

Our host families

Quality accommodation with experienced hosts

Staying with a host family is a great way to improve your English. Immersion training provides the ideal context to listen to and speak English in an authentic environment, joining in conversations with your hosts and avoiding the temptation to speak to other participants in your native language. There are plenty of opportunities for interaction and language practice at breakfast and in the evenings, as well as at special social events organised by Abbey, such as trips to local sights and meals out at local restaurants and pubs. Your hosts will support your learning and offer you a warm and welcoming window into UK society and culture. Here are some short profiles of a few of our host families:

Jackie and Tony have recently retired from running their own company. Jackie's background is in nursing and Tony's is in IT. They have lived in Malmesbury since 1993 and have been a host family for Abbey Communication for most of that time. Jackie is a keen gardener and cook and Tony likes making things, particularly out of wood. They live in a detached house which they built themselves in 2016.

Mandy and Willie live in a country cottage on the edge of the village of Garsdon. Willie used to be in the RAF and now works in international marketing with frequent trips to Latin America. Mandy has run businesses in horticulture and events. They enjoy gardening, travel, learning languages, tennis, equestrian events, theatre, music and cycling.

David is a semi-retired property manager for a local company. **Josie** used to be an auxiliary nurse at a local hospital. Their interests include swimming, travelling, walking, reading, sports, rugby, cycling and their family. They live in a detached family house, conveniently situated five minutes' walk from the centre of town.

Samantha and Andrew live in a modern house in a quiet part of Malmesbury. Sam is a teacher and herbalist and Andrew works in renewables. Their two teenage children live at home. Their interests include cycling, gardening and walking their two dogs as well as cinema, taekwondo and yoga.

Bonita and Richard live close to the town centre in a large family house with a garden going down to the River Avon. Richard is a university lecturer and Bonita is an apprenticeship manager. Their many interests include travel, sport, walking, leading youth groups, theatre and film. Their two sons have moved away but their daughter Katharine still lives at home.

Sonia is a retired legal secretary who lives in a large house in Malmesbury, about five minutes' walk from the town centre. Her partner, Nick, who runs his own business, sometimes stays at the house which is in a quiet location and surrounded by a large garden. Sonia enjoys horse riding, tennis, singing, concerts, Scottish dancing and outdoor activities.

English immersion training in the UK

+44 1666 825 060

Expert trainers

Experienced in business, highly qualified and proficient in Abbey's unique methodology, our training team will help you acquire the language skills you need for your job and professional career.

Welcoming host families

Our hosts are known to us personally, are familiar with our methods and provide an additional 20+ hours of social conversation per week. They are selected to provide a high standard of meals, accommodation and attention.

Relaxing rural location

Malmesbury is a beautiful and ancient town in the south west of England, within easy reach of London and Bristol airports and mainline railway stations.

Immersion living in a UK family house

Discover authentic British language, culture and customs by experiencing day-to-day life in a local household

Host families are an essential part of our training method, and an advantage of our small-town location is that we know them all personally. They are carefully selected to provide a very high standard of comfort, meals and attention, adding about 20 hours of conversational practice each week – contributing to your training by extending the range of subjects you discuss.

Staying with a host family is a relaxed, enjoyable yet intensive approach to language learning. In addition to your training at Abbey Communication, returning home in the evening to your hosts will provide you with an invaluable opportunity to practise your communication skills and develop your Social English vocabulary.

You will experience first-hand the lifestyle and cuisine of your hosts, joining them in everyday activities and routines such as shopping trips, family excursions and even dog walks, while spending the evenings together eating meals, playing games or watching TV. Throughout your stay, you will be not just a visitor but a valued addition to the personal and domestic life of the household.

A recent audit showed 100% of course participants rating our hosts as good, very good or excellent. Of these, over 96% of ratings were very good or excellent.

“I really enjoyed the location and the people”

Florence, Autoneum, France

“You were very flexible to my needs”

Kosuke, NYK, Japan

“I really enjoyed the location and the people”

Florence, Autoneum, France

“You have a very good team, each person is different”

Emanuelle, Sika, France

Your training choice

Abbey's unique methodology

We provide a relaxed and supportive learning environment where you will be encouraged to speak English immediately, both within the training centre and after-hours. Our activities are designed to help you use language spontaneously and to communicate confidently and with authority.

Our intensive immersion programmes are often seen as complementary to other learning methods and are frequently undertaken as part of a 'blended' learning package, perhaps involving online training or study in your home country.

Learning English with Abbey

- A relaxed and welcoming training environment in a small-town location
- Courses designed around the language needs of the participant
- Opportunity to enjoy one-to-one tuition and contribute in a small group
- Expert tuition from professional trainers with extensive business experience
- A strong focus on practical language skills to increase job effectiveness
- Full immersion in UK culture through social activities and host family interaction

Contact us +44 1666 825 060
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