



Information for juniors aged 16 and under and their parents

Travel to/from the Arrival Port

All junior students will be provided with transfer travel to their destination, accompanied by course leaders. Parents who wish to drop off or pick up their children independently can do so but will need to complete a form with details of arrangements.

Course Leaders

Course leaders are responsible for both their mono-national group, as they bring them from their home country, and are the main point of contact throughout the course for these students, as well as responsible for the welfare of students within their activity group on arrival. They will support Activity Leaders to ensure that the activities run smoothly and safely.

Shared Accommodation

All EF accommodation is segregated by age and gender. Where residence bedrooms do not have ensuite bathrooms, bathroom facilities are always segregated by gender. In some cases, larger residence sites may be shared with other language schools, in which case EF students will be designated clearly marked areas and identification of staff and students will be ensured. Students living in homestay will be allocated to a twin shared room with a roommate. Ideally this will be a student of a different nationality but matching course dates. Housemates are allocated to the same schedule pattern where possible, so they are traveling to and from school and activities together.

Accommodation Meal Plans

All junior students aged under 18 years old are provided with full board meal package as part of the course fee. This will be provided either by the homestay host, residence catering or in some cases an in-school catering company. Mealtimes are supervised and monitored. Special diets can be catered for on request.

Non-EF Accommodation

EF does not expect under 18s to live in their own accommodation during their course. However, occasional special exceptions can be made for a child to live with a parent or other close relative. In such cases, signed parental consent and full information about the proposed accommodation and supervising adult is required and EF staff will check the accommodation and named supervising adult are appropriate. The supervising adult will be required to drop the child at school/activity and collect at the end of the day.

Curfew

A nightly curfew of 11pm is in place for all students aged under 18 (10pm on the Isle of Wight). Students are required to be in their allocated accommodation by this time. Evening activities are planned to finish in good time for children to get home in time using public transport. Staff and hosts will check that students have returned home safely and will follow up immediately on any absences, in line with the EF Missing Student Policy. Sanctions will be imposed for repeated breach of this requirement.

Supervision

Students are supervised at most times during their stay with a full programme and mandatory attendance at classes and activities. Unsupervised time is very limited and carefully risk assessed. This includes travel to and from school, travel to accommodation in the evenings and after weekend excursions. Students have a small amount of free time during lunch breaks and excursions allow a short window of opportunity for limited independent exploration time. During such times, students are given strict parameters about where they are allowed to go and instructed to stay in groups of three and not go anywhere alone. EF activities and excursions are risk assessed with safeguarding requirements taken into account and supervised at a ratio of one staff member to seventeen junior students. Supervision ratio for staff in residential accommodation is also one staff member to twenty juniors.

Classes

All EF Fast Track course material is designed in house and appropriate for junior learners.

Code of Conduct

Students and parents are made aware of expectations of behaviour before departing for the UK and understand that sanctions will be imposed for children who do not meet these expectations. In the most serious cases, children will not be able to continue with the programme and arrangements will be made for supervised return travel to the home country and care of their parents/guardian.

Other Safeguarding Arrangements Include:

- All staff, course leaders and homestay hosts are fully vetted in accordance with UK law.
- All centres have a clearly indicated safeguarding team with a named Designated Safeguarding Lead who students can speak to if they have problems. This person is clearly signposted in schools.
- The safeguarding team will have the appropriate level of training, and all staff are required to undergo general safeguarding training as part of their induction.
- Young students receive specific induction information on arrival in school to advise them of special arrangements and requirements.
- Children are supervised when sick and accompanied to any medical appointments by a member of staff or their EF host.
- EF sales staff remain in regular contact with parents/guardians and discuss any issues or concerns.
- All children have access to a 24-hour contact number for their course leader.
- Junior summer programmes are exclusively for students aged 13-16.
- Students aged under 16 staying in homestay accommodation can attend junior programmes for a maximum of four weeks.

For a full overview of procedures in place for the safety and protection of younger students, please see the EF Safeguarding Policy.