

Stay with an English Teacher course description

Country Cousins Ltd with over fifty years' experience, ranks as one of the leaders in the field of effective English language teaching in Britain. Country Cousins arranges English Home Lesson courses for adults and young people throughout the year and international programmes for children, teenagers and young adults in the summer holidays. Our Total Immersion Courses and International Summer Programmes are accredited by The Department for Education & Skills.

Country Cousins looks for host teachers who are able to provide the following services on a freelance, fee-earning basis:

General

- A warm welcome for students
- Concern for the welfare and safety of students and responsibility in loco parentis for those who are under 18 years of age
- Appropriate accommodation for students within the home and an appropriate area for the scheduled teaching sessions
- An environment and atmosphere conducive to learning both during the scheduled teaching sessions and at all other times
- Inclusion of students in family activities and family life
- Members of the household entering into the spirit of the programmes
- Sensitivity to the needs of individual students
- An appropriate appearance and professional manner throughout the programme

The scheduled tuition programme

- An in-depth discussion with students at the beginning of the stay to identify individual needs and objectives
- A carefully planned course, both the programme as a whole and individual lessons within it
- Appropriate aims and objectives for the course and for individual lessons
- A regular schedule of tuition
- Delivery of the contracted number of hours of tuition
- Tuition sessions that begin and end on time
- Provision of a variety of resources that are prepared, presented and used in an appropriate manner
- Course and lesson planning documented
- All course records properly completed and returned as required

What is the Stay with an English Teacher programme?

Students stay with experienced teachers who can offer them tuition in English as a Foreign Language and comfortable accommodation in their homes. It is the most effective way for foreign speakers to learn English and it is very rewarding for the teacher. The friendly welcome and teaching programme provide a lasting impression of British people and culture.

Normally teaching is one-to-one and very occasionally we have families or small groups who want to learn English together. Lessons normally take place in the morning, with some teaching taking place in the afternoons on more intensive programmes.

What courses are on offer?

We offer three types of Stay with an English Teacher programmes comprising 15, 20, 25 one hour lessons per week:

- 1] General English - For learners of all ages and all levels.
- 2] Target English - For professional and business people who want to improve their English for work.
- 3] Special Interest - General English with an emphasis on a particular subject, plus two visits to related places of mutual interest to student and teacher, such as gardens or historic houses.

When do courses take place?

Courses run throughout the year, with a seasonal increase during the holiday periods, particularly during July and August. This is when we need the largest number of host teachers. Courses last typically two weeks, although some students book for three or four weeks. Students normally arrive and depart on a Saturday.

Who are the students?

The age range of our students is from 10 to 60 years old. We can cope with all ages and abilities. We welcome students from many countries, including France, Germany, Italy, Russia and Spain. Most of our students have a working knowledge of English and come to us to improve their skills. Our younger students usually prefer to stay in a family with children of a similar age.

Who are the teachers?

Our teachers enjoy the flexibility of working from home. Many are working school teachers who are free during the holiday periods. Others are retired, often with valuable experience in commerce or the professions, who enjoy the challenge that English Home Lessons provide.

What qualifications do I need?

We are looking for teachers with the RSA/ Cambridge Certificate or Diploma in English Language Teaching, or the Trinity Certificate or Diploma in TESOL. We need either applicants with Qualified Teacher Status, such as a Bed, Cert.Ed or PGCE and/or with business background or at the other end of the spectrum, Primary school teachers. Host teachers must have native speaker competence in English.

What do students expect?

The experience for students is much broader than simply what they learn from lessons. Students should be involved in normal household activities as much as possible. On the first day, after the first tuition session (usually needs analysis and testing) we ask you to show the student your locality and where to find the post office, bank, public transport and shops. Once students have settled in, they will enjoy accompanying you on outings as well as joining in discussions and playing indoor and outdoor games; in other words, exploiting every possible occasion for practising their English while at the same time enjoying themselves. Students on Young Learners' programmes are closely supervised at all times

What about the teaching?

EHL teaching programmes are firmly focussed on responding to the needs of the individual student. The sessions take place at regular, prearranged times in a room in your home that has been set aside for the purpose for the duration of the stay. You use your own up-to date books and other resources supplemented, if required, by materials provided by us.

What accommodation do I need to provide?

Students should have a bedroom to themselves of an acceptable size (min. 60 sq. ft.), with good natural light and electric lighting. Furniture should include a bed (single or double), a wardrobe, a table/desk with a chair and a lamp. If the room does not have a desk, then one should be made available for quiet study in another part of the house. There should be adequate heating and hot water at no charge, and access to a daily bath or shower. We ask that your house is kept clean and tidy, and that students' privacy is respected. Clean bed-linen and towels should be provided weekly. You will be responsible for the students' laundry.

What meals am I expected to provide?

We ask you to give your student three meals a day. As a guide, these might be toast and cereal with juice and coffee or tea for breakfast, a light meal for lunch and a substantial cooked meal consisting of a main course and a pudding in the evening. The food should be varied, and should be eaten at the table with you.

What about arrivals and departures?

Country Cousins will either deliver the student to your home, or if possible, ask you to pick the student up from a nearby location. Teachers are paid for providing this service, and we do find that it tends to get the relationship with the student off to a good start.



How are courses monitored?

The courses are administered from Head Office in Ilfracombe. Whilst the course is running, we will telephone you to establish that everything is running to plan, speak to students to ensure that they are happy and assist as necessary. Every teacher is visited at least once during the year.

How much will I be paid?

The 2007 rate is £12 per one hour lesson. The weekly rate for room and full board is £120 for under 18s, and £135 for adults.

Please note that host teachers are self-employed and are therefore responsible for their own tax and national insurance.

How do I apply?

Please complete the application form and return it with a photocopy of your TEFL or TESOL and degree certificates. If you meet the requirements outlined above, we will ask you if we can come and see you in your home. If you are accepted, we will place you on our register of self-employed host teachers, and contact you when we have a suitable student enquiry.

We look forward to hearing from you!

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