

Come Home & Meet the World

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Summer Camp Ireland Parent Manual

Residential Summer Programme 2009



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SUMMER CAMP IRELAND 2009 WITH BRIAN MOORE INTERNATIONAL TOURS

Dear Parents,

Brian Moore International Tours and Summer Camp Ireland are delighted to announce the launch of the 2008 Summer programme.

This year's Summer Camp runs from **28th June to 11th July** Students who wish to participate on this programme can study for 2 weeks.

What makes this an extremely high-end programme?

- Location with stunning scenery
- High quality residential accommodation
- Wonderful array of exciting and engaging activities
- Experience life on a college campus
- International Mix
- Syllabus

Location

Our programme is located in Sligo which is the commercial centre of the north-western region of Ireland and has a population of approximately twenty to twenty-five thousand. Sligo is the ideal place for such a course as it is situated on the North-West coast of the country, (145 kms north of Galway, 200 kms north-west of Dublin) facing out onto the Atlantic and nestled among some of the most breath-taking scenery imaginable. Rich in literary and musical tradition, Sligo is a heartland of cultural, sporting and scenic beauty.

Sligo city is a vibrant hub of both the new and the old with something to interest everyone, from its traditional Irish music bars and pubs to its discos and trendy river-side cafes, restaurants and book-shops.

The International Junior Summer School Sligo Residential Standard Programme is based in the Institute of Technology, Sligo which offers truly 21st century facilities. Spacious classrooms, library, gym, sports hall, restaurant, state of the art computer labs with broadband internet connection and networked to multi-media facilities all combine to enable us to give our course participants unrivalled standards in our courses.

Residential Accommodation

Residential accommodation is located directly opposite the campus and another within 5 minutes walk. These residences are town houses and apartments and offer the most modern facilities in a friendly 'student village' atmosphere which is conducive to the whole learning experience. The rooms are either single or twin and you can have 3 to 7 people per house/apartment. Rooms are allocated on a first-come first-served basis and subject to availability. En-suite rooms (private bathroom) are available at an additional supplement. All residences have laundry facilities on-site. Meals are provided on the college campus.

A Wonderful Array of Activities

The Residential Standard Programme option has an array of wonderful activities that no school in Ireland has ever seen before. From Celtic stain glass painting to yoga, international students are spoilt for choice! Extra activities such as golf, surfing and kayaking are also available at an extra cost. Take a look at the rate card below.

Please read through the following information booklet. If you have any questions, please, do not hesitate to contact us.

Best wishes,

Sara Stanton
President of BMIT

John Joe Callaghan
Managing Director of Summer Camp Ireland

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The Lake Isle of Innisfree

I WILL arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles made;
Nine bean rows will I have there, a hive for the honey bee,
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow,
Dropping from the veils of the morning to where the cricket sings;
There midnight's all a glimmer, and noon a purple glow,
And evening full of the linnet's wings.

I will arise and go now, for always night and day
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements gray,
I hear it in the deep heart's core.

W.B. Yeats

LOCATION

Sligo is located on the west coast of Ireland, faces out onto the Atlantic and is surrounded by hills, lakes and forests. Sligo town has a population of approximately twenty to twenty-five thousand people and has a wonderful selection of shops, restaurants, cafes, nightclubs and bars

ACCESS

From Dublin, Sligo is 40 minutes by air, (you can fly direct from Dublin Airport to Sligo Airport); it is 2½ hours by train, and approximately 3 hours by coach.

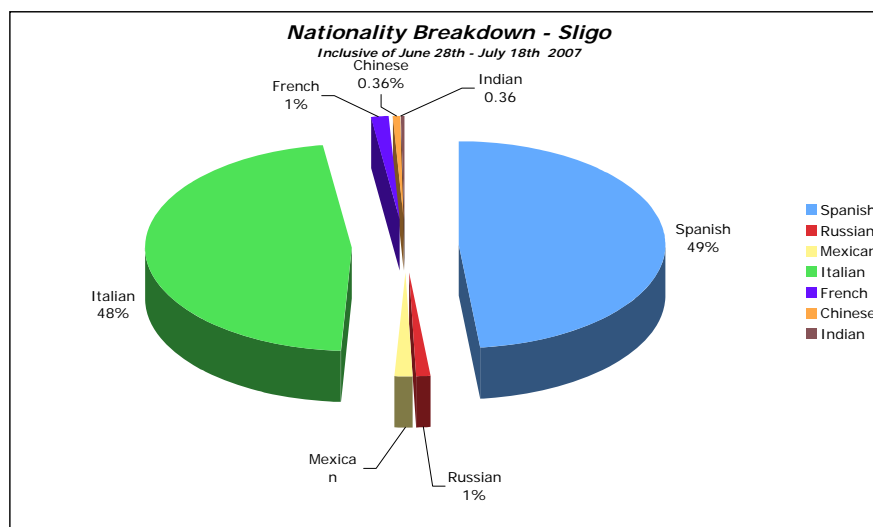
Ireland West Airport, Knock, is 40 minutes away.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What is the nationality mix of students on your courses?

A. Below is a breakdown of the nationality mix on the Sligo summer school in July 2007



Q. What is the average age of students on your courses?

A. Over the past number of years the average age on our summer junior courses has been 16, within a range of 11 to 18.

Q. Is accommodation located close to the school?

A. Our residential accommodation (town houses and apartments) is located both on campus and 4 minutes walk from the school. These residences offer the most modern facilities in a friendly 'student village' atmosphere which is conducive to the whole learning experience. The rooms are either single or twin and you can have between 3 and 7 people per residence. Rooms are allocated on a first-come first-served basis and subject to availability. En-suite bathroom are available at an additional supplement. All residences have laundry facilities on-site.

Q. What form of security/supervision is provided?

A. There are 3 types of security:

- 24 hour security camera surveillance with a security guard at the residences. There are cameras in each of the houses and outside at the entrance and around the residence which are monitored by the security guard.
- There is a member of staff who stays on campus and he/she will be carrying out spot-checks between the two residences.
- The leaders of groups will be expected to play their role in ensuring their students are in bed by their curfew, which is 9.30-10.30 p.m.

- Q. Where do students have their meals?
- A. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are all provided in the restaurant on the college campus.
- Q. What is the age range of students within each class?
- A. We placement test students firstly by level and then by age and nationality. This system allows us to ensure an appropriate class profile in each group. Within this system we allow a two year variance between students, for example the youngest in the group might be 13 and the oldest might be 15. However, we do tend to assess each case on its individual merits.
- Q. What is the average class size?
- A. The average class size is 12 and can go to a maximum of 15. On our year round courses, the ratio is lower and varies from as low as 8 to as high as 12.
- Q. What is the average age of your teachers, course director and activity leaders?
- A. Teacher's ages range from about 27 up to the mid-fifties. Our teachers are chosen according to their experience, ability and personality.
- Q. Do the English teachers also take part in the activity program?
- A. Yes they do. Each staff member is required to participate in a certain number of activities per week and this is an excellent way for students to interact with our staff who can help them to constantly improve their speaking skills, and ensure that students speak as little of their own language as possible.
- Q. How do you monitor academic progress?
- A. We have a very exact syllabus which our teachers follow very closely. Our academic manager carries out frequent and random spot-checks and observations ensuring that all classes are following the syllabus design.
- Q. Do students need to bring additional equipment with them in order to fully participate on the activity programme?
- A. All essential equipment which is necessary to participate in each activity is provided by the activity provider. However, we recommend that students bring the following extras:
- Towels
 - Flip-flops
 - Swimming-hat for the pool
 - Spare track-suits for Operation Z
 - Comfortable shoes for hill-walking



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1)	What age group does your camp cater for?	Our course is designed for students from 11 to 18 years of age. While the range is from 11 to 18, the median is 14-16. Students usually mix in discrete age groups.	Student Profile
2)	How many students does your camp cater for?	As an example, In 2007 we had 538 students between July 1st and August 27th. The average number of students on-site each day was 188.	
3)	What is your student to supervisor ratio?	8:1	
4)	Where do your students come from?	Our students come from Spain, Italy , France, Germany, Switzerland, Russia, Korea, The United States & United Kingdom.	
5)	What is the average age of supervisors?	All of our supervisors have been University graduates who take part in the teaching of the program. Ages range from 24 to 64. (Our most energetic and popular member of staff is also our oldest). We have a small number of young 'assistants' whose job is to liaise and socialize with the students. Their role is to assist with minor administrative duties and help students feel at home. They are not in any way responsible for the students.	Staff Profile
6)	What is the background of the staff?	All of our staff are university graduates, and the management staff have been in this field for a minimum of ten years.	
7)	Do staff receive any special training?	All of our staff receive a full induction and are given a manual that deals with the various eventualities that arise on a summer camp.	
8)	Do staff interact with the students?	Yes. Staff take part in many of the social, sporting and cultural activities and constantly encourage students to mix with each other, exchange their views and communicate effectively.	

9)	What is the school's philosophy and program emphasis?	Our school's philosophy is to provide an insight into the history, culture and landscape of Ireland & its Celtic past through an international integration and activities program.	Philosophy & Ethos
10)	What is the ethos of the school as regards discipline?	We feel that we have a healthy and pragmatic approach to self-discipline among our students. The atmosphere on campus is generally relaxed yet focused. We have busy schedules and generally speaking, poor behavior is not common. Students are here to have fun and to learn and we encourage a collegial environment. Issues arising are dealt with amicably yet firmly. In the rare event that a behavioral situation begins to deteriorate, further steps are taken. A full step by step description is available in our terms and conditions.	
11)	What is the academic mission of the school?	The academic mission of the school is to expose students to Irish history, culture and landscape, through an engaging and eclectic syllabus and an exciting activity program. The course offers a broad overview of the origins of the culture we see around us today and students are encouraged to offer their own views on this through engaging group projects. We want our students to feel intellectually and physically stimulated by what they learn and return home refreshed and invigorated by what they have experienced.	
12)	How does your school handle home-sickness and other emotional issues?	All students arriving without a leader are assigned a staff mentor, who makes contact with them on a regular basis. They ensure that the students are adjusting to camp life and are mixing with the other students. They also ensure that students are in regular contact with home, where possible. Emotional issues of a more serious nature will be communicated to the student's parent(s) and they may be requested to advise on the appropriate response.	
13)	How are behavioral and disciplinary problems handled?	Students and parents are given a clear copy of our terms & conditions before applying to which everyone is expected to adhere. Minor infractions are usually handled in a good-humored conversational manner, then progressing to a more formalized corrective action solution in the form of a meeting with the student and course co-coordinator. Should this not be effective, more assertive steps will be taken, and in extreme cases the sending home of the student is the ultimate sanction (See terms & conditions).	
14)	Does the school have a particular religious ethos?	Only of tolerance to all religions, faiths and beliefs. Should parents wish certain practices to be observed, a member of staff will be assigned to assist in this.	
15)	What is the school's ethos as regards special needs?	The campus and accommodation are very accessible to those with special needs. Prior discussion with parents may be required in relation to the student's participation in activities.	



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16)	What insurance arrangements are in place?	The school is fully insured for public liability. Students are advised to take out personal health insurance before arriving on the course.	Health, Accommodation & Catering
17)	How is accommodation arranged?	There are male and female blocks. No mixing is allowed in the blocks. Infractions will incur a corrective action, such as the withdrawal of certain privileges or access to certain activities. The school management of course prefers that this would not be necessary and would ask students to respect the rules of the school.	
18)	Is accommodation serviced regularly?	Yes. Apartments are serviced once per week; this includes a change of bed linen, towels and a basic tidying of the apartment. We do, however encourage students to keep their apartments in a reasonably tidy condition as this helps students stay in a positive state of mind throughout their stay.	
19)	What should students bring with them in their baggage?	Comfortable shoes and sensible clothes. The Irish summer can be unpredictable and it's better to be safe than sorry. Although towels are provided in the apartments, it is a good idea to bring a towel if you intend to go to the beach for the day as it is not permitted to remove them from apartments.	
20)	Are dietary restrictions taken into consideration?	On each application form there is a field entitled Special Dietary Needs. Parents should state clearly and fully any medical conditions related to dietary intake, food allergies, etc and what is required to facilitate these needs.	
21)	What is the school's ethos as regards diet & nutrition?	We work with a professional catering company that has many years experience in designing healthy & tasty menus, that are calorie controlled.	
22)	What about portion sizes? Do students ever complain of being hungry?	Portion sizes are generous, but if a student is particularly hungry they may request more when being served at the counter. We do not encourage going back for seconds as it presents practical issues.	
23)	What's on the menu?	Menu is available on request and students can tick their choices in advance so that they can ensure they have their preference.	
24)	Are there vegetarian options?	Yes. There is a vegetarian option with each meal.	
25)	What about other dietary restrictions?	Parents should e-mail the school and discuss this with staff so that we can ensure the student in question can be facilitated.	