DUBLIN – IRELAND

TERMS AND CONDITIONS
DEMI-PAIR STUDENT PROGRAMMES

Valid from 23/09/24 until further notice

Travelling to Ireland in the capacity of a demi-pair student is an excellent way to improve communication skills and develop fluency in the English language.

Demi-pair students exchange the tasks they carry out in the family home for a single (bed)room on a full-board basis. They are expected to be available to the family for 20 hours per week plus two nights' babysitting per month.

If a family needs a demi-pair student on a national holiday as part of the stipulated weekly hours, the demi-pair student should make herself available on that day unless the demi-pair student has previously informed the family that s(he) has made other plans.

Our demi-pair student programme is a cultural exchange programme, and no monies are exchanged between the demi-pair student and the family.

If a demi-pair student agrees with the family to do additional hours, over and above those stipulated on the demi-pair programme, these hours are considered to be of a personal nature between the family and the demi-pair student and they are outside the remit of the Living English demi-pair programme.

Demi-pair students must have attained at least an intermediate level of English before participating on these programmes and should be aged 18-years or over. During the summer months, demi-pair students must be at least 20-years old.

Demi-pair students who do not have a conversational level of English may find it difficult to communicate with the family. If the family is not willing to allow the demi-pair student to stay in the family home due to a poor level of English, a change of programme will be necessary.

As English is a foreign/second language and the demi-pair student's culture and customs differ to those in Ireland, misunderstandings may arise initially. It is always best, in the first instance, if the demi-pair student talks to the family to ensure there has been no misunderstanding.

The key to making demi-pair programmes beneficial both for the family and for the demi-pair student is flexibility.

Demi-pair students should assist in the family home with enthusiasm and show a willingness to want to help when the need arises. All families are different and all families have different needs.

A demi-pair student's schedule in the family home must not coincide with the reserved English language tuition. Nevertheless, the schedule in the family home may change from day to day or it could be the same for the duration of stay.

During the first week of stay, a demi-pair student will be informed of the tasks (s)he will be asked to do. It is possible that some families will not need a demi-pair student to babysit at night and will therefore ask the demi-pair student to do other duties instead of night-time babysitting or vice versa.

In the unlikely event the demi-pair student and the family selected are not compatible for valid reasons, Living English will mediate between the family and the demi-pair student. Under no circumstances should the demi-pair student leave the family home until an agreement has been reached, as this will terminate the demi-pair programme. During this time, Living English will endeavour to look for another demi-pair family for the demi-pair student or alternatively, make the necessary arrangements for a change in programme.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TUITION

Demi-pairs students are expected to attend General English Language classes daily in the mornings or afternoons. They will either be given an English language level test on arrival at the school, or they will be asked to complete a level test online and then placed in the relevant class according to the test result. If a demi-pair student is not returning to the family home after English language classes, it is polite to inform the family.

Demi-pairs students must read the information in the Welcome Letter carefully. This will be emailed to them before their arrival in Ireland. Welcome letters give detailed information about language classes, family life, travel card and up-to-date information on Covid-19 requirements in Ireland, if any. It will be assumed the demi-pair student is aware of the information contained therein prior to her programme start date.

In the event the demi-pair student is unable to attend one or more English language classes (s)he should advise Living English or the school. These classes cannot be recuperated at a later date.

However, if the demi-pair student would like to take a holiday from her English classes, she can do this once and she must advise Living English and the school of the exact dates with advance notice. The classes missed may be recuperated at the end of the demi-pair student's original course.

A Summer Supplement applies to all demi-pair programmes unless otherwise specified. This supplement is either €45 or €55 per week, based on the number of hours and weeks of English language classes and is applicable from 2/6/2025 until 26/9/2025 inclusive.

COVID-19

There are currently no restrictions for EU member nationals to enter Ireland and our partner ATC schools, have lifted all restrictions for students attending English classes on their premises. Nevertheless, were the situation to deteriorate and the Irish government were to again impose a national lockdown, ATC schools will restore the safety protocols used during the health pandemic and all students would attend online English classes from their Irish homes.

LEAP TRAVEL CARD

(Free public transport in and around the Dublin area)

If the family does not live in the area where the demi-pair student is attending English language tuition, a Leap travel card will be supplied. Leap travel cards can be used on all public transport in the Dublin area. The demi-pair student will be given a Leap travel card directly by the host family.

If the demi-pair student leaves the family home and the demi-pair programme, due to a dispute or for another reason, the demi-pair student must ensure the Leap travel card is left in the family home as it belongs to the family.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN IRELAND 2025 (classes are not recuperable on national holidays).

1st JANUARY	NEW YEAR'S DAY
3rd FEBRUARY	SAINT BRIGID'S DAY
17th MARCH	SAINT PATRICK'S DAY
21st APRIL	EASTER MONDAY
MONDAYS: 5th MAY, 2nd JUNE, 4th AUGUST, 27th OCTOBER	PUBLIC HOLIDAYS
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS: SCHOOL CLOSES AFTER CLASS ON 19/12/2025 AND RE-OPENS ON 5/1/2026	

CANCELLATION POLICY

In the event a demi-pair applicant cancels her demi-pair programme within 30 days prior to the arrival date made at the time of booking or Living English has already put a demi-pair student in contact with a potential host family, a non-refundable deposit of €150 will be charged as a cancellation fee.

GENERAL

Once the demi-pair student has arrived in Ireland and the programme has commenced, there is no refund of monies.

Any complaints/grievances relevant to the selected programme must be made in writing, whilst the demi-pair student is participating on the programme. Claims made on return to the country of origin or on completion of the programme will not be tolerated.

Demi-Pairs students are expected to stay in the family home for the entire duration of their selected programme.

I agree to be bound by the above terms & conditions prior to and while participating on the Living English demi-pair programme in Ireland.

Signed: …… Date: ……