stay that many local places have the word “Foyle” in its name.



[Read more about Derry here](#)



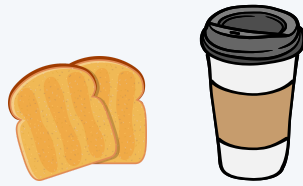


What to bring:

- Warm clothing: *The weather here is relatively mild in Spring/Summer but it will feel cold in comparison to southern EU countries*
- Clothing suitable for layering
- Waterproof rain jacket: *It often rains here.*
- Comfortable shoes/trainers: *Suitable for sports/dancing, suitable for day trips*
- An umbrella
- Travel adapter - *(EU to UK/Ireland)*
- Notebook and pens
- A rucksack/school bag
- Sports clothes: t-shirt, tracksuit bottoms/shorts, trainers)



Typical daily menu (for a local)



7.30-9am: Light Breakfast

Toast, Breads or cereal with
Tea/Coffee/Juice



with butter or
mayonnaise, -
not olive oil!

1pm: Lunch

Sandwich/Salad and snack
Tea/Coffee/Water



5.30-7pm: Dinner

Main meal of the day

We eat a lot of bread and carbs!

Homestay Information

We have carefully selected our host families to ensure our students have a pleasant and comfortable stay in Derry. Most have hosted for many years and have a lot of experience with international students.

Homestay gives students the chance to really experience the local culture, meet new people, try the food and practise their English.

Food



Junior students are full board: breakfast, packed lunch and evening meal. Typical meals:

Breakfast: Tea/Coffee/Juice, Cereal, Toasts/bread, fruit



Packed lunch: Sandwich, crisps, cereal bar, fruit/yogurt, bottled drink



Dinner: Various from household. It could be potatoes, meat and vegetables to Spaghetti Bolognaise, to Chicken Curry and Rice.




Tip #2

The food culture in Ireland will feel very different from your home country. The idea of homestay is that you eat the foods a local person would typically eat. Don't be afraid to TRY new foods!

READ MORE



[Homestay: Terms and Conditions](#)

Homestay

Different people, different homes

Every host is different. Hosts may be singles, elderly couples, young couples, and families with young or teenage kids.

Every home is different. Homes can range from a terraced house in the city centre, to a large detached house in the suburbs. Rooms can be twin rooms, bunk beds, single rooms (double or single) or an ensuite. Some homestays may be closer to the city centre/high school than others.



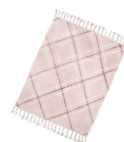
Tip #3

DON'T COMPARE your homestay to your classmates. No two homestays are ever the same!

What to expect

The climate here will be different from home, and therefore, the homes will look different.

- **Carpeted floors**
- **Radiators on walls** (*often used to dry clothes on*)
- **Pets: a majority of our hosts have a cat or dog** (*pets = pet hair!*)
- **Even with frequent cleaning, homes are susceptible to dust** (*heavy curtains, carpeted floors, heating, drying clothes inside*)



Homestay

An exchange of cultures



Tip #4

Bring your host a small gift from your hometown or country

Your host will also be interested to learn about where you are from! A small gesture can be a great ice-breaker when you first arrive.



Time to settle in

It is normal for students to feel a little anxious or nervous when they first arrive to homestay

- 1. Give TIME to settle in**
- 2. Get to know the host - ask questions, make conversation**
- 3. Embrace the changes and differences of homestay life**

Derry Food

Look out for these in the local eateries



DERRY BUNS - turnovers, cream fingers, gravy rings.. typically eaten for breakfast here (at the weekend) with a cup of tea. You can buy in local bakerys

TOBACCO ONIONS - fried onions, served as a side dish in local restaurants



SPICY CHICKEN PASTA - Typically on restaurant menus, served in a creamy, peppery sauce and often accompanied by potatoes!

IRISH BREAKFAST - Often served at the weekend or for family breakfasts (not every day!)



TEA - Breakfast tea with milk

"Would you like a wee cup of tea?"

CARBS!

CARBS!

CARBS!



Final checklist

Before you depart make sure to:



- **Download WhatsApp** - this is how you will communicate with your host
- **Contact your host in advance**
- **Ensure you have mobile data**
- **Have read through the Homestay Terms and Conditions** (linked above)
- **Read Foyle policies:** <https://foyle.eu/terms>

Foyle Int Emergency Contact numbers

If you need emergency services, call **999/112**

If it is a general matter, please contact our work mobile between 9-5pm: **+447784632323**





Derry is waiting for you!



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Accredited by the



**BRITISH
COUNCIL**
for the teaching
of English in the UK