



# Host Family Accommodation Introduction



If you choose to stay with a host family during your language course at DCU, you will experience Irish culture by living as a member of an Irish family. The following information will give you an insight into what you can expect and what will be expected of you by your host family home.

## Location

Host family homes are generally located within walking distance of the campus or on a direct bus route to DCU.

Note: travel to the university may take up to 1 hour due to traffic constraints at peak periods.

## Access

You will be given a key of the house and are free to come and go as you wish (subject to the house rules). You can bring a visitor to your host family's home only if you have made a prior arrangement with your host family. Your visitor is not permitted into your bedroom or to stay overnight.

## Security

It is of paramount importance that you respect the security requirements of the homeowner. Doors must be closed and locked when you leave the house. You should always let your host family know by text message or phone in advance if you plan **not to return home for dinner or are running late**.

## House Rules

Your bedroom will contain a bed, wardrobe space for your clothes and, in most cases, a study desk. If a desk is not available in the bedroom, one will be made available to you elsewhere in the home.

There may or may not be a lock on the bedroom door. Your host family will not enter your room without your permission, apart

from regular cleaning of the room. You should also respect the privacy of your host family, and the house rules.

The host family will change your bedclothes once per week and replace them with clean ones.

## Laundry

The host family will give you access to the family laundry schedule.

## Internet

The host family will give you free access to the Wi-Fi at their home.

## Food

Irish families enjoy a range of cuisine! The host family will provide breakfast and dinner from Monday to Friday by including you in the family's main meals. By sharing mealtimes, you will experience Irish culture and food.

At weekends you will also be given lunch.

## \*Dietary Needs

We can accommodate dietary requirements and medical conditions subject to availability. Please contact us in advance of your arrival to advise us of your requirements. If you do not advise us of your requirements we will assume that you do not have any.

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## Standards

All of our host families have been visited by a member of our Accommodation team to ensure that the high standards we expect are met.

## Cultural Differences

There are a number of cultural norms in Ireland of which you should be aware. You will learn some of these as you spend time with your host family. Irish bathrooms are not "wet rooms". They may not be fully tiled therefore you should be careful to keep water within the shower enclosure and not to wet the entire bathroom.

In Ireland, water conservation is observed but not critical. Some toilets have a "dual flush" option which provides a small flush and a large flush. You should always flush the toilet after every use. In addition, showers are generally kept short. Please do not spend more than 10 minutes showering.

Cooking utensils, cutlery and dishes are always washed after every use. The majority of Irish families use a dishwasher and all items are placed in the dishwasher after use.

Irish families consist of a mixture of single adults, married couples and long-term partners. Some families have children, some do not. Some families have pets and some do not. If you have any special requirements, please contact us in advance of your arrival. If you do not advise us of your requirements we will assume that you do not have any.

## Enjoy the Irish Experience

To allow you to enjoy the most beneficial experience during your stay with a host family, we encourage you to actively participate in family life. Use your time with the host family to practise your English language skills and to learn about Irish culture. Irish people are known for being friendly and welcoming so most importantly, enjoy your stay!

## Communication

The lines of communication for the host family are as follows: If you are having a daily routine problem, you should immediately speak to your host family. If you are having a problem with your Host Family, please contact our accommodation office immediately or in urgent circumstances call our emergency number +353 85 185 7060

Phone: +353 1 700 5552 Email: [acc@dcu.ie](mailto:acc@dcu.ie)

## DOs and DON'Ts of staying with a Host Family

### DO

- Familiarise yourself with the house rules.
- Treat everyone with respect.
- Only bring a visitor to your host family's home if you have made a prior arrangement with your host family.
- Always tell your host family where you are going and when you will return.
- Doors must be closed and locked when you leave the house. Switch on the alarm (if provided).
- Let your host family know by text or phone in advance if you plan not to return home for dinner or are running late.
- Communicate any medical illness or issues.
- Respect shower / bathroom schedule.
- Include your clothes with the family laundry.
- Always carry emergency contact details with you.
- Always flush the toilet after every use.
- Advise us of any special requirements you have.
- Enjoy the Irish Experience.

### DON'T

- Ignore the Host Family's rules.
- Allow visitors into your bedroom.
- Allow visitors to stay overnight.
- Drink alcohol.
- Be afraid of embarrassing yourself when it comes to speaking English. Your Host Family want to help you.
- Use Wi-fi to download games, movies, adult material, or large files.
- Wet the entire bathroom.
- Forget to turn off the lights.



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