

Care of Under 18s: Information for Parents

During the summer, Edinburgh College offers English Language courses for adults, including students aged 16 and 17 years old. The College works to ensure a safe learning environment for all our students, but this is especially true for those under the age of 18. There are a range of support systems in place for our Summer School students.

However, please note:

- Edinburgh College does not provide 24-hour supervision of students
- Students under the age of 18 will study in classes with adults of all ages
- Students will travel unsupervised between homestay and the College
- Students will be unsupervised when not in class or in their homestay

Before arrival at Edinburgh College, parents/guardians of students aged under 18 must sign the [Parental Agreement form](#) below to confirm that they understand the support systems and rules that Edinburgh College has in place for the welfare of under 18s, and the level of supervision that we provide.

Airport Transfers – Arrival and Departure

We strongly advise that all students under 18 travelling to Edinburgh should choose our Airport Pickup Service which costs £65. A member of staff will meet your child at the airport on arrival and arrange transfer to their accommodation.

For the return journey, the College can arrange for a taxi to take the student from their Edinburgh accommodation to the airport. The cost for this is £35. We strongly recommend that students under 18 make use of this service.

Accommodation

Edinburgh College has a dedicated Accommodation Officer who can arrange homestay accommodation for students, and is available to help with any accommodation questions or problems.

The Accommodation Officer can be contacted on accommodation@edinburghcollege.ac.uk.

We strongly recommend that students under 18 should stay in homestay accommodation (half board) during their time in Edinburgh. If parents would prefer to make alternative arrangements (for example if the student will be staying with an adult family member or family friend), please provide details on the **Parental Agreement Form** below. We would not expect students aged under 18 to stay unaccompanied in a hotel, guest house or youth hostel.

Our homestay hosts are very experienced in providing a “home-from-home” for our international students. All of our homestay accommodation is inspected every two years by Accommodation staff in accordance with Accreditation UK (British Council) criteria.

Please note: In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, we are also conducting additional Covid-specific risk assessments as necessary, in accordance with the latest Scottish government guidance.

Edinburgh College will only place a student under 18 with a homestay host following a satisfactory PVG scheme check on all adult members of the family (Protecting Vulnerable Groups - www.disclosurescotland.co.uk/faq).

Students will be placed in single room accommodation, unless travelling with a friend of the same gender and similar age, in which case twin room accommodation may be possible.

Students under the age of 18 must return to their homestay by 11.00pm each night. Our homestay hosts have been asked to contact the College if this rule is broken. Students must provide written permission from their parents in advance if they wish to stay out overnight or go on an overnight trip. Written permission should be in the form of an email sent to international@edinburghcollege.ac.uk from the parent/guardian email address as specified on the Parental Agreement Form below.

There will always be a responsible adult at home overnight.

Catering

Homestay (half board) includes breakfast and dinner every day. Students are treated as part of the host's family, and they usually eat together in the evening. Please inform the College of any special dietary requirements. Lunch is not provided by homestay hosts.

We can arrange for students to receive lunch in the College cafeteria on Monday-Friday during their Summer School course. The cafeteria serves a range of hot and cold meals, drinks and snacks. The cost is £35 per week.

At the weekends, homestay hosts will advise students as to the best place for them to buy lunch. Parents should ensure that their child has sufficient money to buy their lunch (estimate £8 per day for a cheap meal in a restaurant in the city centre).

Transport

Students will travel between their homestay and the College unsupervised.

Although some students may be able to walk, most will be required to take a short journey by public transport (bus or tram). All homestays are on direct bus routes to the College and to the city centre. All students are given a transport route map and information on how to use the local bus / tram service.

A single journey on a bus or tram costs £1.80, and a day-ticket is £4.50. Many students will wish to buy a Student Ridacard (travel card). This provides the student with free transport on Edinburgh buses (Lothian Buses) and Edinburgh Trams for a set number of weeks.

The College can arrange a Ridacard for students in advance of their arrival. This means that your child will be able to use the local public transport for free throughout their stay and will not need to organise the purchase of the cards themselves. If you have arranged an airport pick up, the card will be given to the student on arrival. If not, they will receive the card on their first day of College. The cost for this depends on the number of weeks your child is studying for.

Number of weeks	Price
2	£45
3	£55
4	£60
5	£70
6	£85
7	£110
8	£120

Information about buses in Edinburgh can be found here: www.lothianbuses.com.

Day One at Edinburgh College

On the first day of the course, students will take a written test and have an interview with a teacher, to enable us to place them in the correct level class. They will then have a full induction to the College, which will include a tour of Sighthill Campus, Health & Safety information, and an introduction to key staff (including the Accommodation Officer).

During the induction, all students will:

- be made aware who they should talk to if they have a problem or need help
- be given an Edinburgh College student card which includes the Summer School emergency mobile phone number
- be given an advice and emergency information sheet which includes a reminder of curfew times
- complete an Emergency Contact form to double-check that we have up-to-date contact details for parents/guardians

During the Course

The College has a number of staff who are available to provide welfare support to students under 18 throughout their course, including the Summer School Director, International Projects Officer, International Projects Assistant and Accommodation Officer. These members of staff are available to help any student who has a question or problem during their studies.

All staff working on the Summer School are informed as to which students are aged under 18, so that they can be aware of any students who may require additional welfare support.

All of our classes have a daily register of attendance. If a student aged under 18 is not in class, the Summer School staff will contact the student directly. If the student does not respond, the Summer School staff will contact the homestay host, and establish the reason for the absence.

Social & Cultural Programme

We provide an optional Social & Cultural Programme which includes two afternoon activities, one evening activity and one full day excursion per week. All activities are designed to be suitable for students under 18.

Although most students will book the Social & Cultural Programme when they apply for Summer School, some activities will be available for students to sign up for when they are in Edinburgh.

Social & Cultural Programme activities are led by dedicated staff, with a maximum of 30 students per staff member. Risk assessments are in place for all Social Programme activities and are updated regularly.

Afternoon activities usually start in the College, and the group travel together by public bus or tram to the location of the activity. Afternoon activities will almost always be based in the city of Edinburgh. Example activities include Edinburgh Castle, the National Museum of Scotland, or the Royal Botanic Gardens.

Evening activities are usually based in the city centre, and the meeting point is often at the location of the activity; students will travel to the meeting point unsupervised. They will be given clear instructions as to the location of the meeting point (including maps where required), and the contact details of the staff member who will be meeting them there. Example activities include a ghost tour, Scottish dancing, or attending a Festival event.

For full day excursions, the group will usually travel by private coach, departing from and returning to Sighthill Campus. Students will be taken to visit other locations around Scotland, including cities, small towns, castles, lochs, beaches and other places of interest. Example locations include Glasgow, St Andrews, Stirling or North Berwick.

During all Social & Cultural Programme activities, students may be given some free time to explore the location unsupervised. They will always be informed as to where the staff member will be, and how to get in touch with them if required.

At the end of Social & Cultural Programme activities, students will travel independently back to their accommodation. Staff members are available to provide travel advice for any student who is unsure of how to get home.

Internet access and WiFi

Edinburgh College provides all our students with free access to the internet within the College building so that they can stay in contact with friends and family. Our servers are set to block content that is not suitable for under 18s.

Medical Treatment

It is very important that any medical or mental health conditions are disclosed to the College at the point of application, so that we can ensure we are able to provide your child with adequate support. If your child is on any regular medication, it is essential that they bring a sufficient supply with them to Edinburgh.

Please note: In response to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, during the application process, we may request additional medical information as to whether students, or members of their families, are considered to be at high risk of serious illness from coronavirus.

The College has trained First Aiders on site who can provide a first response in the case of illness or injury on the campus. In case of an emergency, we will arrange for your child to receive emergency medical treatment. If it is not an emergency, we will advise your child how to access medical advice and services in Edinburgh.

While in the UK, emergency treatment is provided free for students through the NHS (National Health Service), however there may be a charge for other (non-emergency) treatment. Some countries have an agreement with the UK for free medical attention, so you should investigate this and consider taking out medical insurance.

Under NHS rules, young people (aged 16 or 17) are usually considered to be old enough to consent to their own medical treatment, and this can only be overruled in exceptional circumstances.

24-hour Emergency Contact

All students studying on the Summer School are given a mobile number which they can telephone in an emergency, and which is available 24 hours a day.

The International emergency number is: +44 (0) 7876 873 319

We recommend that students put this number directly into their own mobile phone at the start of the course.

Safeguarding at Edinburgh College

All staff at the College have a responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all students but especially those under 18. All Edinburgh College staff are checked through the PVG scheme (Protecting Vulnerable Groups - www.disclosurescotland.co.uk/faq) and complete basic awareness training in safeguarding young people.

The College has a Safeguarding Policy, and procedures for reporting any welfare concerns to our designated Safeguarding team. Please contact us if you would like to receive a copy of our Safeguarding Policy.

The safety and welfare of our students is of great importance to us.

**Please contact Summer School staff if you have any questions about support or safety issues:
summerschool@edinburghcollege.ac.uk**

For further information on Summer School 2021 please contact:

Edinburgh College (Sighthill Campus), Bankhead Avenue, Edinburgh EH11 4DE, Scotland, UK

Tel: + 44 (0)131 297 9995

Email: summerschool@edinburghcollege.ac.uk

Web: www.edinburghcollege.ac.uk/international

Please note: Some of the information provided here may be subject to change in accordance with the latest government guidance on Covid-19 (Coronavirus). Registered students will receive email updates on any changes that may affect them.

Parental Agreement Form

Student details

First name:		Family name:	
Date of birth:		Gender:	

Details of Parent / Guardian completing this form

First name:		Family name:	
Relationship to child:		Address:	
Mobile phone:		Email:	
First language:		Do you speak English?	

Emergency contact details

- Same as parent / guardian details above

First name:		Family name:	
Relationship to child:		Address:	
Mobile phone:		Email:	
First language:		Do they speak English?	

- I have read the Summer School Information for Parents and understand the support systems and rules that Edinburgh College has in place for the welfare of under 18s, and the level of supervision the College provides.
- I give my permission for my child to travel to Edinburgh and to take part in the Summer School at Edinburgh College.

Signed.....

Date.....

Confirmation of Accommodation Arrangements for Student Under 18

Name of student under 18	
Name of parent / guardian of student	

- I agree to my child staying in homestay accommodation arranged by Edinburgh College
- I have made alternative arrangements for my child's accommodation (details below)

Signed..... Date.....

Other Accommodation

If your child is staying with family members or is in accommodation arranged by yourself, please give full details:

Address in Edinburgh	
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Your child must stay with a responsible adult for the duration of their course. A responsible adult must be at home overnight in the accommodation. Please give details of who they will stay with.

Name of responsible adult in the accommodation	
Age of responsible adult	
Telephone number	
Relationship to child (e.g. aunt, uncle, family friend)	

How will your child travel around Edinburgh? (e.g. bus, taxi, pick-up)

From airport to accommodation	
From accommodation to college	
From college to accommodation	
From accommodation to airport	

Photo and Video Consent

I give my consent for photographs and/or filmed images of my child to be used in the promotion of Edinburgh College International as described below. I understand the photographs and/or filmed footage will be stored by Edinburgh College, on a limited-access secure college folder, and may:

1. Be used in college publicity material, e.g. course catalogues, posters and flyers, to be circulated on a worldwide scale
2. Be used by local, national or international press in advertising/features relating to the college
3. Be used on the college's website to promote college services
4. Be used in college publicity videos and/or national or international television adverts and features
5. Be used on the college's social media channels
6. Be used to promote the services of the Edinburgh College Development Trust via website, printed materials or press activity.

I understand that although I can withdraw my consent at any time, any published material will not be recalled. Consent withdrawal must be sent to international@edinburghcollege.ac.uk.

I have read the form above and give permission for my child to feature in photographs or video footage which will be stored and used by Edinburgh College (the data controller).

You have the right to:

- Be told what personal information Edinburgh College is keeping about your child.
- Withdraw your consent for Edinburgh College using your child's image/footage
- Make Edinburgh College change any personal information that's wrong, or out of date.
- If it's wrong or out of date, to stop us using your personal information until we've put it right.

If you want to know more about your rights, or if you want to contact Edinburgh College to make use of one or more of your rights, please email DP@Edinburghcollege.ac.uk or phone 0131 297 8663.

Terms and conditions can be found on our website
www.edinburghcollege.ac.uk/photographyconsent

Name.....

Email.....

Signed.....