



Glenstal Abbey  
SCHOOL



# INTERNATIONAL TRANSITION YEAR

An immersive English-language  
boarding experience in Ireland  
for boys aged 15-16

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2021 / 22





## CONTENTS

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Glenstal Abbey and School	1
Glenstal's International Transition Year Programme	2
Academic Programme	4
Transition Year Modules and Events	5
Special Features of the Programme	7
Benefits	10
Location	12
Fees	13
Criteria	15
Applications	16
FAQs	18





## GLENSTAL ABBEY AND SCHOOL

One of Ireland's most renowned schools, Glenstal Abbey School is an independent secondary seven-day boarding school for boys. The school has a student population of approximately 230, with classes typically made up of 14-16 students. Smaller classes signify the importance we place on individual care and attention and the human relational aspect of learning.

The school is located alongside Glenstal Abbey, in a historic estate of over 200 hectares of parkland, lakes, and woodland, near the city of Limerick, the capital of Ireland's Mid-West. The abbey was founded in 1927 and is now home to a community of over thirty Benedictine monks. It is an environment that is culturally and academically vibrant, and is truly a place which enriches both resident and visitor alike.

The school's ethos is Benedictine, Christian and Catholic, but, true to the Benedictine tradition of hospitality, Glenstal welcomes students of all faiths and none. As a community, we take

justifiable pride in the academic excellence of the school and the outstanding pastoral care provided to all our students. Our teaching team is a unique combination of monks and lay staff, all providing diverse and eclectic perspectives in their respective fields.

The monks of Glenstal have operated a secondary school for boys since 1932, and the school has a long tradition of welcoming students from overseas for periods of one year or longer to live and learn alongside our full-time students. This new International Transition Year programme, with its particular focus on English-language immersion, will make that experience available to greater numbers of students from abroad.

**Irish to International  
student ratio at Glenstal:**

**80%**

IRISH

**20%**

INTERNATIONAL

# GLENSTAL'S INTERNATIONAL TRANSITION YEAR PROGRAMME

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This unique programme combines the experience of **Transition Year** with **English language immersion and tuition**. Students participate in the Transition Year programme with the rest of our 4th Year students but also benefit from additional English classes, the opportunity to gain a **Cambridge certification** of proficiency and fluency in English, and numerous chances to explore Irish life and culture.

Transition Year (TY) – a unique feature of the Irish education system – comes between the three-year Junior Cycle course and the two-year Leaving Certificate course. It has very clear aims:

- Education for maturity, with the emphasis on personal development, including social awareness and increased social competence
- The promotion of general, technical and academic skills with an emphasis on interdisciplinary and self-directed learning

- Education through experience of adult and working life as a basis for personal development and maturity

Transition Year in a **boarding school** offers unique opportunities for participation in a wide range of interesting, formative and entertaining activities. It is not a year where every last detail of what will be studied or experienced will be prescribed in advance. It is, rather, a year where boys, staff and parents work together to allow varied and new experiences of learning to take place and where valuable skills for life are discovered. Glenstal's **International Transition Year Programme** provides an excellent platform for boys from overseas to develop academically, become fluent in English and benefit from the fun and challenge of a year abroad.

**INTERNATIONAL TRANSITION YEAR 2021/22** is delivered over three terms:

**WINTER:** August 30 to December 21

*Christmas Holidays Dec 22 to Jan 5*

**SPRING:** January 6 to April 7

*Easter Holidays Apr 8 to 24*

**SUMMER:** April 25 to June 3

*Each term also has a midterm break.*

*To see the full Term schedule click [here](#)*





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It was a wonderful experience  
for our son; he matured in an  
environment that spurs autonomy,  
responsibility, the value of work and  
respect of others.  
He now has an excellent command  
of the English language.

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– Pierre Francois  
France





## ACADEMIC PROGRAMME

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All students will study the following core subjects throughout the year:

- English - Language, Literature and Culture
- English as an Additional Language (EAL)
- Mathematics
- Irish\*
- French or German
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Guidance
- Wellbeing

International Transition Year students are fully integrated with other TY students for all subjects except EAL.

*\* Alternative arrangements are put in place for international students during Irish class*

Students will sample each of the following subjects over the course of the year:

- Accounting
- Applied Mathematics
- Art
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Classical Studies
- Economics
- Geography
- Latin
- History
- Music
- Physics

## TRANSITION YEAR MODULES AND EVENTS

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During Transition Year, classroom study is complemented and enhanced by a wide variety of **workshops, tours, short courses and projects**, often led by guest tutors. These activities offer valuable opportunities for active learning and teamwork. International Transition Year students are fully integrated with other TY students for these activities, allowing them to work and play alongside native English speakers throughout each day.

In addition, the opportunity to avail of three weeks of **work experience** in nearby businesses challenges students to put their growing language proficiency to good use outside the school environment. The school assists the students to arrange these placements and arranges their transport to and from their workplaces.

A key event of the programme is a one-week walking pilgrimage along the **Camino de Santiago** in Spain. Among many other benefits, this pilgrimage provides a

valuable chance for students to get to know one another, and for new arrivals to integrate into the group. Even though the event takes place in Spain, students will spend several hours each day walking with just one or two others and talking in English.

NOTE: Due to Covid-19 this activity may be moved to Spring Term or an alternate activity run in its place.

### Among the activities in which students will participate are:

- Interview and Presentation Skills
- Legal Studies Programme
- Music Technology Workshop
- Coding
- Road Safety Workshop
- Etiquette Classes
- Poetry Workshop
- First Aid Course
- Cookery Course
- Sports mentoring in local primary/special schools

*Most of these activities are delivered on the Glenstal campus, but some involve travel to external destinations. A series of occasional evening guest speakers and careers talks also forms part of the programme.*







“

My son had a fantastic time in Glenstal; it has improved his self-confidence, he overcame the challenge of learning in English, all in a wonderful new and international environment.

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– Miguel Ángel Berges  
Spain





## SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSITION YEAR PROGRAMME

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As well as participating in the Transition Year English curriculum alongside their fellow students, International TY students will also have **EAL** (English as an Additional Language) classes to boost their fluency and consolidate their language skills. Students have the option to sit exams in order to acquire the relevant **Cambridge certification** of proficiency and fluency in English.

During the summer term, from Easter until the end of May, our Irish Transition Year students normally go on language exchanges in other European countries. During this period, there is a **special programme for our International Transition Year students**, who remain in Glenstal until the end of the school year. English classes continue, but we also want to offer our students a chance to learn more about Ireland and to see more of the country before they return home. And so we offer a programme of classes, workshops and tours on Irish history and culture. Students will visit many of the most important historical, cultural, musical and sporting venues and museums throughout Ireland.

### Among the places where students will visit are:

- Aran Islands, Galway
- Bunratty Castle & Folk park, Clare
- Trinity College and the Book of Kells, Dublin
- Cliffs of Moher, Clare
- King John's Castle, Limerick
- Connemara, Galway
- Dublin Writers Museum
- EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum, Dublin
- Croke Park Tour, Dublin
- Giant's Causeway, Antrim
- Titanic Belfast
- Newgrange, Meath
- Glasnevin Cemetery Museum, Dublin
- Hunt Museum, Limerick
- The Burren, Clare
- Glendalough, Wicklow
- National Gallery, Dublin
- National Museum, Dublin





Clockwise L to R:  
Cobh, Co. Cork; Trinity College Dublin; International Financial Services  
Centre, Dublin; Giant's Causeway, Co. Antrim; Connemara, Co. Galway.





Clockwise, L to R:  
Cliffs of Moher, Co. Clare; Bunratty Castle, Co. Clare; National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin; Titanic Museum, Belfast; Temple Bar, Dublin.



# WHAT WILL YOUR SON GET FROM SPENDING A YEAR IN GLENSTAL?

This is not an exchange programme. You will not be required to host an Irish student in your country during the year. You only have to focus on your own son and his educational and linguistic development.

- An immersive English-language educational experience in the only anglophone country in the European Union
- A formative and memorable experience of living and learning in a boarding community in one of Ireland’s leading boarding schools
- The independence that comes from living away from home for a year
- An introduction to the rich history and culture of Ireland
- Excellent teaching in modern school facilities, inspired by the 1,500 year old Benedictine tradition
- Small classes of 14-16 students with dedicated, expert teachers
- CAT4 (Cognitive Abilities Test) Level G Report to assist with choosing future areas of study and work
- Excellent supervision and pastoral care by experienced boarding staff
- An overall student to staff ratio of 2:1
- Professional medical care from the school’s own nursing team
- Support from the school chaplain and attendance at Sunday Mass each week
- The same wide range of sporting and extra-curricular activities as all other students in the school

## EDUCATION ON A HUMAN SCALE

220-230

STUDENTS

14-16

PER CLASS

8-1

STUDENT TO  
TEACHER RATIO

2-1

STUDENT TO  
STAFF RATIO







“

The greatest benefit of my son's time in Ireland is that he developed greatly and has grown-up a lot. He is now more focused on his college objective and more certain of what he wants to do in his life.

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– Gabriel Goëss  
Austria



## LOCATION

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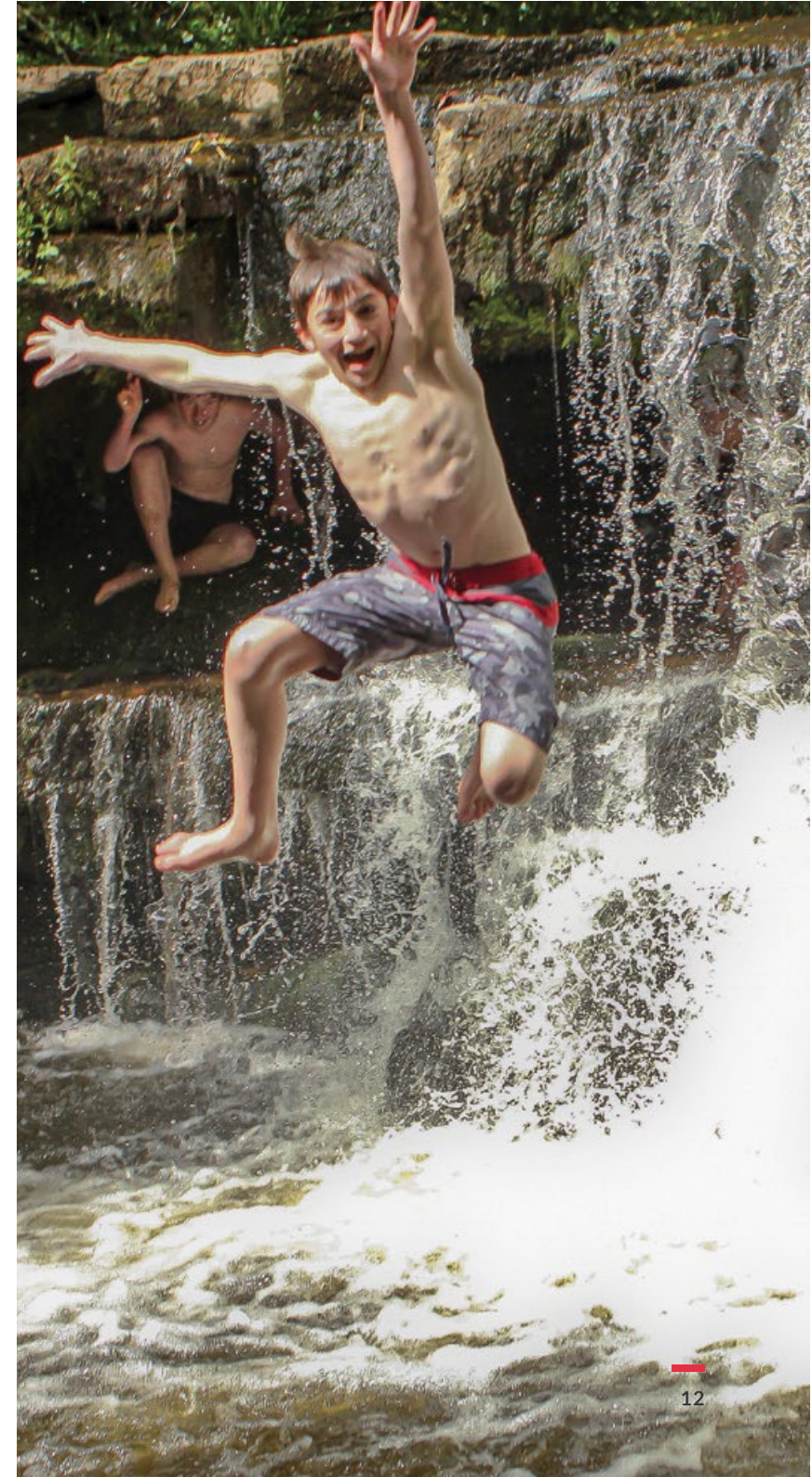
Glenstal is a place of outstanding natural beauty, and with its stunning woodlands, lakes, trails and parkland, it is unparalleled among Irish schools.

The school is centred on a nineteenth-century neo-Norman castle, with a Windsor-style round tower and an imposing facade and gate-house. The Glenstal estate is also home to the Monastery where the monks live, the Abbey Church, a working dairy farm, a Guest House and a large Library.

Students sleep, eat and attend classes on our campus at Glenstal. Along with in-school classes, International Transition Year students will join other TY students for all outings and external courses throughout the year.

Glenstal is secluded yet very accessible. Only twenty minutes from Limerick City, thirty minutes from Shannon International Airport, and two hours from Cork and Dublin Airports by motorway.

80% of our students are from Ireland and 20% from overseas: Austria, England, Isle of Man, France, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, Bermuda, USA, Australia, Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, United Arab Emirates and Mozambique.





# FEES

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## ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL FEES

### *European Union Residents*

Includes: Tuition, Boarding, School Books & Stationery,  
Bed Linen and Laundry Service

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**€20,300**

### *Non-European Union Residents*

Includes: Tuition, Boarding, School Books & Stationery,  
Bed Linen and Laundry Service

**€23,800**

The staff in our Admissions Office are always happy to talk to you about the admissions process and clarify any points you may have.

Glenstal Abbey School is part of a Benedictine monastery, proud of its deep roots in the monastic and Christian tradition. We are happy to welcome students from a wide variety of backgrounds and faiths to share our life here.

### **What is included:**

- All tuition fees
- Books and stationery
- Full boardIng
- Enrolment and administration fees
- Laundry
- Extracurricular activities
- 24-hour pastoral care
- Advice, assistance and support from the time you contact us to the end of the stay

### **What is not included:**

- International airfares
- Insurances (all participants must acquire travel insurance)
- Personal expenses
- Local guardian/host family for exeats and school holidays. We will introduce you to our approved guardian and host family partners during the enquiry discussions.





“

The greatest benefit was the groundwork that was done to guide him going forward to his third level education and the assistance received to help him achieve this. The improvement in his English was excellent over the year.

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– Aisling Pescetto  
Italy





FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE  
GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR TEAM:

Contact: [admissions@glenstal.com](mailto:admissions@glenstal.com)

Call: [+353 61 621044](tel:+35361621044)

### TO VIEW OUR FULL PROSPECTUS:

For further information on Glenstal Abbey School please view our prospectus, which is available on our website: [glenstal.com/prospectus](http://glenstal.com/prospectus)

## CRITERIA

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- Aged between 15 and 16
- Studied English for a minimum of two years
- Have a good academic record - reference and report from current school
- Motivated to speak English and willing to adapt to a new culture and environment



## APPLICATION PROCESS

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Outlined below are the stages that you can expect to go through during our application process:

### 1 WRITTEN APPLICATION

Register your interest using our online application form [here](#). You will then be contacted to submit birth certificate, school reports, and a reference from your current school (where applicable).

### 2 ONLINE MEETING WITH ADMISSIONS

Our admissions team will speak with you and your parents via telephone or video conferencing.

### 3 OFFER LETTERS

Successful applicants will be sent an offer in writing offering them a place in the International Transition Year programme.

### 4 FOLLOW-UP CONVERSATIONS

Parents/Guardians may contact the school to clarify any element of the offer and for assistance to organise guardianship and a host family.

### 5 ACCEPTANCE

Offers must be accepted in writing. Successful candidates will join the normal enrolment process facilitated by the Admissions Department.



**WE ARE NOW  
ACCEPTING  
ENQUIRIES AND  
APPLICATIONS FOR  
INTERNATIONAL  
TRANSITION YEAR  
2022/23**

**APPLY NOW**

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[glenstal.com/ity](https://glenstal.com/ity)

NOTE: We have a limited number of places for Transition Year 2021/22. Please contact admissions for availability.





“

The biggest change was how my son learned to be independent, how focused he now is on school work, and his maturity and fluency in English.

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– Khalid Algwaiz  
Saudi Arabia



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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**Q How many children from each language group will be in each class?**

In order to provide a truly immersive English language experience for your son, we limit the number of any one language group in each class. Typically there will be 70% native English speakers in your son's class. The non-English speakers would be a mix of French, German, Spanish and other European and Asian students.

**Q Will he only be allowed to speak English?**

Students will be encouraged to speak English as much as possible. Because the school and the classes are small (230 boys with 14-16 per class) English will always be the most prevalent language spoken both inside and outside the classroom.

**Q If my son doesn't settle and withdraws from the programme, can we get a refund on fees?**

Refunds are processed in line with our school policy. One full term's notice of withdrawal will be required.

**Q When will I see my son, and what access will I have to him?**

Families are welcome to visit their sons on weekends and during scheduled school breaks: monthly exeats, midterms, Christmas and Easter holidays. Many students decide not to return home

during these times but rather stay with a host family to get a truly immersive experience of Irish culture and life. This can be tailored for each student.

**Q How will the school communicate with me regarding his progress?**

Each class and dormitory is assigned a class Tutor and a Housemaster. Parents can communicate directly with these members of the care team. All students have access to house phones, personal email, and web conferencing facilities (using zoom, MS Teams or Skype etc).

**Q What happens before my son arrives in Ireland and how will my son get to the School?**

The school staff, in partnership with your chosen local guardian, will coordinate travel arrangements from and to Shannon or Dublin International Airports when arriving or travelling home for school breaks and holidays as required. Flights and transfers to and from Ireland must be booked by the boy's parents.

For more information please visit our website:  
**[glenstal.com/school](http://glenstal.com/school)**





## Glenstal Abbey SCHOOL

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