

GENERAL INFORMATION

Welcome to our ALPHA COLLEGE Information Booklet. We hope that you will find all the information you need about Alpha College and some background information on Ireland and Dublin which will help you to plan and benefit from your English Language Training Programme with us. At the end of the booklet you will find a map of Dublin city centre showing the exact location of Alpha College.

IRELAND

1. Weather

Ireland has a mild, temperate climate with summer temperatures ranging from 16 – 24°C. The temperatures rarely drop below freezing point in winter. We have a beautiful green country but it can rain quite often so students should bring a waterproof jacket and an umbrella.

2. Time

Ireland observes Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) in the winter. Irish summer time is GMT plus 1 hour. The clock goes forward by an hour in March and back by an hour in October.

3. Electrical Current

The electrical current in Ireland is 220-240 AC volts. The plugs most commonly used are 3-pin flat plugs. Students wishing to bring electrical items with them should purchase a travel adaptor. Adaptors are easily available at all airports.

4. Shopping

Shops are open Monday – Saturday from 09.00/10.00 until 17.30/18.00 with many shops staying open until 20.00 on Thursdays. Larger shops and shopping malls are open on Sundays and Public Holidays from 11.00/12.00 – 18.00. There are smaller grocery shops and newsagents in most areas in the city and suburbs and they are often open until 21.00/22.00 each day.

5. Banks

Banks are open between 10.00 and 16.00 Monday to Friday and on Thursdays until 17.00. ATM machines are widespread and can be accessed with Credit Maestro/Cirrus cards.

6. Smoking Regulations

Smoking is forbidden in enclosed places of work in Ireland. This includes offices, schools, colleges, cinemas, theatres, pubs/bars, hospitals and restaurants. Smoking is also prohibited on public transport, e.g. buses, trains etc.

7. Security/Emergencies

It is not necessary to carry a passport for ID purposes but it can be useful to have some form of photo ID. Ireland is a safe country but as in all countries and cities it is necessary to be careful and aware of your surroundings. The emergency numbers for police, ambulance, fire, sea and mountain rescue services are 999 or 112 and can be dialled from any mobile phone network.

8. Driving

In Ireland we drive on the left hand side, so students should be vigilant when crossing the road, driving or cycling.

DUBLIN

1. Population

The population of Dublin is 1.1 million. In general, families live in the suburbs of the city. There are many apartments in the city centre but they are mostly owned or rented by young singles or couples.

2. Transport

There are 3 main methods of public transport in Dublin. There is a wide network of public buses as well as an urban train system called the DART, which runs along the coast from Howth on the north side of the city to Bray on the south side. There is also a tram system, called the LUAS, which has 2 lines – one of which runs from Foxrock on the south side to St Stephen's Green in the city centre and the other from Tallaght on the west side to Connolly Station in the city centre.

Students may also avail of a cheap rent-a-bike scheme which is in operation in Dublin city centre - www.dublinbikes.ie.

3. Places to Visit/Things to see

Dublin, recently nominated a UNESCO City of Literature, is home to a wide range of galleries, museums, concert venues, parks and gardens.

The following websites provide information on a wide range of destinations of interest in Dublin and its environs: - www.visitdublin.com and www.dublinfoirist.com.

No visit to Dublin would be complete without a visit (or several) to an Irish pub. There is a wide range to choose from – from the large super-pubs to pubs offering traditional Irish music to small, quiet pubs frequented by locals who will be happy to tell you all about our city. Photo ID is required for students under 25.

4. What's Special about Dublin?

Dublin is the business, sporting, literary and cultural capital of Ireland; a vibrant, modern, busy, cosmopolitan city with a special ingredient at its heart – its people are warm and friendly, willing to talk to neighbours and visitors alike; very good at telling stories and eager to hear your story too.

ALPHA COLLEGE

1. Location

Alpha College is located in Dublin's city centre, 5 minutes from Dublin's focal point, the Spire and within a short walking distance from bus/train stops, shops, museums, galleries, theatres, cinemas, restaurants/cafes and pubs. Our street is a wonderfully preserved Georgian street which is also the location of the James Joyce Centre.

2. Personnel

- At Alpha we pride ourselves on the stability and experience of our team. The key personnel in Alpha College have been working in Alpha for at least 5 years and several have been in Alpha between 15 and 20 years.
- All teachers in Alpha have a University Degree and a post graduate qualification in English Language teaching.
- Many of our teachers have qualifications in other disciplines also – law, acting, business, art etc.
- The staff at Alpha includes an EAQUALS inspector; IELTS, Cambridge and TIE examiners and some staff also present papers at international conferences.
- Alpha College is an accredited teacher training centre with trained teacher-trainers.
- Alpha is committed to on-going training of its staff and has a Continuous Professional Development plan in place.

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3. Accreditations

- Alpha College is recognised by ACELS/NQAI and therefore is approved by the Department of Education and Skills as an English Language School.
- Alpha is also a full member of EAQUALS (Evaluation and Accreditation of Quality Language Services) and IALC (International Association of Language Centres).
- These accreditations require genuine commitment to providing a quality service and schools wishing to be accredited must undergo regular formal inspections to verify the quality of the programmes offered to students.

4. Academic Management

- All levels, materials, assessments and reports are linked to the Common European Framework (CEF-R) levels.
- There is a curriculum and syllabus for each level. Linked to the syllabus we use the latest course books and supplementary material.
- Our teaching approach is based on communicative language teaching and students will be encouraged to use their English in a variety of classroom contexts. They will work individually, in pairs and in groups.
- Each week a class plan of work is posted in the classroom.
- Each class has two teachers who work together to ensure that the relevant curricula and syllabi are implemented in full and to monitor each student's progress.
- In the first class on each Monday there is a thorough revision of the previous week's work and on each Friday there is a progress test and feedback.
- In the interests of maximising each student's language development and out of respect for other students in the class, each classroom is an English only zone and students are expected to adhere to this requirement.

5. Registration

- To register for any course you should complete and return our application form with the non-refundable administration fee and bank draft supplement, if applicable, at least 4 weeks before course commencement dates.
- All fees must be paid in full by the course commencement date.
- New students may only join classes on a Monday.

6. Age Requirement

Students must be 16 years of age or over to attend a course in our adult school.

7. Visas

- Visas are not required of EU nationals.
- If you are coming from a non-EU country you should apply to your nearest Irish Embassy in order to obtain a student visa or visit www.inis.gov.ie.
- Visa applications for non EU students should contain a copy of an Electronic Transfer of Funds from the applicant to the Alpha College bank account, showing the name, address and bank details of the college, as well as the bank details of the applicant.
- Non EU students must take out medical insurance.
- On receipt of payment we will send you a letter of confirmation for one of our courses which you may submit to the Irish Embassy along with your other documentation.
- Letters of confirmation are only issued on receipt of

payment of total fees.

- In the event of a visa to enter Ireland being refused, all fees will be refunded less any bank charges incurred.
- Students from non-EU countries who wish to stay in Dublin for more than 12 weeks must register with the Immigration Authorities. Currently a fee of €150 is payable on registration with the Immigration Authorities.
- Students taking a course of more than 25 weeks are obliged to take an external examination as part of their programme of study.

8. College Holidays

The College will be closed on: 01-03/01/11; 17/03/11; 25/04/11; 02/05/11; 06/06/11; 01/08/11; 31/10/11; 19/12/11-03/01/12

9. Insurance

- Students are advised to take out full travel, health, money, baggage and personal effects insurance cover prior to travelling to Ireland.
- Students from EU countries should bring a European Health Insurance Card to cover medical expenses. This can be obtained from your local social security or sickness insurance office before you travel.
- Non EU students must take out medical insurance.
- Alpha College and our host families do not insure against theft or loss of personal effects during any programme.
- The college will not cover costs which may arise as a result of the need for repatriation of a student.
- Students are advised to insure against loss of fees and/or other expenses which may be incurred due to cancellation or sudden, early departure from a course.

10. Accommodation

- Homestay accommodation is arranged with carefully selected hosts who provide single room accommodation, breakfast and evening dinner Monday to Friday, all meals at week-ends and a light laundry service.
- We can arrange homestay accommodation on a twin room basis but only for friends/family members travelling together
- Most homestays are situated in the suburbs and students travel to and from the college by bus or local train. The average travelling time is 30 – 45 minutes, depending on traffic, from the homestay to the college.
- Only one student of each mother-tongue is placed in a homestay unless specifically requested otherwise.
- Students with special dietary requirements may be asked to pay an extra supplement.
- Students who wish to vacate their room for 5 days or more will be charged a fee to hold the room.
- There is no refund if students vacate their room for weekends.
- The summer supplement price applies to students staying in a homestay over Christmas.
- A limited number of hosts can provide a private bathroom for students. This facility must be specifically requested at least 2 months in advance and incurs an extra supplement. However this facility cannot always be guaranteed.
- Hotel, hostel or guest house accommodation can be arranged if required.
- Residence (self-catering) accommodation can be arranged during July and August.

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11. Airport Transfers

- Airport transfers are available for a fee to students in homestay accommodation and who would like to be met on their arrival in Dublin airport and/or accompanied to the airport on completion of their course.
- Please note that arrival to the airport must be between 08.00 and 22.00, and departure from the airport between 10.30 and 23.00 to avail of this service. Adult students arriving or departing outside these times should take a taxi to or from the airport.
- We do not arrange transfers for students staying in hotel or residence accommodation. Such students are advised to take a taxi or bus from the airport.
- Flight arrival details must be communicated in writing to Alpha College at least 5 days prior to arrival. This applies even when not booking a transfer. The flight details we need are the flight number and the arrival time.
- Students who are staying in homestay accommodation but who have not requested or paid for transfers should not telephone their host on their arrival asking to be collected from the airport.
- We ask students staying in homestay accommodation to contact either their host or the Alpha College emergency number if their flight is delayed or cancelled or if they have missed a connecting flight.

12. Payment

- Payment must be made in full by bank transfer in Euro, not later than the first day of the course to:
Bank: Bank of Ireland
Branch: Lower Baggot Street, Dublin 2
Sort-Code: 90 - 14 - 90
Account Name: ALPHA College
Account Number: 18 36 74 25
Swift/BIC: BOFI IE 2D
IBAN Number: IE 49 BOFI 901490 18 36 74 25

Please note:

- If payment is being made by bank transfer a supplement of €10.00 must be added to each transaction to cover bank charges.
- Bank charges incurred at the student's bank are the responsibility of the student.
- Bank Transfers must be in Euro and must include the student's name and relevant invoice reference number to ensure prompt processing of payments.
- If payment has been made by transfer the student should send a copy of all transfer details with the completed registration form or hand the copy to a member of the Alpha College Administration team on arrival.
- It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that all payments are correctly referenced and that all documentation related to payments is provided to Alpha College.
- In the event of delayed payment Alpha College reserves the right to cancel or suspend a student's course.

13. Refunds

- The Administration fee is not refunded under any circumstances.
- No tuition refunds are given for non-arrivals, early departures or absences, for whatever reason, from classes during any course.
- In some cases homestay accommodation costs may be refunded but only for full weeks which have not been used up.
- Accommodation costs are never refunded for a portion of a week.

14. Cancellation Policy

- The administration fee is not refunded under any circumstances.
- A cancellation fee of €250 applies when a course is cancelled less than 1 week before the course commencement date.

15. Course Books

- The use of a text book and course materials is included in tuition fees. Students wishing to purchase their own text book may do so at the time of booking their course or while in Dublin.
- Students on specialised courses are required to purchase the relevant specific text book/s

16. Examination Fees

- Examination fees are not included in the course cost and must be paid separately when registering for the examination.
- It is the responsibility of each student registering for an external examination to ensure that the examination registration form and fee are submitted before the closing date for registration for the examination.
- Please note that non-EU students taking a course of 25 weeks or more are obliged to take an approved, external examination during this period.

17. Local Travel

- We provide the necessary documentation for students who wish to purchase bus and rail tickets which facilitate unlimited travel on Dublin's public transport system. These tickets are valid in all zones in the greater Dublin area until 23.30.
- Tickets for late night buses must be purchased separately at time of travel.

18. College Hours

- Classes last from 09.00 - 13.00 (with a 20-minute coffee break from 10.50 - 11.10) Monday to Friday and 14.00 - 16.05 daily, Monday to Thursday.
- Students may use the recreation room, library, classrooms or computer room for private study up to 17.00 daily.
- Evening and Saturday classes are available on request.
- Morning lessons - 55mins. Afternoon lessons - 50mins.

19. Public Holidays

- There are no classes on Public Holidays; instead we provide a full-day excursion outside Dublin at no extra cost to the student.
- There is no reduction in fees when a course includes a public holiday.
- When students have paid for a course which includes the Christmas holidays the equivalent period will be added to the end of their course.

20. First Day in Alpha College

- Students should be in the College at 09.00 on their first morning.
- Students in homestay accommodation will be informed by their hosts about the best way to get to and from Alpha College and many hosts either accompany their student to the college on his/her first morning or arrange to have him/her accompanied by a current student. If, however, students are unsure about their transport details Alpha College staff are always available to provide help, guidance and direction.

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- On the first morning in Alpha College students are given explanations and information to help them settle in to Alpha and Dublin. They also receive a student handbook, information on places of interest in Dublin and a map of the city centre. Included in the student handbook are out-of-hours emergency contact telephone numbers for key Alpha personnel.
- On completion of their induction students take a written placement test and are interviewed to determine their level of English.
- While these tests are being scored students may go to the bus office to purchase their bus/rail tickets. The bus office is less than five minutes on foot from Alpha College.
- New students are placed in classes at an appropriate level at the beginning of the second class period, starting at 11.10.

21. Certificates

- Certificates of attendance are awarded to all participants on completion of their course.
- Certificates specify the duration of the course, the number of hours per week and the level studied.

22. Reports

- Progress reports are available on request on completion of each course of 2 weeks' duration or more.
- Students requiring a report are asked to contact the Academic Manager one week before departure.

23. Study Facilities

- Included in tuition fees for all classes is the use of the library, study facilities, material and reference books, students' room, internet and e-mail facilities.
- The college is Wifi enabled so students are welcome to use their laptops. There is no charge for this facility. The WiFi code is available from reception.
- Alpha College has a strict policy on inappropriate use of e-mail and internet facilities and students found to be in breach of this policy are liable for disciplinary procedures. Further information in this regard is included in the student handbook given to each student on his/her first day in Alpha College.

24. Student Support/Monitoring

- All students are interviewed by a senior member of our Alpha College staff on their first day.
- During the first week appointments are organised for new students to meet the Academic Team to discuss their placement test results and progress.
- Formal weekly meetings take place between teachers and the Academic Management Team to discuss and monitor student progress to ensure that there are no problems with their academic programme or their accommodation.
- Our Academic Support Team is available daily to provide advice regarding after-class study or specific language-learning problems.
- Alpha advises students on their choice of the most appropriate exams and helps them register for their exams. We also organise free afternoon sessions to help students who are studying for selected internationally recognised exams. Students have full use of our extensive library of materials to help them prepare.
- On one afternoon per week we offer a free advice and guidance session to students wishing to update their job search skills. This session covers CV

preparation, interview preparation and job search information.

- One-to-one lessons are available (for a fee) to students who need to address specific areas of language development for example speaking, pronunciation etc.
- Students may choose, either during their stay in Alpha or on completion of their course, to take extra on-line writing classes (for a fee) with one of their class teachers. In these courses students get the opportunity to practise their written English and have a tutor work on specific areas of their written output.
- Our accommodation officer is always available to advise on problems regarding accommodation, settling in to life in Dublin, finding apartments – or just to chat about life in general!

25. Testing

- There is a weekly progress test in each class every Friday morning on aspects of work done during the week so that students can see their progress and get feedback on areas needing further improvement.
- Students who take a course of 4 weeks or more have the option of taking an end-of-course test.
- A level test is administered to students who may be deemed ready to move to a higher level during their programme. This test must be booked with the class teacher and can be taken only once a month. If students reach the required level they can move up a level. If they do not reach this level a programme of work is suggested to help them progress to the required level.

26. Homework

- Homework is given on a regular basis and corrected in class the day after it is completed.

27. Social/Cultural Activities

- Alpha College organises Saturday excursions all year except during the Christmas holiday period.
- We offer excursions or visits on 1-3 afternoons per week depending on the time of year and on one evening per week.
- Our excursions provide a unique opportunity for students to practise their English in authentic settings. Our guides are experienced and knowledgeable and know Dublin's most interesting places. This guide service is completely free of charge. Students may have to pay admission charges on some excursions. The average cost in such cases is €5.00.
- When out-of-Dublin coach tours are organised students pay a fee to cover the cost of coach hire and any entrance charges required.
- Alpha College organises a range of interactive in-house activities throughout the year. Students love these community-focused activities as they provide a multinational community environment in which to improve their English communication skills. These activities can include a conversation club, a video club, a photograph competition, poker, table quiz, Irish music or dance.
- We also make available to students information on many more visits, excursions, non English-language courses and sporting fixtures which they may enjoy on their own or with other students.
- We help book or organize trips, car rental or accommodation if needed.

28. Coffee Shop

- Tea, coffee, drinks, sandwiches and snacks are available daily in our coffee room.
- All our teas and coffee are sourced from organisations providing only Fair Trade products

29. Medical Health

The college must be notified in advance of any special dietary or medical requirements or any medical health problems. In the event of a student having a health problem requiring specific medication the college cannot accept responsibility for the student's failure to adhere to the required medical regime. Alpha College reserves the right to terminate a student's programme for non disclosure of prior medical or psychiatric problems which impinge on the running of the school.

30. Disciplinary Action

- Alpha College of English reserves the right to expel a student who has been involved in anti-social behaviour, bullying or violence towards a student or staff member, alcohol or drug abuse, misuse of internet/e-mail facilities, shop-lifting, damaging of college or host family property, non payment of fees.
- No refunds are given in the case of expulsion for whatever reason.
- All repatriation expenses in such instances are the responsibility of the student.
- If we expel a non-EU passport holder we inform the Immigration authorities accordingly.

31. Student Complaints

- Students experiencing problems are encouraged to inform Alpha personnel about them as soon as they arise. It is the policy of Alpha College to deal quickly and sensitively with any problems which may occur.

32. Photography

- From time to time we take photographs and record video of the school and of the students. We may use the images and audio/video for publicity purposes in print, online or through other digital forms of distribution.
- Students who would prefer not to appear in this publicity should inform the photographer/videographer at the time of photographs/video being taken so that they will not appear in any images.

Section 1 Scheduled Courses

GENERAL ENGLISH COURSES

STANDARD COURSE - REF. GE01
INTENSIVE COURSE - REF. GE02
SUPER INTENSIVE COURSE - REF. GE04

1. Commencement Dates

- **Beginners** may start a General English Course on the following dates only: 04/01/11, 04/04/11; 27/06/11; 19/09/11.
- Students at all other levels may commence a General English Course on any Monday throughout the year (except when a public holiday occurs on a Monday. In such cases we provide an excursion on the Monday and classes commence on the following day).

2. Format

Standard Course

Standard courses consist of 20 lessons tuition per week (with a coffee break of 20 minutes each day) from 09.00 - 13.00, Monday to Friday inclusive.

Intensive Course

The Intensive course consists of 20 lessons tuition per week (with a coffee break of 20 minutes each day) from 09.00 - 13.00, Monday to Friday inclusive **and** 5 lessons per week, 14.00 - 16.05, Monday and Tuesday or Wednesday and Thursday.

Super Intensive Course

The Super-Intensive course consists of 20 lessons tuition per week (with a coffee break of 20 minutes each day) from 09.00 - 13.00, Monday to Friday inclusive **and** 10 lessons per week, 14.00 - 16.05, Monday to Thursday.

3. Level of English required for Intensive and Super Intensive course

Minimum of Pre Intermediate/A2

4. Maximum class size: 14 students

Average class size: 8-10 students

5. Course Duration

Participants may join the General English course for a minimum of 1 week. There is no maximum period.

STANDARD GENERAL ENGLISH COURSE - REF. GE01

Mornings. All levels. Beginners on specified dates only.

Course Organisation

- There is a detailed syllabus for each level and a course book and supplementary material are used in conjunction with the syllabus. The syllabus covers the four skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing as well as pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar activities.
- Classes are generally task-based and always interactive with students and teachers continually working together to improve language output.
- Class work includes individual, pair and group work, teacher-led discussions, debates, presentations, written tasks and listening exercises.
- At the beginning of each week an outline of the programme for that week is posted in each classroom so that students can see what language areas and activities will be covered.
- Students take a progress test at the end of each week on aspects of the work covered during that week.
- The first class each Monday morning is a revision session which focuses on language covered during the previous week and in particular on areas of the previous progress test which may need some extra clarification or practice.

- The new material for the week is introduced in the second period of the first morning when a new module of the course book is started.
- In addition to the course book teachers supplement up to 50% of the course with materials relevant to students' needs.
- Each week a project topic is introduced to the class and in the second class on each Friday students present their project work to the class. Projects include mini-presentations, discussions, reviews, readers, news stories, problem solving, investigations, job interviews and CV writing, newsletters, excursion planning and debates.
- The topics for the projects include contemporary issues and news items, films, books, work and travel-related issues – all topics which will help students assimilate new language and use their English confidently in a practical context.

INTENSIVE GENERAL ENGLISH COURSE - REF. GE02

Mornings + 2 afternoons. For students who are at Pre Intermediate level or have completed A2 level and above

Course Organisation

- The morning classes are those of the Standard Course GE01, as described above.
- The afternoon classes are Fluency Development classes and the class time is divided between speaking and listening tasks with an emphasis on vocabulary and pronunciation development.
- There is an 8-week syllabus for the afternoon programme and much of the supplementary material is drawn from current media sources.
- The topics in these classes are contemporary and as relevant as possible to the student group.
- Language and fluency are developed through debates, discussions and presentations and students will cover language skills such as justifying opinions, agreeing and disagreeing, supporting arguments, appropriate responses, describing and talking about photographs, talking about notable people, problem solving, discussing new ideas and innovations.
- Issues of grammar and language analysis are addressed as they occur during fluency development tasks.
- Students can expect to get feedback on their oral language skills and guidelines for improving them.

SUPER INTENSIVE COURSE - REF. GE04

*Mornings + 4 afternoons. For students who are at Pre Intermediate level or have completed A2 level and above
This course is a combination of GE01 + GE02 + GBE02*

Course Organisation

- The morning classes are those of the Standard Course, GE01, as described above.
- 2 of the afternoons are the fluency development classes as described above in GE02, at an appropriate level of language competence.
- 2 of the afternoons include the General Business English course, GBE02, as described below.
- The purpose of The General Business English module (Ref. GBE02) is to help students to understand and practise the fundamentals of effective business communication through English.
- It is aimed at students who have a professional need for Business English, i.e. people in or training for jobs in the business world. It is not intended to be a specialist module covering one particular area in great depth. It is designed to cover, in a practical way, the English needed in everyday business or work situations.
- The topics covered are from a range which can include management, enterprise, job interviews, leadership, environmental issues, standards and ethics, advertising, telephone and email English, presentations, branding, marketing and sales, customer relations management.

- Students work individually, in pairs and in groups to discuss, debate and present their views.
- The focus is on vocabulary building, effective reading skills and building confidence in speaking confidently in English in a business/work related environment.
- There is an 8-week syllabus with a wide range of supplementary materials which include video/dvd clips, audio tapes, written material from up-to-date sources.
- Students making presentations of a business nature have the option to have some of their presentation work filmed for future reference if they wish.

GENERAL BUSINESS ENGLISH - REF. GBE02

Mornings and 2 afternoons per week. For students who are at Pre Intermediate level or have completed A2 level and above

- The morning classes are those of the Standard Course, GE01, as described above.
- The purpose of The General Business English module (Ref. GBE02) is to help students to understand and practise the fundamentals of effective business communication through English.
- It is aimed at students who have a professional need for Business English, i.e. people in or training for jobs in the business world. It is not intended to be a specialist module covering one particular area in great depth. It is designed to cover, in a practical way, the English needed in everyday business or work situations.
- The topics covered are from a range which can include management, enterprise, job interviews, leadership, environmental issues, standards and ethics, advertising, telephone and email English, presentations, branding, marketing and sales, customer relations management.
- Students work individually, in pairs and in groups to discuss, debate and present their views.
- The focus is on vocabulary building, effective reading skills and building confidence in speaking confidently in English in a business/work related environment.
- There is an 8-week syllabus with a wide range of supplementary materials which include video/dvd clips, audio tapes, written material from up to date sources.
- Students making presentations of a business nature have the option to have some of their presentation work filmed for future reference if they wish.

GENERAL BUSINESS ENGLISH + - REF. GBE+

Mornings and 5 x 45 minute one-to-one afternoon classes per week

Class organisation

- The morning classes are those of the Standard Course, GE01, as described above.
- Students taking this module complete a Language Needs Analysis with their teacher or before they arrive. The purpose of this analysis is to determine specific areas on which the student wishes to concentrate.
- At the beginning of the first one-to-one class the student and teacher agree together on any areas which might need to be prioritised.
- The most common areas covered are presentation skills; dealing with clients; telephone English; negotiating skills; writing e-mails; participating in meetings; giving technical explanations; inter-cultural differences. We can also offer Legal and Medical English options.
- Students taking this module often use the classes to prepare a particular presentation they need to make at a forthcoming conference or marketing/product launch event. Students on this programme may, if they wish, prepare a presentation and have it professionally filmed.
- As these classes are customised to the needs of each student there is no minimum level of English required but we would suggest that students should have at least A2 level to benefit optimally from the classes.

EXTRA OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

FREE JOB SEARCH AND GUIDANCE SESSIONS

Students can attend a free session offering guidance and information for their job search. This session may include CV preparation, application e-mails, interview preparation and job search information. Students should contact reception to arrange this session.

PRIVATE LESSONS

One-to-one lessons are available (for a fee) to students who need to address specific areas of language development for example speaking, pronunciation etc.

ONLINE WRITING CLASSES - REF. GE05

Students may choose, either during their stay in Alpha or on completion of their course, to take extra on-line writing classes (for a fee) with one of their class teachers. In these courses students get the opportunity to practise their written English and have a tutor work on specific areas of their written output.

ENGLISH AND PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME - REF. WE01

1. The English and Work Experience Programme provides participants with an excellent method of learning and using English in a practical way. Students are placed, where possible, in an Irish enterprise appropriate to their qualifications and experience. Here they join the workforce of the company and gain valuable experience of a business environment. They are given tasks of varying complexity to complete, depending on their ability, motivation and qualifications. In addition to the exposure they get to the activities of a modern company, course participants have the opportunity of practising their English skills in an authentic work environment. This programme provides them with an excellent opportunity to enhance their employment prospects on their return home.
2. **Commencement Dates**
 - The English language training element of this programme begins every Monday throughout the year (except when a public holiday occurs on a Monday. In such cases we provide an excursion on the Monday and classes commence on the following day).
 - The work experience element may only be started from October to June inclusive.
3. **Format**
 - Students take a combination of English classes and Work Experience with a minimum total of 4 weeks English classes and 4 weeks Work Experience.
 - They may take the General English Standard or Super-Intensive course or the General & Business English course or a combination of these courses by arrangement.
 - They then undertake the unpaid work experience element of the programme. Every effort is made to try to place the student in the area of his/her first choice but this cannot always be guaranteed.
 - The work experience module lasts a minimum of 4 weeks and a maximum of 12 weeks.
 - Before commencing the work experience element of this programme, students are given guidelines on compiling their CV and preparing for interview.
 - While they are on work experience they are monitored by our Corporate Programmes Manager who liaises with the company to monitor progress and deal with any queries or problems.
4. **Level of English required:** Upper Intermediate/Pre B2
5. **Minimum Age:** 20 years of age

6. Conditions

- Students must have reached at least Upper Intermediate level of English before commencing the work experience element.
- Students must take a minimum total of 4 weeks English classes and 4 weeks Work Experience.
- Participants must sign a form stating that they understand the objectives of the work experience programme before the booking can be confirmed.
- Students must be 20 years of age or over before being accepted on this programme.
- This programme is available to EU Students only.

ACADEMIC YEAR PROGRAMME - REF. AYP01, AYP04 (EU students only)

This extended programme offers a superb opportunity to enhance English language skills in a variety of settings. Through a combination of General English Classes, Examination Preparation Classes and a Professional Work Experience Programme students are in a unique position to learn English, practise it in the workplace, gain an internationally-recognised Certificate and return to their home country with skills that will greatly improve their future career prospects.

1. Format

- This programme consists of 3 x 12 week modules .
- The first module must be a General English module – either Standard or Super-Intensive format.
- The sequence of the 2nd module (Examination Preparation Classes) and the 3rd module (Professional Work Experience) may vary depending on the examination dates.

2. Commencement Dates

General English Module 04/01/11; 20/06/11; 26/09/11.

3. Conditions

- 1 Students may only commence this programme on the dates specified above
- 2 Students must be 20 years of age or over
- 3 The first module must be General English
- 4 At the beginning of the General English module students must have an Intermediate/Pre B1 level of English or higher
- 5 All modules must be of 12 weeks duration.
- 6 Students must sign a form stating that they understand the format of the Professional Work Experience module before bookings can be confirmed.

EXAMINATION PREPARATION COURSES

Alpha College of English provides exam focused classes to prepare students for the Cambridge Examinations FCE and CAE. The Academic Team can help students who would like to prepare for the TOEIC, BULATS and TIE examinations by helping them with a course of self study as well as helping them to register and receive results.

Cambridge Examinations - First Certificate and Advanced

- Students wishing to prepare for these examinations join our exam focused GE01 English classes at the appropriate level.
- These courses generally last for 12 weeks and focus on helping students pass the examination.
- The most up to date exam course books and materials are used in the class and teachers are either experienced examiners themselves or have many years experience of preparing students for these exams.
- The first class on Monday morning each week is a revision of the previous week's material based on the scores and feedback from the regular Friday progress test, which in the examination focused class is always based on the exam and is taken in exam like conditions.

- Over the twelve weeks all major topics and language for the examination are covered.
- Exam and study tips are given to help maximize students' scores.
- Practical help with registering and getting to the exam are also provided.
- For the dates and further information on these exams – c.f. below and the examination chart at www.alphacollege.com.
- These GEO1 exam preparation classes can be taken in conjunction with General Business or Fluency Development options.

IELTS

- Students wishing to prepare for the IELTS Examination join our morning General English standard classes.
- Before joining the IELTS preparation classes students should have completed B1 level.
- 2 afternoons per week are dedicated to IELTS examination preparation.
- Students will practise listening to recorded texts including monologues, dialogues and multiple speakers.
- They will be exposed to a large variety of reading passages and the IELTS reading task types.
- They will prepare for the interview section by learning to speak about themselves and a wide variety of IELTS subjects.
- The key skill of writing will be covered including writing about graphs, diagrams and processes as well as the opinion essay.
- Written homework will be given at the end of each week.
- This course will maximize the students IELTS scores by focusing on exam strategies and students will take regular mock exams.
- Students will also be given practical help with exam registration.
- Students taking this course will be required to purchase the recommended course book.

TOEIC, BULATS, Trinity and TIE examinations

- Students wishing to prepare for these examinations join our General English Standard classes at the appropriate level.
- Afternoon preparation for these examinations is on an assisted, self-study option.
- Our Academic Team will tutor students who are preparing for these examinations.
- Students have full use of our extensive library of materials to help them prepare.

Level of English usually required.

IELTS = B2 vantage (although students can begin their IELTS studies at B1 level). TOEIC = B1 TIE = A1

Section 2:- Customised Courses

Course start Date	Registration Estimated	Examination dates
FCE & CAE 03 January	End of January	7 -26 March
FCE & CAE 14 March	End of April	22-May – 18 June
FCE June 13	Mid July	12 – 27 August
FCE & CAE 12 September	Mid September	2-10 December
TOEIC Tutorials only*	Three weeks before exam	Monthly date available
TIE Tutorials only*	Two weeks before exam	On request
IELTS On request	Two months before exam	Monthly exam available

TRAVEL TALK - REF. TVT01 Language course for 50 years+

Travel Talk is our exciting language and cultural activities course exclusively for the over 50 age group. Tailor made to the demands of this group, Alpha College offers a programme which combines enjoyable language practice with exciting opportunities to explore Ireland's unique cultural heritage.

- The programme is designed to be flexible and to respond to the needs of each group.
- There are 15 morning lessons per week which include all language learning skills and the content includes language helpful for travel, entertainment and general social interaction. The programme can also focus on the interests of the group such as music, history, architecture, nature or sports such as golf, fishing or horse riding. Participants can even start a new skill with some lessons in digital photography from a professional.
- All programme activities are accompanied by an expert guide who makes the students feel welcome from the moment they arrive.

Accommodation

- Participants may choose standard homestay accommodation with a single room, half board: bed, breakfast, evening meal Monday - Friday; all meals Saturday and Sunday. Some twin or double rooms are available for couples or friends wishing to share a bedroom.
- For the periods 13 June-24 June 2011 and 29 August-9 September 2011 participants may stay in our Summer Self Catering accommodation.
- Accommodation can also be arranged in hotels or guesthouses on request.

Course dates

23/05/2011 - 03/06/2011; 13/06/2011 - 24/06/2011;
05/09/2011 - 16/09/2011

Closed groups can be arranged on request.

OVERSEAS TEACHERS' COURSES

Alpha College is an approved training centre for the ACELS Certificate in English Language Teaching (CELT) and has a staff of highly qualified, experienced and motivated teacher trainers who train prospective ELT teachers. They are also practising teachers of English, experienced in using up-to-date methods with learners at all levels of language learning.

Teachers from an EU (or associated) country may obtain a grant to attend one of the Alpha College courses for teachers. For details of National Agencies for Comenius programmes please visit

www.ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/socrates/comenius/natagenc_en.html

www.ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/doc84_en.html

REF. OTC01

1. Aims

To provide an opportunity for overseas teachers of English to develop their English language skills, enhance their language teaching skills and gain knowledge of the contemporary social, artistic, literary, cultural and historical environment in Ireland.

2. Format

This is a two-week course consisting of 40 contact hours plus an extensive cultural and social programme. The course is designed to be a fun way of refreshing and expanding teaching ideas and to provide an opportunity for teachers of English to upgrade their language teaching skills and develop their own language skills while also gaining knowledge of the contemporary social and cultural scene in Ireland.

Morning sessions are divided into two main areas. The first area covers current theory and methodology in language learning and teaching and offers practical and fun ideas for use in the classroom in teaching the four skills, vocabulary and pronunciation. Uses of new technologies in language teaching are also included.

The second area covers cultural and social aspects of modern Ireland such as history, politics and the arts. These sessions are presented in a manner that complements the theory and methodology component of the course. Morning cultural sessions are further reinforced by afternoon visits to places of interest which are directly related.

3. Course Dates

18/04/2011 11/07/2011 17/10/2011
or by arrangement for closed groups.

REF. OTC02 (for overseas teachers of English literature)

1. Aims

This course has been developed for teachers of English with an advanced level of English and a keen interest in literature and in teaching it. The course aims to refresh and expand the participants' knowledge of literature in the English language while giving practical ideas for its teaching in the classroom and developing their language skills. The course comprises 40 hours input sessions, complemented by an extensive programme of literature related afternoon activities.

2. Format

The morning input sessions include the following areas:

- A review of Irish, British and American literature
- Examination of materials available for teaching literature as part of foreign language studies
- Teaching vocabulary in the context of literature
- Developing the key skills of reading and writing in the context of literature
- Special focus on teaching Shakespeare's works
- Using drama in the classroom
- Using film to teach literature

The afternoon programme provides participants with an opportunity to further deepen their knowledge with visits to major literature related destinations.

3. Course Dates

18/04/2011 25/07/2011
or by arrangement for closed groups

ENGLISH FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES - REF. ESP01

1. Group or one-to-one ESP classes are available, by arrangement, in the following areas:

The English of:

- Aviation and Air Traffic Control
- Banking/Finance/Foreign Exchange
- Business
- Law
- Medicine
- Military Organisation & Operations
- Sales and Marketing
- Travel and Tourism

A popular option among students is to combine 20 lessons group General English, standard format with 5 lessons one-to-one ESP classes in the afternoons.

Quotations and proposals are available on request.

EXECUTIVE ENGLISH WITH OPTIONS - REF. EXE01

Executives and Managers derive great satisfaction from this programme which combines tailored English tuition, meetings with their peers in Irish business, financial, industrial, commercial and political life and a range of cultural, social and sports activities common to the English-speaking world.

1. Commencement Dates

Every Monday throughout the year (except when a public holiday occurs on a Monday. In such cases we provide an excursion on the Monday and classes commence on the following day).

2. Duration

1 week or more.

3. Format

One teacher to one client or One teacher to two clients.

4. Sample Schedule

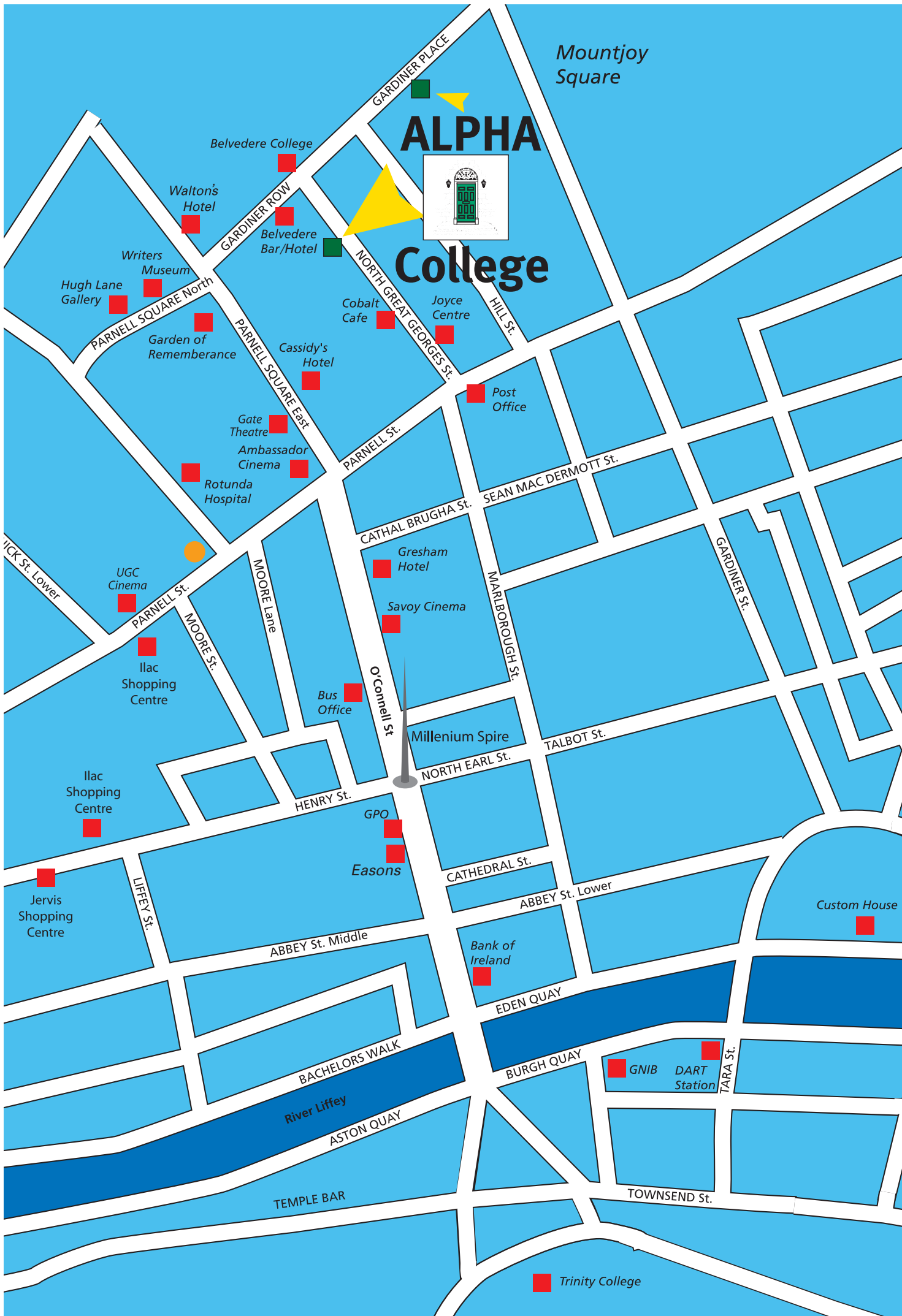
Mornings: 4 hours per day customised English tuition.

Afternoons: A combination of the following: Corporate visits; Tours of Dublin; Golf lesson.

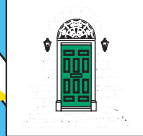
Evenings: A combination of the following: Theatre; Traditional Irish pub night; Musical entertainment (Quotations for any combination of the above are available on request).

5. Content

The content of this course is customised to meet the participant's needs. To ensure that this objective is met we like to get, in advance of the student's arrival, as much detail as possible regarding the particular aspects of English language training which the student feels need most attention. On the student's arrival we will conduct a Needs Analysis to further fine tune the programme.



ALPHA College



Belvedere College

Walton's Hotel

Belvedere Bar/Hotel

Writers Museum

Hugh Lane Gallery

Garden of Remembrance

Cassidy's Hotel

Cobalt Cafe

Joyce Centre

Post Office

Gate Theatre

Ambassador Cinema

Rotunda Hospital

UGC Cinema

Ilac Shopping Centre

Ilac Shopping Centre

Jervis Shopping Centre

GPO

Easons

Millenium Spire

Bus Office

Gresham Hotel

Savoy Cinema

Custom House

Bank of Ireland

GNIB DART Station

Trinity College

Mountjoy Square

GARDINER PLACE

GARDINER ROW

PARNELL SQUARE North

PARNELL SQUARE East

NORTH GREAT GEORGES ST.

PARNELL ST.

CATHAL BRUGHA ST.

SEAN MAC DERMOTT ST.

PARNELL ST.

MOORE ST.

MOORE Lane

MARBOROUGH ST.

GARDINER ST.

O'Connell St.

NORTH EARL ST.

TALBOT ST.

HENRY ST.

CATHEDRAL ST.

ABBEY St. Lower

ABBEY St. Middle

EDEN QUAY

BACHELORS WALK

BURGH QUAY

River Liffey

ASTON QUAY

TOWNSEND St.

TEMPLE BAR