

Local Area Information for Maitri Studio

You are very welcome to Maitri Studio Belfast. We hope this information is useful and provides what you need to make your visit as easy and pleasant as possible. If you have any questions, please contact Claire, Kate or Lucie on (0044) (0)28 9099 2428 or info@maitristudio.net.

FACILITIES

Maitri Studio is equipped with mats, blocks, bricks, blanket, belts & chairs. There are three large studios, an office and four toilets. There is a kitchen with microwave, fridge, kettle and large hot water urn for bigger groups, as well as a small kitchenette downstairs, and there is crockery/cutlery for guest use. We also have dispensing flasks for hot water, tables, projector & screen, bluetooth speakers and more. Ask us and we might have it! Our accessibility information is available on our website FAQ. There is no lift but we do have one ground floor room.

EATING NEAR THE STUDIO

If you want to pop out for food from the studio there is a nearby Russell's shop on the Albertbridge Rd. During the week the Seasons café is at The Mount conference centre 8am-3pm and 5 minutes' walk in the other direction is the Courtyard café at Templemore Baths (m-f 9am-7pm, sat 9am-3pm). At the weekend there are cafés along the Cregagh/Woodstock Rd, Beersbridge Rd and Connswater but a longer walk (20mins) so harder to fit into a 1hr lunch break. We can also recommend caterers if you wish to have food brought in.

OUR LOCATION

Maitri Studio, 4 The Mount, Belfast BT5 4NA – a simplified map is shown below and a Google map is available on the website www.maitristudio.net. Our Google maps location is accurate.



By car

The studio is on a main route into Belfast easily accessible by car. Street parking is available on The Mount, or on Castlereagh Street. There is a Google map on the website www.maitristudio.net. **Do not park in the Mount Conference Centre car park.**

By bicycle

We're not far from the Connswater and Comber Greenways which intersect at CS Lewis square, just a couple of minutes from us. We're close to the cycle path along the Lagan. Cyclists use the pavement to cross Albert Bridge and the busy junction with Ravenhill/Woodstock Roads.

Buses

Translink Metro bus lines 4, 5 and 6 and the Glider all stop near the studio – see separate parking map pdf. Ask for The Mount conference centre – the studio is behind the conference centre on the street called The Mount.

Trains

Maitri Studio is 10 minutes' walk from Belfast Lanyon, just off the map above to the west/left of the river. Connecting trains are available to Grand Central Station.

Airports

Belfast is served by two airports.

George Best Belfast City Airport (airport code BHD) is the closest at less than 5 miles from the city centre.

- Translink runs a regular airport service between Belfast City Airport and the city centre. It is route number 600 and the airport stop is just outside the terminal doors. Buses are every 30mins at peak times and the journey is about 10mins. Please check Translink's website for the most up-to-date information, timetables, etc.
- Taxis are metered - expect to pay around £16 to get into town.

Belfast International Airport (airport code BFS) is located around 18 miles away.

- Translink runs a regular airport service between Belfast International and Europa Bus Centre in Belfast city centre. It is route number 300 and the airport stop is just outside the terminal doors. Please check Translink's website for the most up-to-date information, timetables, etc
- Official airport taxis are available outside the terminal at Belfast International. The current fare is around £55-60 to the city centre. Local taxi companies are also available and may be cheaper. Reliable local companies with apps include Value Cabs, Fonacab and Uber.

ACCOMMODATION

There are many hotels and guesthouses around the city to suit all budgets. Those listed have good ratings but I have not stayed in them all personally, although I have had positive reports on all three local guesthouses. Also check trip advisor and booking.com and trivago for the best prices. Many people now use AirBnB but this changes so frequently it's best just to see what's available.

Guesthouses within walking distance/short drive from studio

Roseleigh Guesthouse www.roseleighhouse.co.uk (Google says 38mins walk)

Ravenhill Guesthouse www.ravenhillhouse.com (Google says 38mins walk)

Maranatha Guesthouse www.maranathahouse.com (Google says 15mins walk)

Alma Place Belfast www.novelstudent.com/belfast/alma-place (Google says 34mins walk)

Budget accommodation

Queen's University Elms Village

Ibis Queens Quarter

There are also backpackers'/youth hostels in the City Centre.

Hotels located in Belfast city centre (you should check parking availability) – there are lots! People keep building new ones! All approximately 20-30 mins walk from Maitri, or a few minutes on the bus. Look on booking.com or a search engine.

A couple of our regular teachers also have AirBnB accommodation so when you know your dates, tell us and we can see if there's any availability.

WHERE TO EAT

Restaurants abound in the City Centre, with many promoting local and/or organic or wild Northern Irish produce e.g.:

Home – excellent vegetarian and vegan options

Jumon – low key vegetarian and vegan, also now in CS Lewis Square East Belfast

Holohan's – by Queen's University

The Muddler's Club – fine dining but without any fuss

Near the studio there is Bites of India on Ravenhill Rd, a fantastic local with authentic dishes although their main restaurant is now on Botanic. There are a couple of great coffee / brunch / cake places Kaffe-O, Stereo, Tom's and Ciao. We even have a gorgeous French patisserie & coffee place Lazy Claire's nearby on Castlereagh Rd with a new Filipino place Platito (not so much veggie food).

The Ormeau Rd area is a good place to look, and near to lots of AirBnB accommodation.

Graffiti & The Shed – modern Irish/European,

Macau – Chinese

La Taquería – Mexican

Mama Bobo's - Nigerian

The Errigle, The Pavilion, The Parador - three local pubs with pub grub

Northern Lights – another local pub specializing in real ales with some food

Kaffe-O, District, General Merchant and more for coffee.

East Belfast around the Holywood Arches area and up towards The Strand cinema/Belmont area has expanded on the food & pub front – Kamakura East (sushi and noodles), pop-ups at The Banana Block, Flout! Pizza and Boundary Brewhouse at Portview, Bullhouse East brewery/taproom has pizza, then on up to Ballyhackamore and Belmont with even more choice. We especially like Cyprus Avenue, Il Pirata, Neil's Hill Brasserie and Bistro Este.

You could also try Botanic Avenue, where there is a variety of restaurants including Mexican, Indian, Chinese, Middle Eastern, European, Irish and more.