

[WWW.BWE.IE](http://WWW.BWE.IE)

# BIRCHWATER EDUCATION SCHOOL PLACEMENT





# Our Journey

Established in 2016 in Limerick on the banks of the River Shannon, Birchwater Education (BWE) has been an ILEP listed school as well as a Trinity College Exam Centre. Our Founders, Ian and Nora are leading industry professionals with over 25 years of combined industry experience both inside and outside the classroom. Together they have dedicated over 8 years into making BWE into a name that is trusted both locally and internationally.



BWE has adapted and evolved to become a leading name in the West of Ireland. From establishing a reputation for quality education in an ever changing market, BWE has worked tirelessly to offer academic year placements in warm and welcoming secondary schools across the Munster region of Ireland. This has been a great success with BWE placing hundreds of junior students from diverse countries such as Italy, Spain, Mexico, Taiwan, China, Kazakhstan etc. in both public and private schools. BWE provides the best possible homestay families in the region, which make up the backbone of our school placement service.

Our passion for education and our desire to showcase the natural beauty and hospitality of the areas around Limerick keep us striving towards our goals.





# WHAT WE OFFER

- Academic Year School Placement
- Term Placement
- Short Stay Group Placement
- Homestay Placement
- Student Guardianship
- Junior Summer Immersion Camps
- Family Stay Summer Immersion
- Erasmus Work Placement

**We believe that each child deserves an enriching environment to learn and grow**



# SCHOOL PLACEMENT INFO

## Academic Year

We provide placement in established local secondary schools primarily in the West of Ireland. Students can be placed in either public or private schools based on the needs of the students. We cater for both EU and Non EU students with homestay and full time boarding options available

We offer free consultation with parents and partners to ensure students are placed in the school that is most suitable to their needs.

Student study for 9 months between September and May. All subjects are taught through English. A variety of School years are available

- 1st year (year 7)
- 2nd Year (year 8)
- 4th Year, Transition Year (TY)
- 5th Year (year 11)



## Term Placement

Term placements are available in public schools for EU students that wish to stay for a shorter period of time. Term placements take place between the following

- September - December (4 months)
- January - May (5 months)
- For shorter durations, please contact us for further details

## Short Stay

Limited availability exists for groups from EU countries that wish to experience school placement in Ireland. Students have the opportunity to experience life in Ireland studying in a local public school, living with an Irish family. Students are placed according to availability. School groups can consist of various age groups.

- Duration: 4 to 8 weeks
- Schools : Various (public)
- Students: EU only

## Guardianship and Homestay

Our experienced local Guardians and homestay families are selected based on a proven track record as well as student needs. International Student Guardianship Ireland (ISGI) provides guardianship services during the academic year for all international students studying in both public and private schools.



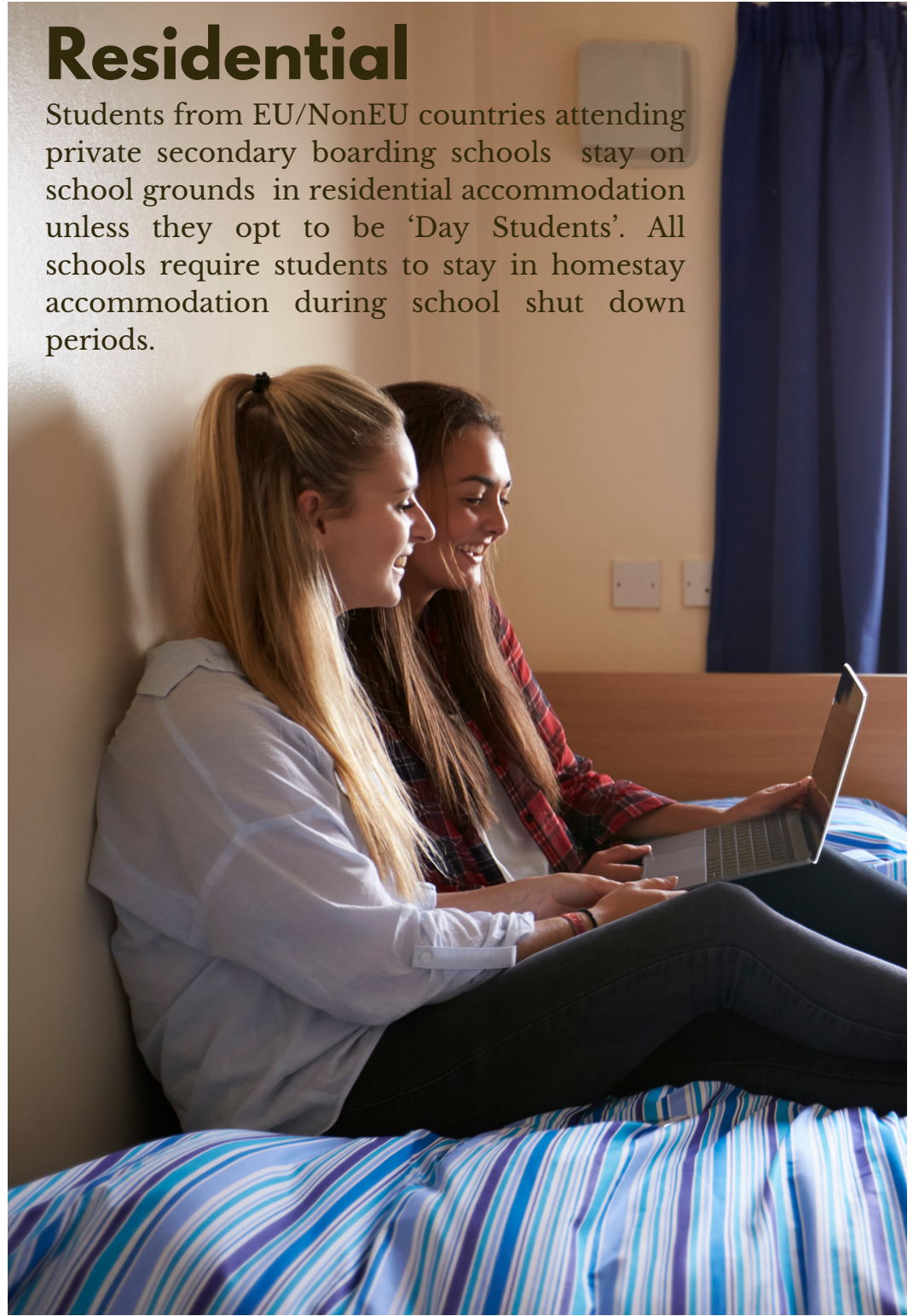
# Homestay

Students from the EU attending public schools in the region stay with our wonderful homestay families renowned for their warm and friendly welcome. Students get an opportunity to immerse themselves in the Irish way of life and practice their English language skills throughout the day.



# Residential

Students from EU/NonEU countries attending private secondary boarding schools stay on school grounds in residential accommodation unless they opt to be 'Day Students'. All schools require students to stay in homestay accommodation during school shut down periods.





# HOMESTAY FAMILY PLACEMENT

## HOMESTAYS

A homestay family is a very important part of the student experience and is one of the biggest decisions to make prior to arrival. A family you can trust to support your child and take care of the day to day needs is a priority. ISGI is there to help make this decision as easy as possible. All our quality homestays are vetted, personally inspected and deemed suitable for hosting international students following the relevant checks. Our host families receive annual training and orientation to ensure they provide the highest quality service available.

## HOMESTAY CHECKS

- HOST FAMILY INSPECTION AND VISIT
- POLICE BACKGROUND CHECKS
- YEARLY ORIENTATION
- FIRE ALARMS FITTED AND CHECKED



## CHOOSING A HOMESTAY

### Before Arrival

We make choosing a homestay exciting rather than the daunting task it can be. We take into account the age and profile of each student and listen to all parent concerns. We take all details into consideration and compile a list of potential homestays in the area that would be suitable for your child

### After Arrival

Students are welcomed at the airport by a representative of BWE. Transport arrangements are organised from the airport to the school location or directly to the homestay. We offer 24/7 support for all our homestays throughout the year

### Contact Call

Parents and students are given the option to schedule a call with a selected host familie to learn more about each other prior to arrival

Continuing a  
tradition of  
personal care  
and academic  
assistance

## HOMESTAY LIFESTYLE

Staying with an Irish host family is a wonderful experience. Students are provided with a private room, a quiet space to study and nutritious meals. Our proven homestays have a track record of greeting all students with a warm and friendly welcome and treating them like part of the family.

### Additional Nights

Some students may require additional stays with their host families during the course of the academic year. We coordinate any extra stays including mid term holidays and boarding house closures.

### Meals

Nutritious meals are provided by the homestay on a daily basis. Students are provided with 3 meals a day, plus snacks. Any dietary requirements can be catered upon request. Any issues with meals should be reported directly to ISGI





# THE STUDENT JOURNEY

## BEFORE ARRIVAL



### CHOOSING THE RIGHT SCHOOL

Many important factors are considered by parents and students when choosing to study overseas including the country, type of school and fee requirements, the subject options available, exam type etc. We offer free consultation providing information to agencies and parents to help make informed decisions. Options include full time boarding schools, private day schools and public schools

### CHOOSING THE RIGHT HOMESTAY FAMILY

Students that require a homestay will need assistance finding a suitable location and host family to suit their needs. We take into consideration the hobbies and character of each student. We take care in placing them with families that will suit their personality with children of the same age, where possible. Parents will have access to the homestay portal on our website to learn more about our fully vetted and experienced host families

## AIRPORT ARRIVAL

Students may arrive into Dublin or Shannon airport. We offer a warm smile to students upon arrival at the airport and the reassurance that they are in safe hands. Students will be met on arrival by an ISGI representative holding a sign showing our name and logo, making them easily recognisable. Students are then taken to the chosen transport option to begin their journey to the school or homestay

## ACADEMIC YEAR

Students will always remember their wonderful experience in Ireland. We are there to make sure they look back on their time with fond memories. We provide a full time professional service throughout the academic year including

- Arrival and final departure airport transfers
- School books, uniforms and bed linen organised and available upon arrival
- 24 hour availability for emergencies
- Close contact with parents
- 24 hour contact with host families
- On call for school concerns
- Medical insurance organised if required
- Non academic support
- Regular check ups in person to monitor progress and well being
- Attendance at parent teacher meetings with follow up meetings if necessary
- School reports sent to parents
- Mid term and exeat holiday arrangements with host family/airport transfers
- Arrangement of additional transfers as required
- Provision of Irish sim card



## BEFORE DEPARTURE

Upon departure after the academic year, we arrange for students to arrive safely at the airport and check in for their flights. We complete all the necessary documentation and approval required by airlines for unaccompanied minors



# SCHOOL PLACEMENT



School Uniforms



Transition Year Play



Public Schools



Irish Countryside

## SCHOOL TYPES

Ireland has a variety of public and private schools which includes

- All Boys
- All Girls
- Mixed
- Day schools
- Boarding schools

Ireland consistently ranks as one of Europe's top ranking education systems. Irish High Schools are known locally as "Secondary Schools" and consist of 2 main schooling cycles with an optional bridging year dividing the cycles known as transition year

- Junior Cycle - 3 years
- Senior Cycle - 2 years

## Transition Year (TY)

Transition Year (also called TY) is a one-year programme between Junior Cycle and Senior Cycle. It is designed to act as a bridge between the two by helping the transition or change from the more dependent learning of the Junior Cycle to the more independent self-directed learning required for the Senior Cycle.

Transition Year gives students the opportunity to:

- Engage in independent, self-directed learning
- Develop general, technical and academic skills
- Develop work-related skills
- Develop social skills such as communications and building self-confidence
- Mature and develop without the pressure of an examination

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Government public schools are eligible for enrolment by EU citizens only. Students can enrol for a single term or full academic year programmes with transition year (TY) being the most popular choice.

The school year is typically broken down into two terms across 9 months

- Term 1 : September - December
- Term 2 : January - May

### School Holiday Dates Include:

- **Mid-term break:** 1 week off around Halloween.
- **Christmas:** 2 weeks off, generally the last week in December and the first week in January.
- **Mid-term break:** 1 week off in February
- **Easter:** 2 weeks off
- **Summer holidays:**



# International School Placement

## PRIVATE FEE PAYING SCHOOLS

Most private schools offer a variety of options to suit the accommodation needs of their students

- Full time day schools
- Part time boarding (5 day)
- Full time boarding (7 day)

Fees vary depending on the chosen school with consultation available for parents to discuss options suited to their needs and preferences. Schools include Villiers IB school, Glenstal Abbey, Tutorial College, Rockwell College, Cistercian college and many across Ireland.

## Non EU students

EU students have the opportunity to study in both public and private schools while Non EU students have the opportunity to study in private boarding schools located across Ireland. We offer placement in Limerick and the greater surrounding area including Villiers IB School, Rockwell College, Glenstal abbey, Cistercian College Tutorial College etc. Students can join a variety of year groups including the Junior Cycle, Transition Year (TY) and the Senior cycle.

## GUARDIANSHIP AND HOMESTAY

Students under the age of 18 studying in Ireland must have a designated local student guardian to ensure their safety and well. All assigned guardians must be citizens of Ireland. Private school going students placed with BWE are assigned a local guardian through ISGI and provided with care and

Our carefully selected families are fully vetted and are all within walking distance of the school. Our families welcome the children like part of the family with nutritious meals provided daily, spacious rooms and lots of interaction to help improve their English making our homestays a highlight for international students. Our Guardianship service is the only professional full time service in the area with 24 hour on call personnel and comes highly recommended, from both our school partners and parents.

## International Baccalaureate (IB)

Parents and students interested in studying an alternative curriculum can choose to enrol in schools offering The International Baccalaureate (IB) Syllabus. Two schools in Ireland offer the IB Syllabus including Villiers IB Boarding School which is one of Ireland's most established schools with over 200 years of history, situated in the heart Limerick.

**Villiers IB School**



**Cistercians College**



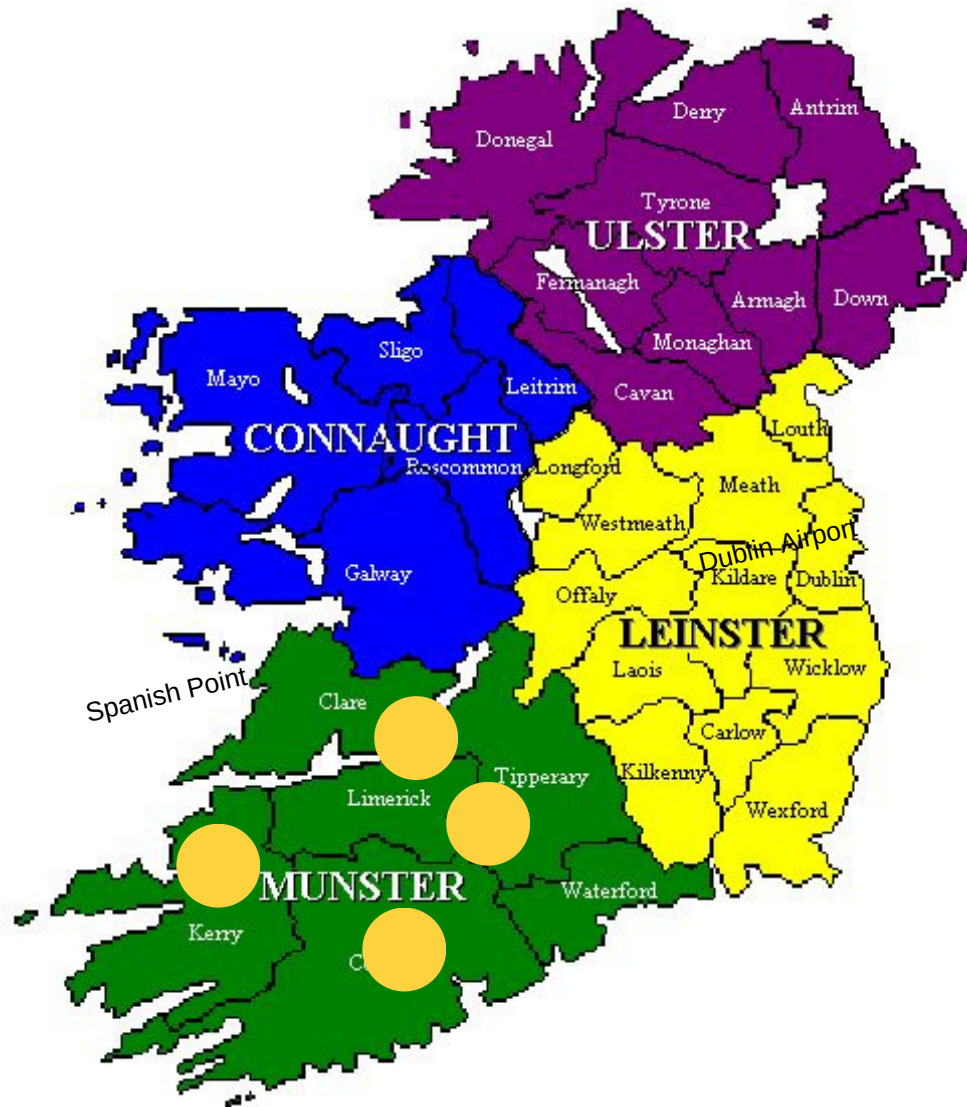
**Glenstal Abbey**



**Rockell College**



# School Locations in Munster





## CONTACT US

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