

# Tara Placements

Academic Placement & Study Solutions Ireland



# Hello! Hola! Bonjour! Hallo! Ciao!

[Tara Placements](#) was started in 2012 by its founder [Mary Morgan](#) to provide young Europeans with the opportunity of learning English in a very novel way ... by placing them for various periods of time with Irish host families and in the Irish academic school system.

Based in the picturesque county town of [Ennis, Co. Clare](#), Tara Placements provides visiting students with the opportunity to discover the scenic west coast of Ireland and is used as a base to visit the many cultural and historic sites Ireland has to offer.

Tara Placements specialises in catering to the 11 to 18 year age group and has programmes designed to meet the specific needs of each visiting student.

The Irish school system is ranked 15th in the world's top 20, and Irish schools are considered to be happy, safe, inclusive and encouraging places to study. The ethos centring on the child's development as a whole person rather than focussing entirely on academic success – producing well-rounded, caring and happy children.

Tara Placements has, over the years established warm, cordial and productive relationships with many [schools in Co. Clare](#) who are happy to place visiting European students in their classrooms.

Visiting students are integrated into each academic year by age, and study side by side with their Irish contemporaries, learning in an immersive and interactive way. Living with [Irish host families](#) visiting students improve their knowledge of English by being totally immersed in Irish family life. Our host families will have children of similar ages to the visiting student and will when possible attend the same school as your child.



## How studying in Ireland works

Children in Ireland spend between 5 and 6 years in [secondary level schools](#), beginning at 12 or 13 years of age and finishing when they are 18 or 19. Many but not all schools have a "[Transition Year](#)" for 15 to 16 year olds. This occurs at the end of the junior cycle and before students embark on the Senior cycle.

Learning in an immersive environment is the quickest way to obtain fluency in English and visiting students are encouraged to speak only in English, to leave their mobile phones at "home" and to join sports and after school clubs. Ireland does not have a not tiered secondary school system as is the norm in continental European schools. In Ireland all schools have a broad curriculum to accommodate the various abilities of all of its pupils, from academic high fliers to those with a more hands on leaning.

In the [Junior Cycle](#) students take up to 12 subjects including English, Maths, Geography, History, Science, languages, Art, Music and if inclined technical subjects such as Technical Graphics or Home Economics.

In the [Senior Cycle](#) students usually take seven subjects to final exam level, usually focussing on what their third level degree will be in.

The school day varies in length depending on the school but is usually from 9 am to 4 pm. During the day students study their chosen subjects for 40 minute periods with designated breaks and a break for lunch.

Most but not all Irish secondary schools are co-educational, require students to wear a school uniform and have a [disciplinary code](#) that all students must adhere to.



# Living with a host family

Our [host families](#) are chosen carefully and all have been vetted by the relevant authorities. Their houses are welcoming and friendly and they have chosen to host visiting students to add to their families' life experience. We choose families who live in the vicinity of the school your child will attend. They will usually have children of a similar age to your child and their children will attend the same school when possible.

County Clare is for the most part a quite rural area and many families live in the countryside. In these cases visiting students will be driven to school or will avail of a designated bus service.

Visiting students are expected to become involved in "family life", eating with the family and doing the small household chores that most Irish children do (like helping to lay the table for dinner or tidying up their rooms). Most families eat together in the evenings and this is an opportunity for visiting students to share their day's experiences and practice speaking English in a relaxed environment.

We want our visiting students to feel "at home" with their host families so they should take the opportunity to become involved in any family activities that occur; day trips, shopping trips, visits to friends and family, etc.

Visiting students will have their own room and will have access to the home's Wi-Fi and facilities. You will be introduced to your host family before you arrive in Ireland and you should take advantage of Skyping with them once this is arranged. It will give you the opportunity to ask about any issues you may be concerned about, for instant, allergies your child might have, whether the family has pets or whether there is unlimited Wi-Fi available.

Please note that excessive contact with family at home is discouraged as it is disruptive to the visiting student and slows down significantly the period of time needed by the student to settle in and feel at home. Your child will have the number of a counsellor who will be on hand during the first eight weeks should they feel lonely or disoriented. This service can be arranged at a small fee in the student's native language if deemed preferable.



# What we do

Tara Placements asks your child to fill in a [questionnaire](#), telling us about themselves – what they like to do, what they like to eat, their interests and hobbies. It is good if they write about why they would like to come to Ireland, what their expectations of their stay would be and what they would hope to get from their time in Ireland.

After receiving the booking form, the director of Tara Placements personally contacts each child and their family via Skype. This informal interview gives Mary a chance to get to know your child and gives the family and student a chance to ask questions.

All of this helps us to place your child with a suitable host family and to place them in a suitable school.

As we are placing your child in a secondary school whose main focus is on its permanent students reaching their designated exam goals, it is at the discretion of each partner school as to how many and in what year each school can accommodate visiting students.

There are [various options available](#) for the duration of the school placement. The academic year begins in late August and finishes in late May – the last weeks of May being given over to year end exams or state exams.

We offer the following programmes:

- Full academic year (late August until June of the following year)
- Late August to midterm (late October)
- Late August to the Christmas break
- From January to Easter
- Easter to end of the school year

Once you have made a booking with Tara Placements we will contact you with suitable dates and will organise for your child to be collected from the airport. There are three airports within easy reach of Ennis; Shannon, Dublin and Cork.

- We will introduce your child to the host family and ensure they are happy in their new environment.
- We will take your child to purchase the school uniform and books for the school they will attend and provide them with a mobile phone.
- Mobile phones are banned from schools, and if found on school property will be confiscated until the end of the particular school term. However, we appreciate that all children need to have access to one. We provide each student with a basic model mobile phone that does not have any access to the Internet. The phones are preloaded with some credit (one-months' worth) and can be used



for making and receiving calls and texts only. The cost of the use of the mobile phone credit is charged to you and the phone should be returned to us when your child leaves.

- We have found that students who have constant access to their friends at home via the Internet are less likely to engage with their Irish peers and find acclimatising to speaking English is more difficult.
- Studying in an Irish school should be immersive and your child should be encouraged to speak English when possible.
- Visiting students are introduced to their designated school and allowed to sample various subjects to see what interests them; they are obliged to take the core subjects of English and Maths.
- We are available 24/7 to your child to answer any queries or concerns that they might have.



## Irish schools

Irish schools are inclusive, most have a Catholic ethos. They welcome children from all cultures, denominations and socioeconomic backgrounds. The wonderful thing about Irish schools is that they are very egalitarian and children mix with all strata of society.

Most schools have after-school sports and clubs and we would encourage visiting students to avail of these opportunities to engage with their Irish peers in a relaxed environment.

However, there are some things that all visiting students must be aware of and respect:

- All students are required to wear the school uniform – which must be clean and tidy.
- Mobile phones are not allowed on school property and are confiscated if found.
- Smoking or possession of prohibited drugs are forbidden on school grounds – students face suspension or expulsion if found with either.
- Bad language, stealing, bullying, aggressive or disruptive behaviour is not tolerated.
- Homework must be handed up – visiting students are required to attempt any homework set in class.
- Leaving the school grounds during the school day is not allowed (however, some schools allow the students to leave school grounds during the lunch break)
- If a visiting student is required to, they must complete the end of term exams set by teachers. Please note that while your child is attending school to improve their English they will be considered as proper students and must take any tests or exams during the period of attendance in the school.

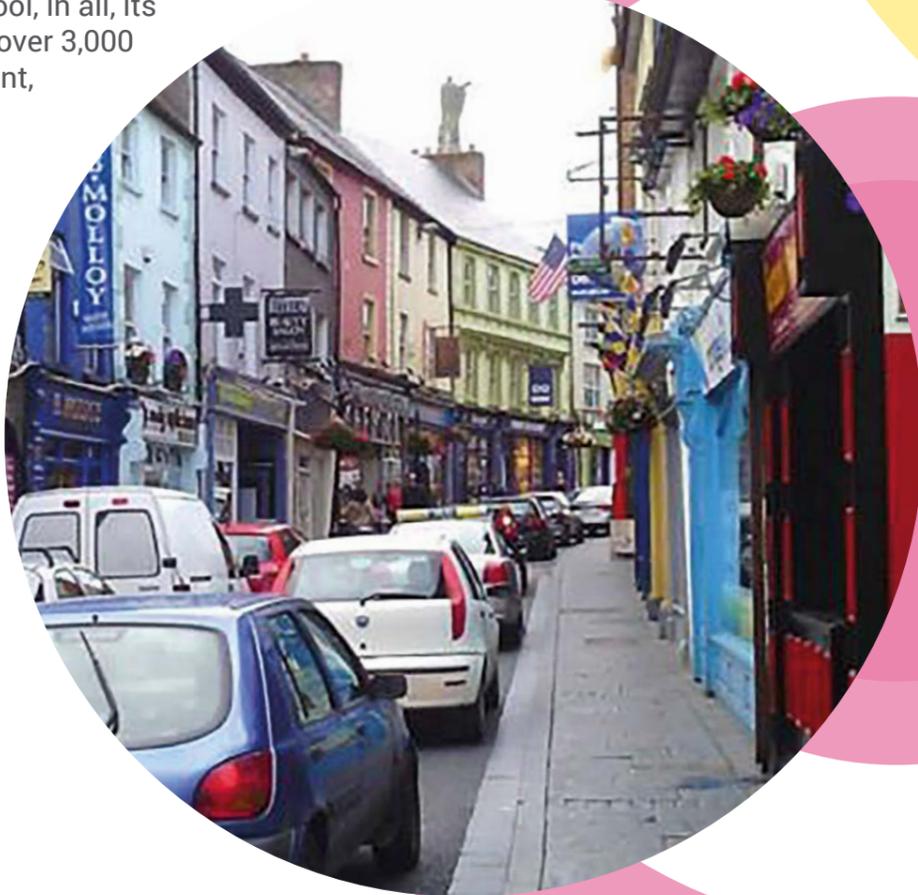
# Ennis & its environs

County Clare is home to the world renowned Cliffs of Moher, the unique Burren, with its moonlike quality and many archaeological sites. It has wonderful Blue Flag beaches dotted along its rugged coastline, like Lahinch, famous for its surfing and Kilkee, Spanish Point and Fanore.

Counties Galway, Limerick and Tipperary all border Clare and are within easy reach for day trips. Our partner schools are located in west Clare and south County Galway in small towns and villages full of charm and local hospitality. Some of our partner schools are in Ennistymon, Kildysart, Spanish Point, Shannon, Gort, Lisdoonvarna and Loughrea.

Ennis is the county town of County Clare. It is a market town famous for its colourful narrow shopping streets and thriving traditional music scene. It has a population of 25,000 people, has a hospital, a municipal swimming pool, parks, running tracks and a large range of restaurants, pubs and cafés. It has five secondary schools, three of which are partnered with Tara Placements. Children from the surrounding villages and small towns travel to Ennis to school, in all, its secondary schools educate over 3,000 children, giving Ennis a vibrant, young atmosphere.

We would be delighted to see you soon in the west of Ireland! You will be more than welcome!! For any queries please contact us on the following....



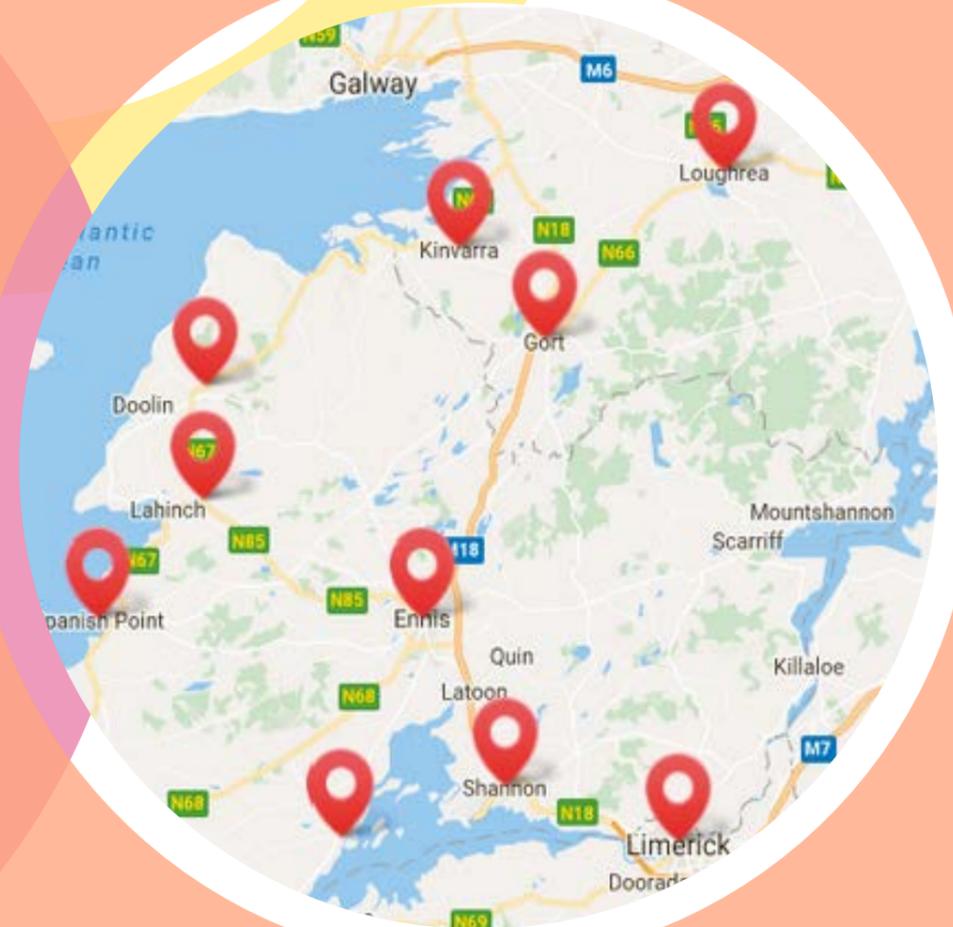
## Contact us

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[Visit the Google Map & view the schools associated with each location.](#)



# Tara Placements

In Association With:

Braden English!

