

Service and Emotional Support Animal Policy and Procedures



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Definitions

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FIE defines assistance (service) dogs, emotional support animals, and pets as follows:

An assistance (service) dog is an animal that is specifically trained to assist an individual with a disability. In order to be considered an assistance dog, the animal would need to be trained by one of the member organisations of Assistance Dogs (UK) or an international equivalent. The animal should be appropriately identified with a harness or lead, and identification should be carried.

An Emotional Support Animal is a companion animal that provides a presence, comfort, emotional support and or/alleviates symptoms for an individual with a disability or mental health condition.

A pet is an animal kept for general companionship or pleasure.

Accessibility Policy and Procedures

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In line with FIE's articulated values, FIE is committed to Diversity and Inclusivity, and accessibility.

FIE endeavours to make reasonable adjustments but may not be able to accommodate all individual needs or circumstances.

Students can make requests for academic, housing, or internship/experiential education accommodations due to a disability, physical or mental health reasons, or for another reason, at the application stage via MyStudyAbroad@FIE. Any questions relating to accessibility can be directed to the Director of Administration and Accessibility, who can liaise with FIE Dublin staff as and when needed.

Staff can make requests for adjustments via the appropriate HR channels. Faculty can make requests via FIE's Academic Team (London) or FIE Dublin Team. Visiting faculty and site staff can make requests via their pre-arrival questionnaires (London) or FIE Dublin Team, and visitors via liaison with FIE's Administration Team (London) or FIE Dublin Team.

Service and Emotional Support Animal Policy

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With regard to animals, it is FIE's policy that animals will not be permitted to accompany individuals on FIE's programmes, or to enter FIE's facilities, including teaching spaces and residential accommodation.

An exception to this is registered assistance (service) dogs, e.g. guide dogs (see definition above).

Please note that Emotional Support Animals do not have the same legal status as assistance (service) animals in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Pets and emotional support animals will not be permitted to accompany individuals on FIE programmes, and will not generally be permitted to enter FIE facilities.

Assistance (service) dogs

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If a student would like to request that their assistance (service) dog accompanies them on an FIE programme, the request should be made well in advance so that any needs can be discussed, including appropriate housing. FIE will determine whether or not the request can be reasonably accommodated, and will work with the student to make a good, informed decision.

Requests will be coordinated on a case by case basis by the Director of Administration and Accessibility, in collaboration with relevant FIE colleagues and external partners including, but not limited to:

- FIE Dublin Team and Academic Partners
- FIE Facilities Team
- FIE Residence Life Team
- FIE Academic and Experiential Education Teams
- AMIDEAST
- External Housing Partners
- Internship Placement Sites

Students would need to provide documentation relating to their disability, and their dog's registration and training. Considerations will also be given to the size and type of the animal, any threat posed to others, the welfare of the animal, and allergies of other stakeholders.

Travelling Internationally

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The student would be required to fully research regulations relating to travelling internationally with their dog, and any quarantine laws. Pre-planning is required. Useful resources include:

- <http://www.miusa.org/resource/tipsheet/serviceanimal>
- <https://www.gov.uk/take-pet-abroad/guide-dogs>
- <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/pets/bringingyourpetcatdogorferretintoireland/>

General expectations relating to animals

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Where an animal is permitted to accompany an individual on an FIE programme, or to enter FIE facilities, the following requirements/responsibilities will apply:

- Students are expected to, as far as reasonably possible, fully participate in all academic and experiential (including co-curricular) components of their programme
- The owner assumes full responsibility for their animal
- The animal must be under the control of their owner at all times and not pose a risk, or nuisance to others. The animal should be kept on a lead if needed
- The animal must be in good health, be housebroken, have the appropriate vaccinations, and be adequately groomed
- Good behaviour must be ensured
- The owner will be responsible for any damage
- The owner will be responsible for the animal while relieving themselves, and any subsequent clean up required
- The owner is responsible for ensuring that the animal is covered by appropriate liability insurance
- The owner is responsible for the wellbeing of their animal, including their nutritional and medical needs whilst abroad
- Any access restrictions stipulated by FIE should be adhered to
- Other members of the FIE community will not be permitted to feed, pet, distract or startle the animal