

Exchange Schemes for young farmers in Ireland

Equipeople Agricultural Work Experience

Scheme name	Equipeople Agricultural Work Experience
Email	info@equipeopleworkexperience.com
Telephone	+353 (0)5786 43195
Website	http://www.equipeopleworkexperience.com/index.html
Exchange objectives	<p>The Equipeople Irish Agricultural Work Experience Programme provides a supported cultural, educational and personal development experience for young Europeans from diverse agricultural backgrounds. Students live as part of an Irish rural family and improve their English language skills at the same time. Placements are available in dairy farms, mixed farms, horses, agro-tourism and agro-home and landscaping. The main objective of the scheme is to give the young people an experience of a different way of life, rather than being directly focused on the take up or transfer of agricultural practices or knowledge (which is a secondary benefit of the scheme, rather than an aim). Many of the visitors have never travelled outside of their own region or country, and particularly with French exchange students the scheme aims to prepare them for marketing and exporting their produce outside of their immediate locality in the future. The scheme also offers a valuable opportunity for visitors to improve their English language, which can help support the prospects of agricultural students, particularly those from France who tend to have a lower level of spoken English.</p> <p>Students are required to help with all aspects of the daily running of the farm such as looking after animals, milking, cleaning out animal houses, general maintenance and repair work and all work consistent with the running of a modern farm. Students are paid a small income and are provided with meals and accommodation (normally, non-Irish students visit Ireland).</p>
Target groups	Individual students or school/college groups – often from other EU countries
Group determination	All of the target group are young people who have a requirement to undertake some work experience as part of their agricultural studies/ course. The average age is 17. Most of the participants will have a background in agriculture, and may have grown up on a family farm. A smaller proportion is pursuing agriculture or some aspect of it as a career with limited background experience. The scheme caters for both individual students and tailored school groups.
Number of participants	650 host families across Ireland are part of the scheme. The number of participants varies according to the year.
Destination(s)	Mainly Ireland (Although some support provided for visits to Austria and France)



Scheme name	Equipeople Agricultural Work Experience
Duration of an exchange	1 month for school groups and a minimum of 3 months for individuals
Funding source	Finances to coordinate the scheme are provided by the fees paid by participants at the outset of the scheme.
Insurance	Covered by schools/volunteers etc.
Assistance in travel etc.	Yes, support is offered by the organisation.
Language conditions	No conditions for participation exist in relation to language. One of the objectives of the scheme is for participants to increase their understanding of English.

Farm Relief Services Memorial Scholars

Scheme name	Farm Relief Services Memorial Scholars
Email	macra@macra.ie
Telephone	+353 (0)1 426 8900
Website	http://www.macra.ie/
Target groups	Agricultural college students
Group determination	Open to all enrolled in agricultural education.
Destination(s)	may vary
Duration of an exchange	6 months

Stephen Cullinan Scholarship

Scheme name	Stephen Cullinan Scholarship
Email	macra@macra.ie
Telephone	+353 (0)1 426 8900
Website	http://www.macra.ie/
Exchange objectives	<p>This scholarship enables young farmers to visit New Zealand to gain experience of alternative methods of farming in the dairy sector. The scholarship winners receive a return travel ticket to New Zealand and a guarantee of six-months' work.</p> <p>New Zealand is similar to Ireland in that there is a focus on grass and low cost production methods in the dairy sector. However, around this system, alternative methods are used in New Zealand and applicants have the opportunity to gain experience of these alternative approaches in practice. The host farms selected come from the top 10% of dairy farms in the country.</p>
Target groups	Applicants must be members of the Young Farmers Association Ireland and have completed 1 year in an Agricultural College or hold a Green Cert in Farming i.e. they must be qualified young farmers. (This is essential for visa purposes).
Group determination	Between 18 and 30
Number of participants	2
Recruitment	The exchange is advertised on the Young Farmers Association Ireland website and it is also advertised in the Farmers Journal for 3 to 4 weeks before the deadline. Applicants should complete a very straightforward application form. The key information relates to how the applicant thinks the exchange will benefit them. A selection of applicants is invited to a 30-minute interview.



Scheme name	Stephen Cullinan Scholarship
Destination(s)	New Zealand
Duration of an exchange	6 months
Funding source	Agricultural Trust and Irish Farmers Journal
Selection of farmers (guests) and hosts	Effort is made to ensure that host farms are among the best farms in New Zealand.
Insurance	Young Farmers Association Ireland takes out insurance for the applicants.
Assistance in travel etc.	Young Farmers Association Ireland arranges transportation for applicants.
Language conditions	Applicants should speak English.

WWOOF Ireland

Scheme name	WWOOF Ireland
Email	http://www.wwoof.ie/contact
Telephone	00353 27 51254
Website	http://www.wwoof.ie/
Exchange objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To enable people to learn about organic growing techniques;• To enable people to learn about sustainable living, healthier lifestyles and alternative ways of life;• To provide opportunities to learn about life and culture by living with families in countries around the world;• To give practical assistance to producers of organic food;• To give people a chance to meet, talk, learn and exchange views with others in the organic movement.
Group determination	Volunteers with no restriction
Destination(s)	Worldwide