

2025



country • cousins

Premier English Educational Holidays since 1951



Family-run language school

in stunning North Devon, South West of England, welcoming international students aged 7 to 17 for immersive homestay experiences and exciting activity & sport programmes.

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Only British Council award-winning school in the world



Promoting Acceptance of Language Students (PALS)



Blended learning for junior students



Caring and welcoming homestays



Fun activity programmes



Safe, green and clean

Welcome to Country Cousins

As parents ourselves, we know that sending a child to study overseas is a deeply emotional decision. It is important to focus on the positive impacts that this experience will bring. At Country Cousins our priorities are the promotion of self-confidence, international awareness and providing a healthy, safe and enjoyable learning environment for the practice and speaking of English.

Maribel Cabrera, School Director

When I was nine, I travelled to England from my home in Spain and began my Country Cousins journey. Until the age of 17 I spent every summer in North Devon and I grew confident enough in my English language skills to go on to study at the University of York.

I never forgot my experiences as a student - so much so that I came back as an adult with my wife Maribel and young family. We are proud to offer similar experiences to young people from all over the world.

Jose Brinkmann, CEO



Left to right: Elena, Rolo, Jose, Sofia,
Maribel & Maribel (Mini)



Maribel & Jose kayaking
with Rolo

"We would like to say a huge 'thank you' to everyone of our students for coming to England to study with us, and thank you for letting us use your photos in this brochure. We hope to see you all soon!"

Channel School of English

Our school is situated within the green flag award winning Bicclescombe Park, in the picturesque harbour town of Ilfracombe, North Devon. It is a beautiful spacious Victorian building with a lot of history and stories to tell!

We have 10 well equipped classrooms, a student room to chill out at break times and a picnic area to enjoy their breaks and lunch.

Channel School is open all year round for groups and during Easter and summer for individuals.

Class sizes average 12 students (maximum class size 15) and are mixed nationality wherever possible to increase English speaking opportunities.



Enjoying a play in the park



Collaborative learning



Fun dynamic activity leaders



Ilfracombe Harbour



Shopping in Exeter



Woolacombe Beach



Busy High Street

Ilfracombe North Devon

Ilfracombe is a small seaside town on the North Devon coast in the South West of England.

The town is a safe place to be with a welcoming and traditional community. The town is easy to navigate around. The students that come here love socialising in the evenings and watching the sun set.

Nearby Locations

Woolacombe beach is just 10 minutes away. Awarded as the best beach in the UK in 2015, 2016, 2019 and 2021, it is always in the top 5 beaches in the UK. It is a real capital for surfing and other water sports.

The vibrant market town of Barnstaple is only 25 minutes away and provides big-name high street shops, along with great restaurants.

Exeter, the Country regional centre, is just over an hour away and offers all the facilities and amenities to be expected in a modern university city.



Saturday only Airport Transfers

Arrivals:

Our students' experience starts the moment they arrive in England.

We pick up from London Heathrow, Bristol or Exeter airports, as well as St. Pancras train station in London. Our team is always there to meet them at the airport and transport them to the South West of England in our own fleet of sign-written coaches.

On arrival in Ilfracombe they will be welcomed by their homestay and go home with them.

Times for arriving in Ilfracombe are:

After 16:00 and before 22:00

Departures:

Every student is escorted to the check-in desk in time for their flight or train.

Unaccompanied minors outside of our escort times will be charged at £73 per hour.

Departures from Ilfracombe are:

After 06:00 and before 22:00

Flight delays

If your flight is delayed, more than an hour there will be extra escort waiting /parking charges at £73 per hour.

Please make sure that your travel insurance will cover this.

Our staff escort times:

- London St. Pancras train station:
From 12:40 to 13:40, trains must arrive before 13:30 & depart: 13:45 to 15:00

- London Heathrow airport:
From 11:30 to 15:00 (in all terminals)
Bus will arrive at 11:00, depart at 15:00

- Bristol and Exeter airports:
Only at 08:00, 14:00 and 20:30 . Flights must be between 10:30 & 20:00

- London Gatwick airport:
From 12:30 to 13:30, must arrive before 13:00 and depart between 15:00 & 18:00

On arrival, students must wait by the arrival gate for our staff to escort them.

We need flight details and if booked as an unaccompanied minor.



Airport transfers
£160 return
£90 one way

**NEW
2025**

FLEXIBLE TIMES ON ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURES FOR GROUPS

We have partnered with a local hotel to accommodate late arrivals and early departures without additional cost. This partnership allows for greater flexibility with your flight times, ensuring a smoother experience for your clients.





Welcome Meetings - Sundays

Every Sunday we have an induction meeting at 11:30, where our team greets the students and explains their activity programme, shows them around the school and answers any questions they may have.

Students receive a welcome package including a student card, wristband, map and programme of the week.

After the induction meeting students go back to have lunch with their families, spend time getting to know each other and familiarise themselves with the town. Host families will bring students to the meeting.



First day at School - Mondays

On the first day students are divided into three sets according to age and choice of activity programme. This enables us to get a great international mix in activities and lessons, which encourages students to always speak English and make new international friends.

At Channel School of English we have three student sets:

- Yellow: 7 – 13 years old
- Green: 12 – 16 years old
- Purple: 14 – 17 years old

Teaching & Learning Experimental English

We have a dynamic and approachable teaching team who are all experienced and qualified teachers. They are continually observed and encouraged to develop professionally.

Emphasis is placed on improving speaking, listening and functional language skills. Speech is initiated with many exercises from pair and group work to individual presentations, group discussions, debates, role-plays, simulations, music, drama and games.

Materials are varied, lively and up-to-date. The use of technology in the classrooms has opened up a new world of engagement, personalised learning and collaboration for our students.

Every classroom has Wi-Fi and is equipped with a projector. Students are provided with tablets to carry out blended-learning activities. Students take an initial language assessment test and are allocated to the class best suited to their linguistic ability and level (A2, B1, B2, or C1).

Students will receive a course certificate at the end of their course with the level they have been learning and their teacher's personal comments.



Blended learning
in action

Authentic English and Life Skills

Digital literacy



Presentation skills



Collaborative learning



Critical thinking



Problem solving



Intercultural communication

Accommodation – Homestay Providers

Living in homestay accommodation gives your child the perfect opportunity to experience English life and to practice their language skills in everyday situations.

Our host families are all carefully selected, site visited and inspected by our experienced welfare team. Families treat their visitors as one of the family, providing a happy and secure environment.

We manage the relationship with our host families ourselves, we do not use agencies – this means that we know each and every one and match students to the settings in which we feel they will be most at home.

Students of different nationalities are placed within the same family to encourage spoken English, which can often lead to life-long friendships!

“Meeting people from all over the world is amazing.
My host family was wonderful and so is my roommate.”

Han Wang, Chinese, aged 16



Kind and welcoming
local accommodation



Students can expect to...

- share a room with another student (max 2 per room)
- only have one other person of the same nationality in the home (except by request and mini stays)
- have their basic laundry done; bed linen and towels supplied
- spend Sundays with their family
- have breakfast, packed lunch (on weekdays) and evening meal.
- have direct access to our welfare team, 24 hours a day, in case of emergencies or urgent issues



Promoting Acceptance of Language Students (PALS)

The PALS scheme has been running successfully since 2012 and involves young local people who, during their school holidays, will:

- Integrate with our students
- Attend activities
- Assist in familiarising our students with the area
- Interact with them to ensure they feel welcome
- Encourage all students to be involved

“A worthy project that is very effective”

British Council

The scheme won an international ELTons Award for Local Innovation from the British Council in 2014.










← Look out for the PALS logo next to our courses where the scheme is in place.

Set Purple Programme

Exploring Devon with 15 or 18 hours of English Lessons (E15 or E18)

Programme Key

-  Classroom-based learning
-  Field-based learning
-  Day trip
-  Bring pocket money
-  Bring swimwear
-  Wear long-sleeved tops & trousers
-  Evening activity

July	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Breakfast with host family							
9am - 12.30pm	 English Classes	 Daytrip to the Cathedral City of Exeter	 E15 Walk to Hunters Inn in Exmoor National Park E18 in class	 English Classes	 English Classes	 Enjoy the optional activities organised in the morning and free time in the afternoon afternooth your host family	Spend the day practising your English with your host family
Lunch break		Lunch break		Lunch break			
1.30pm - 5pm	 Tunnels Beaches in Ilfracombe		 English Classes	 English Classes	 Arlington Court National Trust House		
Dinner with host family							
7.30pm - 10pm	 International Sports	Stay at home and speak English with your family	 Disco	 Talent show	Stay at home and speak English with your family		



Exploring Devon Programme



Surfing Programme



Sea Water Sports Programme



Adventure Sports Programme



Beach Volleyball Sports Programme

Summary

All of our courses include at least 15 hours of quality English tuition. Courses are carefully designed to be both educational and fun.

Experiential English 15 hours

11 to 17 years old

- Adventure Sports
- Ball Sports
- Beach Volleyball
- Exploring Devon
- Horse Riding
- Sea Water Sports
- Sports Science (from 14 years old only)
- Street Dance (July only)
- Surfing
- Tennis

Experiential English 18 hours

11 to 17 years old

- Adventure Sports
- Ball Sports
- Exploring Devon
- Sea Water Sports
- Riding
- Surfing
- Tennis

Just
£10
extra per
week!

- Course available all year
- Course available 14th June to 16th August 2025

Mini Learners 15 hours

7* to 10 years old

- Adventure Sports – £1,163 (from 10 years old only)
- Exploring Devon – £981
- Riding – £1,163 per week (from 8 years old only)
- Surfing – £1,163 per week (from 10 years old only)
- Tennis – £1,031 per week

*Children aged 7 and 8 years old, must stay privately with their parents

Family holidays

with children aged from 7 to 10 years old

A language course abroad is the best way to master a language and the younger your children are, the quicker they will be able to absorb a new language.

For your children, this program means they will be able to learn and practice English in a way appropriate for their age, with the support of their family close by, and their presence on some activities.

Academic Placements – High School

12 to 16 years old

Academic year placements in local schools in North Devon. Please contact us for more details.





from
£1,050
per week

Adventure Sports

An exciting introduction to many different sports; this course is perfect for energetic students keen to try new pursuits.

- Includes quad biking, abseiling, surfing, coastal traversing, kayaking, sand boarding, adventure swimming and climbing.
- Learn specialist vocabulary for each sport.
- Learn and develop basic techniques for each sport activity.

Age 10 to 17 years old

Activity Sessions 2 or 3 sessions per week, 2.5 hours each

Group size 8 students per instructor

English Lessons 15 or 18 hours of experiential English per week

English Level A2 – C1

Dates Available all year



from
£918
per week

Ball Sports

This varied programme will help students build the confidence and teamwork skills they need to enjoy taking part in sports and being active for life. A great way to experience all the different ball sports we offer at Country Cousins.

- Learn different techniques and skills for football, golf, beach volleyball and tennis.
- Put training into practice with mini-tournaments.

Age 12 to 16 years old

Activity Sessions 2 or 3 sessions per week, 2.5 hours each

Group size 8 students per instructor

English Lessons 15 or 18 hours of experiential English per week

English Level A2 – C1

Dates 14th June to 16th August 2025



£918
per week

Beach Volleyball

Get fit and have fun at Croyde Beach with a professional ex-Olympic instructor guiding students through the techniques and tactics of this unique beach sport.

- Train with Great Britain's international and national team coach, Denise Austin.
- Learn to play in pairs, serving, digging, setting, attacking, blocking and defending.
- Learn specialist beach volleyball vocabulary.
- Improve confidence and teamwork skills.



Age	12 to 16 years old
Activity Sessions	9 hours per week in 3 sessions
Group size	8 students per instructor
English Lessons	15 hours of experiential English per week
English Level	A2 – C1
Dates	14th June to 16th August 2025



from £867
per week

Exploring Devon

Explore popular places of local interest and along the coast. Plenty of fun activities, too – games on Woolacombe Beach, ten-pin bowling, coastal walks, an English film at the local cinema, cultural visits, Combe Martin Wildlife Park, swimming at the local pool and more.

Age	7 to 17 years old
Activity Sessions	3 hours per session in 2 or 3 days per week
Group size	15 students to 1 activity leader
English Lessons	15 or 18 hours of experiential English per week
English Level	A2 – C1
Dates	Available all year



Horse Riding

Saddle up to practise and improve a wide range of riding skills at the multi-national awarded equestrian centre in North Devon.

- Practise and improve a wide range of equestrian skills.
- Learn specific riding vocabulary.
- Enjoy qualified instruction with top competition horses and ponies at both indoor and outdoor arenas.

Students may bring suitable riding clothes boots and helmets.

Age	8 to 17 years old
Activity Sessions	8 hours per week in 2 sessions
Group size	8 students per instructor
English Lessons	15 or 18 hours of experiential English per week
English Level	A2 – C1
Dates	Available all year



Sea Water Sports

This exciting programme is full of sea water activities, making the most of our spectacular local coastline and beaches.

- Practise different water sports such as kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, surfing, adventure swimming, a sea adventure course and scuba diving.
- Learn specialist vocabulary and basic techniques for each activity.
- Improve water confidence and team building skills.

Age	12 to 16 years old
Activity Sessions	2 or 3 sessions per week, 3 hours each
Group size	8 students per instructor
English Lessons	15 or 18 hours of experiential English per week
English Level	A2 – C1
Dates	14th June to 16th August 2025



£918
per week

Sport Science

This exciting programme with Andrew Blake of Bay Fitness will include fitness, vinyasa flow yoga, and seminars/lectures on sport science, nutrition and health. It will be open to all levels with progressive and easier options, depending on fitness and level.

- Fitness and personal training sessions covering all fitness components: strength, mobility, core, speed, agility and cardiovascular endurance.
- Yoga sessions for the body and the mind with breathing, asana and meditation. Learn the techniques that Andrew uses with athletes he trains including professional surfers and Olympians.
- Lectures including theory on the practical sessions and covering nutrition, training principles, health and psychology.

Age	14 to 17 years old
Activity Sessions	7.5 hours per week in 3 sessions
Group size	6 students per instructor
English Lessons	15 hours per week
English Level	B1-C1
Dates	14th June to 16th August 2025



£928
per week

Street Dance

Experience the ultimate modern style of dancing, combining a variety of dance styles to create a hybrid urban, hip-hop dance.

- Learn how to describe dance moves and routines in English.
- Develop confidence by performing routines.
- Lessons include a warm-up, technical exercises and short routines with two qualified dance teachers.

Students may bring their own dance shoes, but all sessions can be performed barefoot or in socks.

Age	12 to 16 years old
Activity Sessions	7.5 hours per week in 3 sessions
Group size	8 students per instructor
English Lessons	15 hours of experiential English per week
English Level	A2 – C1
Dates	28th June to 26th July 2025



Surfing

Enjoy surfing at some of the best beaches in Britain with qualified and experienced surfing instructors.

- Follow the British Surfing Association Junior Athletes award scheme.
- Learn to surf or improve skills at the nearby Woolacombe or Croyde beaches.
- Learn and develop techniques for paddling, reading and catching waves, standing up and controlling the board.
- Improve confidence in the water and learn specialist surfing vocabulary.

Age 10 to 17 years old

Activity Sessions 2 or 3 sessions per week, 3 hours each

Group size 8 students per instructor

English Lessons 15 or 18 hours of experiential English per week

English Level A2 – C1

Dates Available all year



Tennis

Tennis is not just a fun sport. It's also great for learning life lessons that extend beyond the court including sportsmanship, self-discipline and independence.

- Coaching with Lawn Tennis Association qualified coaches and practice sessions with fellow students.
- Learn specialist tennis vocabulary.
- Learn and develop tennis techniques.
- Improve confidence and teamwork skills.



Students may bring their own rackets.

Age 6 to 17 years old

Activity Sessions 2 or 3 sessions per week, 2.5 hours each

Group size 6 students per instructor

English Lessons 15 or 18 hours of experiential English per week

English Level A2 – C1

Dates Available all year

NEW 2025



Easter Programme 12th - 26th April 2025

This programme offers an exciting blend of education and sports, giving students the unique opportunity to learn while exploring the beautiful Devon countryside. Whether students are looking to improve their English, discover the history of the region, or enjoy an active holiday, the Easter programme is designed to provide a balanced experience that caters to both body and mind.

£875
per week

Optional
Tennis or
Horse Riding


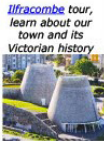





Choose
1 week or
2 weeks

COURSE AIMS

- Improve English Language skills, through immersive learning and cultural experiences.
- Promote physical well-being and teamwork through a variety of sports activities.
- Provide a supportive, family-like environment with our friendly host families.
- Have a better understanding of the British way of life.
- Learn about people from other cultures.
- Develop personal and social skills.

What's Included?

- Full board with our lovely local Homestays
- 15 hours of English lessons per week, with end of the course certificate
- Airport transfers to and from London Heathrow

	Saturday 12 th	Sunday 13 th	Monday 14 th	Tuesday 15 th	Wednesday 16 th	Thursday 17 th	Good Friday 18 th	Saturday 19 th	Easter Sunday
09:00 to 12:30	Land at the airport and arrive in Ilfracombe	11:30 School induction (1 hour). Host Family will bring you to school.	English Classes (x3) (Each lesson is one hour)	English Classes (x3) (Each lesson is one hour)	English Classes (x3) (Each lesson is one hour)	English Classes (x3) (Each lesson is one hour)	09:00 Daytrip to Cathedral City of Exeter		
12:30 to 13:30			Lunch on site	Lunch on site	Lunch on site	Lunch on site			
13:30 to 17:00	Host families pick up	Spend afternoon and evening with host family, settle in, and build a relationship with the family members	Ilfracombe tour , learn about our town and its Victorian history 	English Classes (x3) (Each lesson is one hour)	Surfing 	Arlington Court, Regency House and Carriage Collection , learn about the Victorians! 	Return at 17:00	Free day – we can organise the day trip (additional cost not included in the price)	Family day Stay at home and practice your English with your host family
19:00 to 21:30	Dinner with your host family, unpack, settle in, learn how to walk to school		Garden Barbecue and Tennis play at Channel School 	Air Extreme 	Stay at home and practice your English with your host family	Magical walk from the Landmark Theatre to Hillsborough 	Stay at home and practice your English with your host family		



£300
per TERM

Guardianship Services

We offer a friendly and professional guardianship service for our students studying in independent boarding schools in the South West of the UK.

- We liaise closely with the school regarding academic progress and as required will attend on your behalf at parent's evenings and open events
- Provide advice and access to academic advisors and tutors if required
- Ensure a dedicated Host family for exeat weekends and half terms as needed. We visit every family we work with at their home, they are interviewed and vetted by Country Cousins, including two references and a full security check through the UK Home Office. You will receive a visit report.
- We always ensure that there is an opportunity to visit the Host family if you are visiting the UK or will organise a Video chat if you are not but would like to talk to them directly
- 24/7 emergency response service for support for your child, you or their school.
- Transport and travel arrangements as required



£755
per week

Academic Placements

We have seen that for students who attend Channel School of English, complete immersion in an English school is often the next natural step. The minimum level of English is B1. Students must be between 12 and 16 years old.

Country Cousins can arrange for students to spend a term or a year at a local college or secondary school in North Devon, studying subjects within the English National Curriculum.

Students can board at the private school or stay with a host family as day students, with Country Cousins acting as guardians. The minimum course length is 3 weeks.

Since this is a very personalised and tailor-made programme, please contact Maribel at maribel@country-cousins.com for more information.





Family holidays & Mini Learners Programmes

This is a fantastic opportunity for parents to give their children the chance to learn a new language and make new friends from all over the world while they relax in a safe and beautiful town in the South West of England

Students aged 6 to 8 must stay with their parents in a holiday apartment (we can recommend a few apartments that have been very popular so far). Mini Learners aged 9 & 10 can stay with either one of our host families or with their parents privately in a holiday apartment.

Parents can enjoy one full-day excursion per week and 3 afternoon activities per week to spend together with their children, so that everyone can make the most of their stay in North Devon. The cost for each adult that participates in the weekly programme is £165.

What's Included for the Mini Learners?

- Door to door transportation to and from our homestays
- Small class sizes for more personalized attention and focused learning
- Engaging lessons designed specifically for young learners.
- Fun and educational activities to practice English in real-life settings.
- Extra supervision ratios

Mini Learners' lessons are in the morning, so that parents can get some rest.

Prices

without homestay accommodation:

Activity Programme	Weekly Price	Ages	Dates
Adventure Sports	£963	10	14th June to 16th August
Exploring Devon	£781	6-10	
Horse Riding	£963	8-10	
Surfing	£963	10	
Tennis	£831	6-10	

July	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekend
Breakfast						
9am - 12.30pm	🏠 English Classes	🏠 English Classes	🚢 🚗 🗑️ Daytrip to Butlins Aquatic & Attraction Park	🏠 English Classes	🏠 English Classes	Saturdays are free with optional activities
Lunch break				Lunch break		
1.30pm - 5pm	🎾 Ball games at Woolacombe Beach	🏠 English Classes		🌳 Combe Martin Wildlife Park	🏰 Watermouth Castle	Sundays are Family days. Spend them with your host family practising your English
Dinner						
7.30pm - 10pm	★ International Sports	Stay at home and speak English with your family	★ Disco	★ Talent show	Stay at home and speak English with your family	



BBQs on Mondays to welcome new students



International disco



Group at Wells Cathedral



Beautiful countryside walks

Evening activities for all

Country Cousins offers a wide range of morning, afternoon and evening activities including:

- Sports
- Competitions
- BBQs
- Karaoke
- Film evenings
- Quizzes
- Discos
- Talent shows

Every Monday we welcome new students and there is always a social evening to give new arrivals a chance to get to know each other and meet other students already at the school.



Frequent visits to popular attractions



Skating konga

Day trips for all

- Butlins Aquatic Park
- Dunster Castle & Village
- Exmoor National Park
- Lynton and Lynmouth
- King Arthur's Castle at Tintagle and Boscastle village
- Milky Way theme park
- Paignton Zoo
- Plymouth Aquarium and boat trip
- Wells Cathedral and Clarks Village
- Cathedral & University City of Exeter

"People are very friendly, I did this trip with my best friend and it was very cool."

Carmen, German, aged 14



What's included

Country Cousins' fees are on a 'per student per week' basis and include:

- English lessons (tuition fees cover 15 or 18 hours per week and each lesson lasts 60 minutes).
- All course and teaching materials.
- Accurate placement testing.
- Country Cousins wristband and end of course certificate of attendance.
- Full board accommodation with an English Host Family, including packed lunches at the school during weekdays.
- Student welfare and support 24 hours a day.
- One fully supervised day trip and two or three half day activities per week.
- Entrance fees for all museums and attractions.
- Three fully supervised evening activities per week.
- Supervision during all activities.
- Free Country Cousins buses to and from the outlying areas of Ilfracombe.
- Loans of sports equipment.
- Free Wi-Fi with parental controls at Channel School of English.

Booking

Bookings can be made by contacting your local Country Cousins agent or at www.country-cousins.com

Once your booking is confirmed, we will send you confirmation details, host family information and pre-arrival information.

More

You can find out much more about us by visiting www.country-cousins.com

Bicclescombe Park
Ilfracombe
North Devon
EX34 8JN
England

Tel: 00 44 1271 862834

Email: help@country-cousins.com



Follow us...



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Premier English Educational Holidays since 1951