

OUTDOOR & ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
2 WEEK COURSES FOR EUROPEAN EDUCATORS (Primary and Secondary Level)
DUBLIN, IRELAND

SUNDAY 28 APRIL – SATURDAY 11 MAY 2024
SUNDAY 15 SEPTEMBER – SATURDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2024

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The course provides educators with:

- practical skills, teaching ideas and materials for Outdoor and Environmental Education
- consideration of sustainable practices in school management
- an opportunity to visit Irish primary and secondary schools and to exchange ideas and develop links with teachers from Ireland and other European countries



COURSE CONTENT:

1. **Lecture on The Irish Education System**
2. **Visit an outdoor activity centre:** Team development & outdoor activities training
3. **Forest School Teacher Skills Training** by Forest School Ireland and Introduction to Forest School approach to learning outdoors - practical training to give teachers the skills they need to run Forest School sessions with students of all ages
 - Nature games, songs and orientation
 - How to approach hazards, boundaries, risk assessment
 - Ropes and knots
 - Tools - saws, drills, peelers
 - Fire making and safety
 - Foraging with kids and simple cooking over the fire
 - Shelter building game
 - Arts and seasonal crafts
 - Forest Bathing sit-spot
4. **Observe a Forest School outdoor games session** for primary school pupils

5. **Day visit to a primary school** (ages 4-12) which engages in Outdoor Education and Green Schools Activities
Observe lessons and opportunity for discussion with teachers on Outdoor and Environmental Education
6. **Lecture & Discussion on Citizenship Education in Irish Schools:** Curriculum and Active Citizenship and Green Schools Projects (Litter & Waste, Energy, Water, Travel, Biodiversity, The Marine Environment, Global Citizenship)
with a teacher of CSPE (Civic, Social & Political Education)
7. **Visit to a secondary school** (ages 12-18). Observe lessons.
Discussion on Green Schools projects undertaken by the school and on sustainable practices in school management (reducing waste & recycling, litter action, sustainable energy management, sustainable travel planning, etc.)
8. **Tour of The Rediscovery Centre** (The National Centre for the Circular Economy)
Workshops on Environmental Education and Sustainability (Teaching ideas and activities)
9. **Workshop on Global Citizenship and Education for Climate Action:** Teaching ideas for Environmental Education & Active Citizenship by EcoUnesco
10. **Visit National Botanic Gardens.** Introduction to their work with primary & secondary schools
Visit the Education Garden. **Biodiversity tour** of native and exotic plants
11. **Introduction to Gaelic Sports** and observe hurling & camogie training sessions
12. **Visit GAA** (Gaelic Athletic Association) Museum and Croke Park Stadium tour
13. **Lecture on Irish History, Culture & Traditions**
14. A guided walking tour of Dublin and cultural visits to National Museums
15. Cultural visit to Wicklow Mountains National Park and Glendalough monastic site & lakes

LOCATION:

DUBLIN, Ireland: Population: 1,228,000

Famous for its cultural heritage and charming hospitality, Dublin is a lively city with a rich history, situated on the east coast of Ireland. Notable historic sights include its elegant Georgian squares, Dublin Castle, Christ Church Cathedral, the Book of Kells at Trinity College, Kilmainham Gaol and National Museums. Temple Bar is a busy riverside neighbourhood with live Irish folk music venues.

Close to the city are the beautiful hills and lakes of Wicklow Mountains National Park and attractive coastal scenery.



TOTAL PRICE: €2,195

The price includes:

(a) COURSE FEE: to include:

Full programme of study sessions and visits as itemised above.

NB. Participants are responsible for paying their own daily transport costs, including visits to schools. Any optional visits are not included in the price.

(b) HOST FAMILY ACCOMMODATION: to include:

Full board accommodation with a local family (inclusive of registration fee): 13 nights
(Teachers may request to be the only guest of their mother tongue or to stay in the same family as a colleague).

Host families are carefully selected and offer a friendly welcome and opportunities to chat and learn more about life in Ireland today. Participants often find that the experience of staying with a host family is one of the most memorable aspects of the course. Accommodation is in single rooms (unless participants request to share). Breakfast, packed lunch and evening meal are provided by the host family. (Food allergies, likes and dislikes are taken into account.)

Please note that many suitable residential areas are not within walking distance of the city centre and most host families are a bus ride from the city centre/tuition centre. A travel pass for all Dublin public transport costs €32 per week and can also be used to visit nearby coastal villages, beaches and cliffs.

Additional nights with host families can be arranged, giving participants extra time for individual research and visits. Accommodation can be provided for family members (but not unaccompanied children) subject to availability. (Rates on request).

Participants wishing to arrange their own (hotel or self-catering) accommodation may pay a fee for the course only.

TRAVEL:

Participants are responsible for arranging their travel to and from Ireland. Express buses run from Dublin Airport to the city.

PAYMENT:

Full payment will be due 2 months before the course begins, or for teachers awaiting funding: as soon as the grant is received. No refund for cancellations within 5 weeks of arrival. Applicants are strongly advised to take out cancellation insurance.

PREPARATION:

Participants are asked to complete a questionnaire before the course starts in order to ascertain their level of experience and training, the age groups and types of learners they teach and their expectations from the course. This helps trainers to respond to participants' individual needs and ensure that the most relevant areas are carefully integrated.

EVALUATION:

At the end of the course teachers participate in a detailed evaluation of the course.

FOLLOW UP:

At the end of the course teachers are asked to consider which aspects of the course will be the most relevant to their own teaching situations. On their return they are invited to keep a record of how they have been able to utilise ideas gained on the course in their own classrooms. They are encouraged to share their experiences with their fellow participants by email.

CERTIFICATE & ERASMUS+ VALIDATION:

A certificate of attendance (stating course content and number of hours) will be provided and Erasmus+ documentation will be validated.

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DRAFT PROGRAMME

DAY	MORNING	AFTERNOON	EVENING
SUNDAY			Arrive Dublin
MONDAY	0930- Welcome and Introduction 1015 1030- Lecture on The Irish Education System 1230	1400- Guided walking tour of Dublin 1700	
TUESDAY	0930- Forest School Teacher Skills Training by Forest School Ireland - 1630 practical training to give teachers the skills they need to run Forest School sessions with students of all ages Introduction to Forest School approach to learning outdoors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nature games, songs and orientation - How to approach hazards, boundaries, risk assessment - Ropes and knots - Tools - saws, drills, peelers - Fire making and safety - Foraging with kids and simple cooking over the fire - Shelter building game - Arts and seasonal crafts - Forest Bathing sit-spot 		Optional evening in a traditional pub with Irish Folk Music
WEDNESDAY	0900- Visit a primary school (ages 4-12) which engages in Outdoor Education & Green Schools 1430 Activities. Observe lessons and opportunity for discussion with teachers on Outdoor and Environmental Education in the school		1800- Introduction to Gaelic 2000 Sports and observe Hurling & Camogie Training Sessions
THURSDAY	0930- Visit an outdoor activity centre: 1430 Team development & outdoor activities training	1500- Optional coastal walk 1730	
FRIDAY	0945- Visit GAA (Gaelic Athletic Association) 1200 Museum & Croke Park Stadium Film and tour	1430- Observe a Forest School outdoor 1800 games session for primary school pupils	
SATURDAY	1000- Cultural visits in Dublin: National Museum: History & Decorative Arts, 1700 National Museum: Archaeology		
SUNDAY	Free for individual research & optional visits, eg: Book of Kells at Trinity College or Howth & Howth Head (east coast)		
MONDAY	1015- Visit to Wicklow Mountains National Park, a sheep farm and Glendalough monastic site 1700 & lakes		
TUESDAY	0945- Tour of the Rediscovery Centre (The National Centre for the Circular Economy) 1515 Workshops on Environmental Education and Sustainability (Teaching ideas and activities)		
WEDNESDAY	0930- Visit National Botanic Gardens 1300 Introduction to their work with primary & secondary schools Visit the Education Garden Biodiversity tour of native & exotic plants	1430- Lecture & Discussion on Citizenship 1730 Education in Irish Schools: Curriculum and Active Citizenship and Green Schools Projects with a teacher of CSPE (Civic, Social & Political Education)	
THURSDAY	0900- Visit to a secondary school (ages 12-18) 1500 Observe classes. Discussion with teachers on Green Schools Projects (Litter & Waste, Energy, Water, Travel, Biodiversity, The Marine Environment, Global Citizenship) and on sustainable practices in school management (reducing waste & recycling, litter action, sustainable energy management, sustainable travel planning)		
FRIDAY	0930- Workshop on Global Citizenship and 1230 Education for Climate Action Teaching Ideas for Environmental Education and Active Citizenship by EcoUnesco	1400- Lecture on Irish History, Culture 1700 and Traditions 1700- Evaluation Session 1800	
SATURDAY	Depart Dublin		