

Exploring the Literature and Culture of Ireland for English Language Arts Teachers

A choice of a 7-Day Course or a 10-Day Course

Venue: Trinity College Dublin (IRELAND)

WHO IS THIS COURSE FOR?

This course is designed for **teachers of English Language Arts** in middle schools and high schools in the USA who wish to explore the literature and culture of Ireland in their classrooms.

English Language Arts teachers will experience and explore a variety of Irish writers through literary genres and key cultural themes. The course will support teachers in their practices with their students.

Language of communication: **English**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course will draw on the renowned literary tradition and culture of Ireland and is designed to support teachers to enrich and reflect on their classroom practice.

Diverse literary genres (poetry, novel, drama, memoir and short story) will be explored. The programme will also connect these genres with other arts media such as visual arts, music and film. The approach places particular emphasis on using literature to develop personal response, creativity, critical thinking and language skills development. Teachers will also have a rich cultural experience of Irish life through exploring the town and landscape, meeting people, making visits to exhibitions and historical sites, and taking in the local spirit.

The course draws on the literary work of Irish writers which may include: W.B. Yeats, Seamus Heaney, James Joyce, Samuel Beckett, Oscar Wilde, Colm Tóibín, Edna O'Brien, Eavan Boland, Frank McCourt, John Banville, Brian Friel, Paula Meehan, Claire Keegan, John McGahern, Roddy Doyle, Michael Longley and Irish writers for teen and young-adult learners.

Objectives

A blend of practical methodologies and inspiring lectures will enable teachers to:

- experience the culture which shapes Irish identity
- understand Irish literature in its various genres, with attention to aesthetic experiences, critical literacy and the craft of language for the English Language Arts classrooms
- reflect on the concept and practice of teaching English by exploring the English curriculum in Ireland

Methodology

This course employs a comprehensive, interactive, and hands-on methodology designed to foster creativity, cultural immersion, and collaborative learning. Field learning tasks are part of experiential learning, and will include explorations of the National Gallery, the Book of Kells Experience, the W.B. Yeats and Seamus Heaney exhibitions, the visit to the monastic settlement and glacial valley of Glendalough, etc. These explorations will be part of using the English Matters' "Contexts4Content" approach.

The course will use several teaching approaches:

- Interactive Workshops
- Lectures and Seminars
- Group Discussions
- Field Learning Projects - '*Contexts4Content*'
- Shared Practice and Reflection

Note: This course is created, organized, and implemented by English Matters International Ltd. within the framework of the American – Irish Professional Development Initiative.

LOCATION OF THE COURSE: Dublin (IRELAND)

Dublin is an old medieval Viking city that displays a fascinating panorama on its streets through a pleasant mix of historic buildings and sites, monuments and street art. Trinity College and the unique Book of Kells, Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin's Viking Castle, the remarkable Chester Beatty Library, or the Samuel Beckett Bridge, can be discovered at the same time as Sweny's pharmacy (immortalized in Joyce's *Ulysses*), where a surprising mix of second-hand books and lemon-scented soap can be found together.

Dublin is also a warm and welcoming city. Its enjoyable "craic" has attracted visitors for centuries. Traditional music is extremely popular in Ireland, and it is so easy to find a pub where a band is playing some good drinking music while customers happily join in the chorus.

DURATION OF THE COURSE

7-day course: **40 hours, a Sunday to Saturday course.**

10-day course: **60 hours, a Monday to Friday course.**

CERTIFICATION AWARDED

A Certificate will be awarded and will include the name of the participant, description of the course and its learning outcomes, dates and course hours.

DATES

Location: **Dublin, IRELAND**

Venue: Trinity College Dublin

Duration (days): **7-day course (from Sunday to Saturday) or 10-day course (from Monday to Friday) or**

Dates in 2027

04-10 July · 7-day course

11-17 July · 7-day course

19-30 July · 10-Day course



Programme of the 7-day Course:

Exploring the Literature and Culture of Ireland for English Language Arts Teachers

7-day Course in Ireland (from Sunday to Saturday)

Sunday

Registration

The English Matters' Approach – principles, structure, framework

Tools for reflection on Learning & Professional Development

Introduction to Ireland and the Irish

Monday – Exploring Identity through Poetry & Song

Voice, place, personal history and belonging

Introduction to major writers and themes in Irish literature

Field Learning Project "Contexts4Content": *W.B. Yeats or Seamus Heaney Exhibition*

Tuesday – The Irish Novel & Short Story

Personal and social resonances

Ideas, themes and craft

Field Learning Project "Contexts4Content": *In the footsteps of Irish Writers*

Wednesday – Irish Drama & Folklore

Introduction to Irish drama – loss and broken dreams

Folklore and Irish heritage

Field Learning Project "Contexts4Content": *The Book of Kells Experience*

Thursday – Visual Art, Imagination and the Aesthetic

"The Art of Words, the Words of Art"

Film as narrative

Field Learning Project "Contexts4Content": *National Gallery of Ireland*

Friday – The Irish Curriculum for English Teaching

An overview of the Irish Curriculum for English Teaching

Field Learning Project "Contexts4Content": *Monastic Ireland – Glendalough*

Saturday – Dissemination & Celebration of Learning

Final Sharing Circle and Reflection on Learning

Dissemination Strategies

Presentation of participants' portfolios

Evaluation of the programme

NOTE: This Programme may be subject to amendment. Such amendment, if necessary, is kept to a minimum, consistent with the quality and balance of the programme.

Programme of the 10-day Course:**Exploring the Literature and Culture of Ireland for English Language Arts Teachers****10-day Course in Ireland (Monday to Friday Week-1 and Week-2)****Week 1****Monday**

Registration

The English Matters' Approach – principles, structure, framework

Tools for reflection on Learning & Professional Development

Introduction to Ireland and the Irish

Field Learning Project "Contexts4Content": *Images of Dublin*

Tuesday – Exploring Identity through Poetry

Voice, place, personal history and belonging

Introduction to major writers and themes in Irish literature

Field Learning Project "Contexts4Content": *W.B. Yeats or Seamus Heaney exhibition*

Wednesday – Folklore, Film & Music

Folklore and Irish heritage

Film as narrative: culture, history, character and place

Irish Music – Irish legacy and cultural context

Thursday – Visual Art, Imagination and the Aesthetic

"The Art of Words, the Words of Art"

Field Learning Project "Contexts4Content": *National Gallery of Ireland*

Friday – The Irish Curriculum for English Teaching

An overview of the Irish Curriculum for English Teaching

Assessment & Examinations

Shared practice

Week 2**Monday – The Irish Novel & Short Story**

Personal and social resonances

Ideas, themes and craft

Field Learning Project "Contexts4Content": *In the footsteps of Irish Writers*

Tuesday – Irish Drama

Introduction to Irish drama – loss and broken dreams

Field Learning Project "Contexts4Content": *The Book of Kells Experience*

Wednesday – Out and About

Field Learning Project "Contexts4Content": *Wicklow County and Monastic Ireland – Glendalough*

Thursday – Building bridges

Memory and memoir

Final Sharing Circle

Teachers' Lounge – Open Space Technology

Friday – Dissemination & Celebration of Learning

Final reflection on learning

Dissemination strategies

Presentation of participants' portfolios

Evaluation of the programme.

NOTE: This Programme may be subject to amendment. Such amendment, if necessary, is kept to a minimum, consistent with the quality and balance of the programme.



THE IRISH AMERICAN EDUCATOR INITIATIVE

Culture. Connection. Professional Learning.

The **Irish American Educator Initiative** gives teachers from across the United States the opportunity to learn beyond the classroom, gain meaningful experiences and fresh inspiration, and return home with new perspectives to share with their students. Based in Ireland, our courses connect American educators with Irish history, heritage, literature, art, and culture through engaging learning experiences inspired by Irish writers, artists, educators, and cultural representatives.

Whether you have Irish roots or simply want to discover a new culture, our programmes provide fresh ideas, meaningful connections, and practical inspiration for the classroom. Explore Ireland, deepen your professional knowledge, and bring new stories and perspectives back to your students.

As part of the initiative, teachers also have opportunities to take part in study visits to Finland, Sweden, Iceland, Norway, Estonia, Portugal, and Spain. These visits allow participants to see teachers at work, visit schools, meet local educators, and explore different approaches to teaching and learning.

By sharing ideas across cultures, American teachers can discover fresh perspectives and practical inspiration to bring back to their own classrooms.