

# Conflict and the Struggle for Peace: Explorations in Ireland and the Middle East Health and Safety Guide

A detailed Program Description is available here.

## **Program Locations:**

The program commences in Dublin, Ireland including a study tour to Derry/Londonderry and Belfast in Northern Ireland, United Kingdom. Upon completion the program moves to Amman, Jordan. At the conclusion of the program, students return to Dublin before returning home or undertaking personal onward travels.

## Field Trips & Excursions:

- Londonderry/Derry and Belfast, Northern Ireland Political walking tour of Dublin including Historic city sites: Leinster House, Glasnevin Cemetery, and Kilmainham Gaol
- Amman Amman City tour (The Citadel, Roman Amphitheater); Daylong excursion to The North including the ancient Roman city of Jerash; and overnight Excursion to the South (Wadi Rum desert, Petra)

## Based on the specific cautionary language of the Travel Warning, address what measures the program takes to mitigate risk?

The US Department of State is issuing the current Travel Advisory notes for the program destinations:

<u>Ireland</u> – Level 1 <u>United Kingdom</u> – Level 2 <u>Jordan</u> – Level 2

FIE Dublin's risk mitigation protocols are documented in the Emergency Incident Response Plan which can be accessed <u>here</u>.

FIE's partner in Jordan has been working in the Middle East/North Africa for more than 60 years. Their long history of service to local communities has enabled the development of strong relationships with local institutions and individuals. On site Country Directors maintain close ties to the Regional Security Officers at the U.S. Embassies, and local program staff members are included in the U.S. Embassy warden network. Our partner organisation is also a member of the Department of State's Overseas Security Advisory Council and contracts with iJET: Intelligent Risk Systems.

Part of ensuring that students remain safe while abroad includes the delivery of in-depth predeparture orientations, and a rigorous on-site orientation once in each country. As part of the program fee, FIE and our on site partner provide travel and medical insurance as well as high-quality medical, political, and security evacuation coverage for all students.



Once in Jordan, on site program staff members help students deal with medical issues as they arise. Students are given a local "pay as you go" mobile phone pre-programed with local staff numbers and emergency contact numbers to use for the duration of the program. Serving as the primary link between the Program Manager on-site and the students in emergencies, staff have the ability to send text messages to all program participants instantaneously to convey information and to ask students of their whereabouts. Students are provided with an emergency contact card upon arrival that includes phone numbers for the on site team, contact information for the U.S. Embassy, and local emergency phone numbers. Students are briefed throughout the program about local or international security concerns should any arise. More information is <a href="here">here</a>.

#### Accommodations: Where will students be housed?

Housing in Dublin and in Amman is included in the price of the Peace & Conflict program.

- Dublin During the Ireland portion of the program, students are housed in purpose-built student residences, serviced apartments, or a long stay hotel with modern amenities. Each student has either single or twin bedroom accommodation with key access. FIE has a live-in staff member at the facility and there is a reception desk, which is open Monday-Friday 9am-5pm. The site is staffed 24/7 by a site team during office hours and a security officer in the evening.
- All locations, Northern Ireland Students will be staying in 3-4 star hotels located in the town centres. Each hotel in Northern Ireland has a reception desk and each room requires key or swipe card room access.
- Amman During their time in Jordan, students live with Jordanian families. All participating families are screened from a database of qualified applications. Families usually host two students at a time and provide meals throughout the program. Any hotels used as part of the program in Jordan are carefully reviewed prior to selection.

### Home Stays: How are families chosen/vetted?

For years, our partner organisation has provided host family placement and support for a variety of study abroad programs. Within their host family network, many families have hosted a series of students and are in tune with the program and student experience. The experienced field staff carefully screen and select host families from a cross section of society. Additionally, each host family participates in a host family orientation in order to better understand their roles and responsibilities for the program.

## Local Transportation

- In Dublin, students typically walk the 25-minute distance to the classroom. They can also make use of Dublin public bus transport.
- In Amman, students generally commute by taxi from their host family to the Study Center. Some students may live within walking distance of the Study Center, but most will commute with their roommate by taxi.
- It is recommends that students take only official taxis and not take public busses.



## **FIE Emergency Contact Details**

FIE Dublin
Binary Hub
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Dublin, D08 R596
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Dublin Office & 24/7 Phone: +353 (0)1 679 8171

FIE Dublin has 24/7 coverage through office staff and live-in residential staff. Office staff are available Monday-Friday 9am-5pm. Outside of these hours the residential staff are available. Students are given all staff numbers during orientation. All staff will answer phone calls even outside their office hours in case of emergency. Staff collect student numbers at orientation.