

## Cours d'été

### How to choose a first-class course (in summer)

<b>Is the school multi-national ?</b>	If you're surrounded by other students who speak your native language, you will not have the opportunity to speak English socially. So you will need to check how many students from any one country will be attending the course
<b>Is accommodation residential, homestay or host family ?</b>	You need to decide which accommodation is best for you. Things to consider are: How much English speaking practice will you get ? Will you experience British life and culture ? Is there enough supervision and security ?
<b>Are the students properly cared for ?</b>	Compare the staff-student ratio. Examine the details of insurance included in the fee. Do teachers live at the school to watch over the students ?
<b>Is the English teaching programme innovative ?</b>	You will not be very happy if you get exactly the same sort of lessons as at home. There should be language and activity courses, and projects to make the course more interesting and entertaining.
<b>How good is the extra-curricular programme ?</b>	Is there a comprehensive sports programme ? Are there alternatives to sport ? Are there excursions ?
<b>Is there a quality guarantee ?</b>	If the school is not 'recognised' by any scheme, such as the British Council, you won't have a guarantee of quality, and so you will need to check whether the school has a good reputation

(from: The Guardian Weekly , May 19 1996)