

Smile Days: Frequently Asked Questions

Where will I be working?

Smile Days Summer School is based in the North East of Italy, mainly in the Veneto and Venetia regions. You, and other Smile teachers, will be teaching in primary and secondary schools. The schools are usually, although not exclusively, in small villages or towns.

Where will I be staying?

Smile Days will provide accommodation and food. Smile teachers usually stay with host families; children of whom will attend the Summer School. Occasionally, not enough host families are available: in such circumstances, Smile will provide board and lodge in a local hotel.

Food and accommodation?

DURING THE TRAINING: accommodation and breakfast, dinner at buffet are provided

DURING THE WORKING WEEKS: accommodation and food is provided till the last day of work on Saturday morning. Please CONSIDER that you are guest and that you live with kind people that are proud to give you a good hospitality. Please respect their life style and habits and **behave you politely and properly.**

Who will I be teaching?

Students may be aged 8 – 13. Classes will be divided based on age and level of language; you will typically have between ten and fourteen students in your class. Lessons are from 9 to 12, with a break from 10,30 to 11. A book to follow is provided, that's the same the kids have.

Sports and games

From 13,30 to 14,30 you can rehearse the show, after it sports and games are the main activities in the afternoons. Please come with several ideas to entertain and play with the kids!!

Can I tell a friend about Smile? Who can apply?

Of course! Tutors don't have to be from Cambridge or be undergrads, grads or post-grads. They just have to be over 21 and a native English speaker. It's easier to advertise on the Click emails; but you may find that other Smile tutors are actors who have never been to Uni.

The staff are usually 21 – 25. If you don't think you would enjoy working with people this age and think you are not a good team member, if you are quite lazy and not enthusiastic, if you think that's only a holiday and not work, if you wouldn't cope well with staying with a hospitable family for a week or two, then Smile isn't for you.

Can I work with my friend?

You are welcome to apply with a friend, and to request on your application form that you work together. However, Smile cannot guarantee that you will be together for both the weeks. It is extremely unlikely that you will stay in the same host family together, it's will be easier to work in the same school.

What qualifications do I need?

The ideal Smile Tutor is young, fun and **enthusiastic** and yet has a responsible, mature outlook. For insurance purposes, tutors must be 21 or over, never more than 30. English must be your first language. You do not have to have any teaching experience, but previous **experience** with children is a huge advantage. Knowledge of Italian is not necessary, although a pocket dictionary might be useful – especially when trying to talk to your host family. If you have a flair for sport, drama, music or arts and crafts, please let it know. If you play the guitar, bring it!

Where and when is the training day?

The training will be in Modena on Sunday morning.

A "show"?

The show should be a collaboration between you and your pupils. Brainstorm songs, films, and books to think of what to do. Perhaps work with them to choose the plot of a play, and then you write the script, allotting each child a part with **very short understandable lines to learn** after letting them know the meaning (kids are not parrots!). Each tutor's group should produce something approximately ten minutes long. Two songs, plus one short play to perform with sentences individually would be fine for the little ones. Each class should introduce their part in the show, and if possible give a synopsis in Italian so the parents understand. If possible, a school play can be written. The crazier... the better! A few double entendres for the tutors, parents and older siblings makes for a great Saturday morning. Think pantomime combined with Top of the Pops.

Is there a website? Yes, the Smile website that's mainly for the Italian teachers. but just to have an idea www.smilemodena.com

How can I be contacted? At the Smile head office in Modena; you were given the phone number and address. These details are on the contracts we have sent out.

What should I take?

- A copy of your flight tickets (and/or any other travel expenses you incurred whilst in Italy, working for Smile).
- A signed copy of the contract filled in + all complete bank details.
- An adapter plug if you take electrical appliances
- **A small backpack/suitcase containing:** Swimming gear and sun cream, towel; Summer clothes (dress properly in the school, please no low-necked small T-shirts!) and just one jumper... it will be really very hot!!; trainers or some casual shoes you can wear for the afternoon activities

Basically, be flexible for the weather (still quite hot!!) and what your host family may offer you. One set of smart clothes is a good idea.

You're teaching children in schools and live with families and in small villages, so please **dress and behave appropriately**