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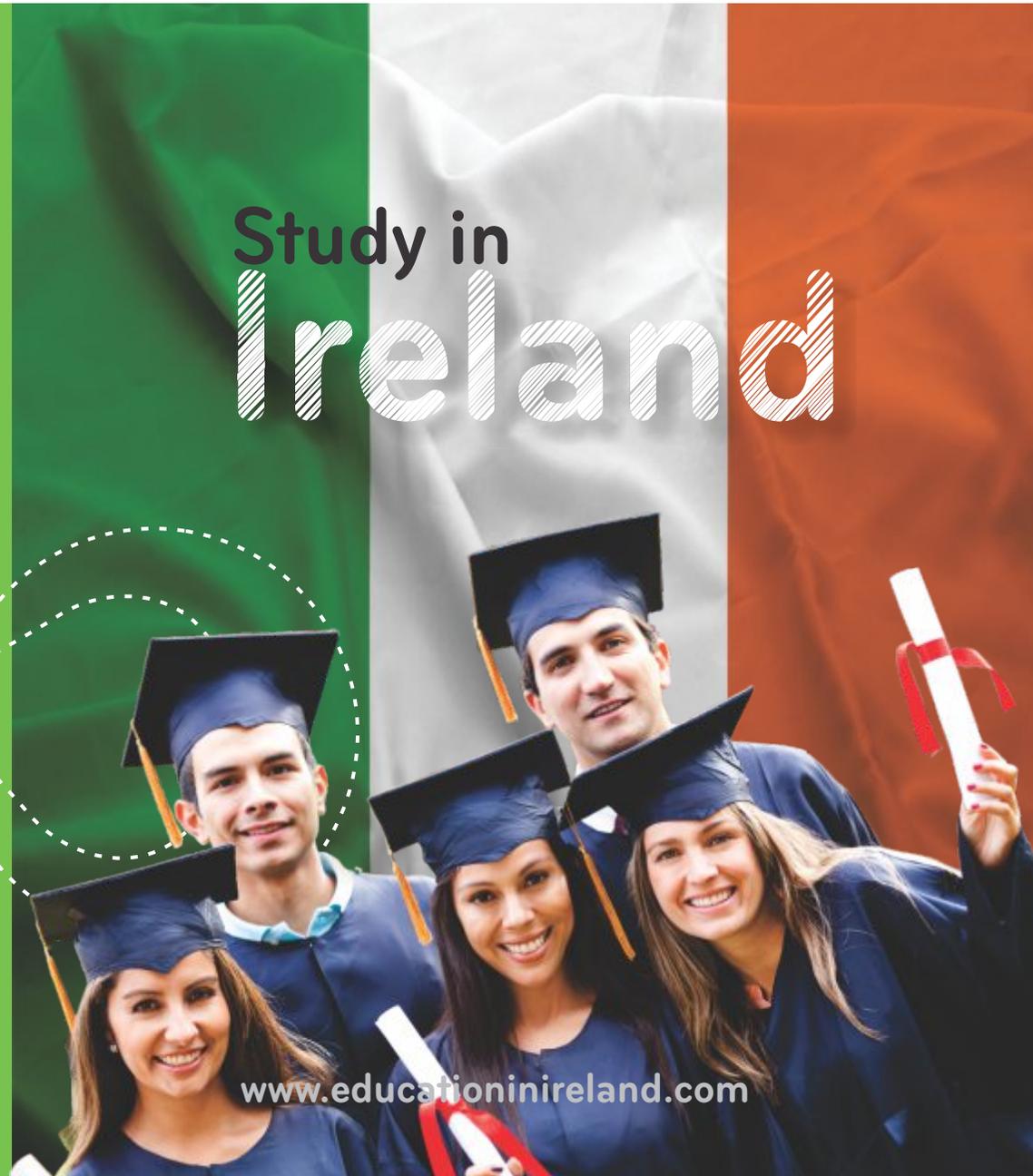
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# Study in Ireland



[www.educationinireland.com](http://www.educationinireland.com)

Welcome To

# Ireland

*Céad Mile Fáilte (Káde Meela Foil Tcha)  
A Thousand Welcomes To International Students*

## Introduction

An English speaking country within the European Union, Ireland has a reputation for natural beauty and friendliness. Ireland is home to more than 1,000 MNCs who run their back office operations out of the country and is just 9 hours by flight from India.

Ireland has many similarities with India and an important one is that like India, Ireland is a young country with 34% of its population under the age of 25 years.

Irish institutions offer a world class educational set up and offer a welcoming environment for Indian students.

## Why should you consider studying in Ireland?

There are many reasons to consider studying in Ireland. The following are some of them.

- World class institutions
- Extensive selection of courses
- High quality Universities and Technical Institutions
- Friendly and welcoming environment
- Gateway into Europe
- Leading Global companies
- Technology hub
- Amazing art and culture scene
- Beautiful and scenic location

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# About Ireland

Ireland's worldwide reputation for high quality education is built on the solid foundation of commitment to excellence. Ireland is a beautiful island, combining contemporary modern cities with an unspoilt countryside, cityscapes steeped in history and a rich natural habitat. Renowned for friendliness, this safe, English speaking country offers the warmest of welcomes to students from all over the world.



## INTERESTING AND FUN FACTS ABOUT IRELAND

1. Ireland is called the Emerald Isle. Listen to Johnny Cash sing about the '40 shades of green' that represent Ireland so well.
2. Irish and Indian flags share the same colours. The Orange stands for the Irish Protestants and the Green for the Irish Catholics. The White stripe is for hope of peace between the two.
3. River Shannon is the longest river in Ireland.
4. Irish capital, Dublin is home to over a quarter of the total population.
5. Ireland is the only country in the world to have a musical instrument for a national symbol: the Celtic Harp.
6. A single day of good weather that pops up in a long stretch of bad days is known in Ireland as a 'pet day'.
7. Ireland is a snake free island.
8. The Anglo-Irish physicist John Tyndall (1820-1893) was the first to prove the Greenhouse Effect and the first to discover why the sky is blue (Tyndall effect).
9. The land in Ireland was not suitable for grain agriculture (except a small part of the South-East) until the introduction of modern machinery and fertilizers in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This is the main reason why the potato became the staple food from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

"I think graduating with a Computer Science degree from a reputable university like UCD opens up a whole world of opportunities to work or study anywhere in the world. Ireland, with its host of IT giants like Google, Microsoft and so on, would be an ideal foundation to kick-start anyone's career."



*Pranav Kashyap Narasimhan,  
Computer Science student at  
University College Dublin.*

## FAST FACTS

Capital city	: Dublin
Total area	: 70, 282 sq km <sup>1</sup>
Population	: 4.61 million <sup>2</sup>
Year of European Union entry:	1973
President	: Michael D. Higgins (Since 11 <sup>th</sup> November, 2011)
Taoiseach (Head of the Irish Government)	: Enda Kenny (Since 9 <sup>th</sup> March, 2011)
GDP	: €174.8 billion (2013 figures) <sup>3</sup>
Currency	: Euro (€)
Major cities by size	: Dublin, Limerick, Cork, Galway, Waterford
Language	: English, Irish Gaelic
Major Sports	: Hurling, Gaelic Football, Soccer, Rugby, Horse racing, Golf, Cycling

<sup>1</sup><http://www.gov.ie/en/essays/geography.html>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.cso.ie/en/index.html>

<sup>3</sup>[http://ec.europa.eu/economy\\_finance/eu/forecasts/2014\\_autumn/ie\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/eu/forecasts/2014_autumn/ie_en.pdf)

10. The term 'boycott' comes from Captain Charles Boycott (1832-1897), the land agent of an absentee landlord from Ulster. In 1880, after refusing to reduce the rents of his employer's tenants, the Irish Land League decided to stop dealing with him. The whole community began to ostracise him to the point where even shops refused to serve him. The Times of London quickly came to use his name as a term for organized isolation, and the word entered the English language.

11. One of the most successful beer brands worldwide, Guinness was once the largest brewery in the world (from 1914), and remains the largest brewer of stout in the world.

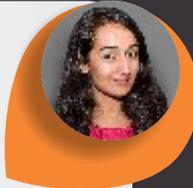
12. Roughly 34.5 million Americans report Irish ancestry and this is 7 times the population of Ireland.

## Famous Irish People

Oscar Wilde  
George Bernard Shaw  
James Joyce  
Pierce Brosnan  
Bono  
Ronan Keating  
Robert Boyle



"I chose Trinity College Dublin due to its ranking in the top 1% of research institutions in the world and because of the range of options available within the medical curriculum. Every lecture, every practical, every aspect of studying at TCD adds to my desire to become a doctor."



Anchal Jain  
Studying Medicine, Trinity College Dublin



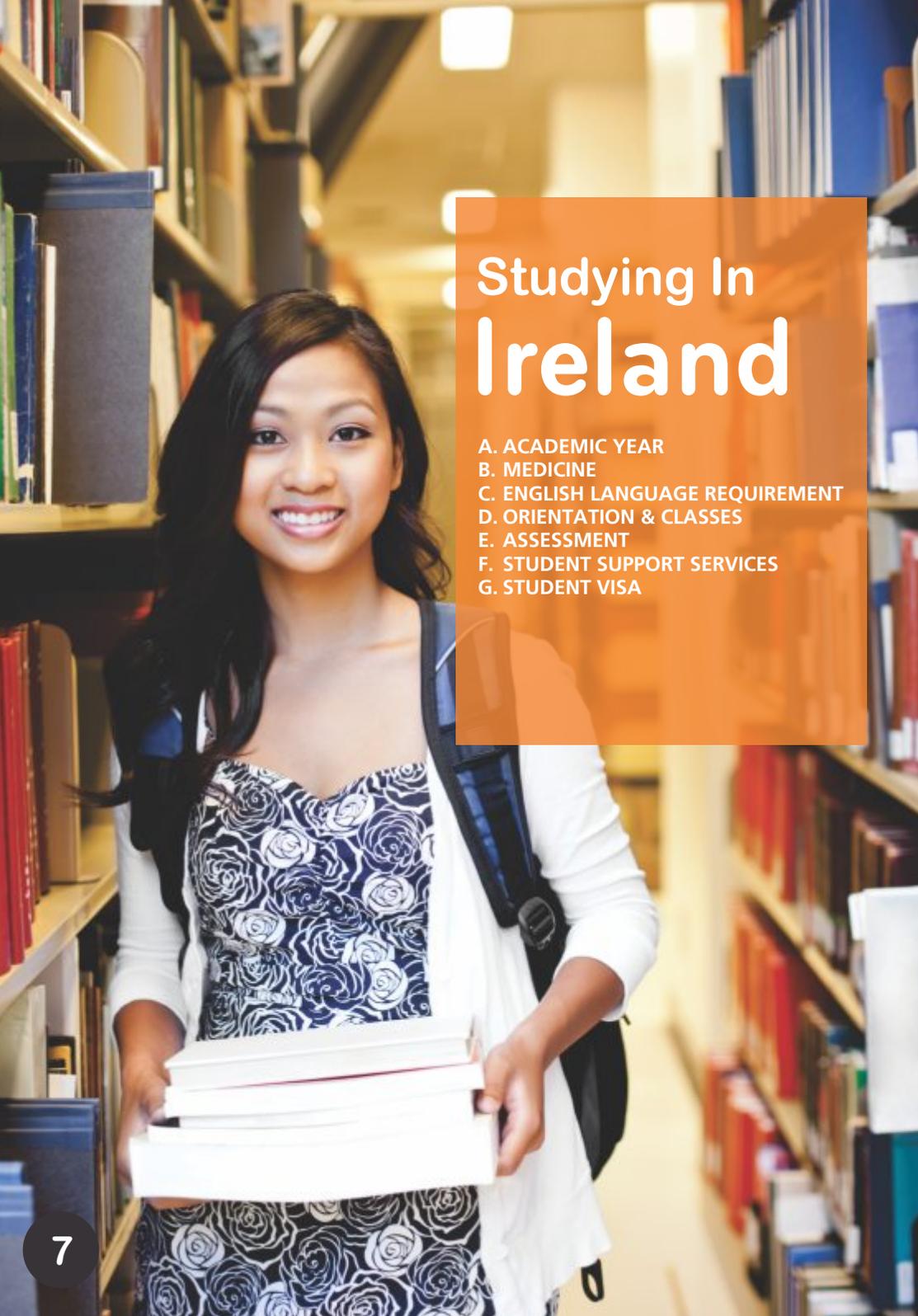
### PROVINCES OF IRELAND

- Leinster
- Munster
- Connacht
- Ulster

### COUNTIES OF IRELAND

- Carlow
- Cavan
- Clare
- Cork
- Donegal
- Dublin
- Galway
- Kerry
- Kildare
- Kilkenny
- Laois
- Leitrim
- Limerick
- Longford
- Louth
- Mayo
- Meath
- Monaghan
- Offaly
- Roscommon
- Sligo
- Tipperary
- Waterford
- Westmeath
- Wexford
- Wicklow





# Studying In Ireland

- A. ACADEMIC YEAR
- B. MEDICINE
- C. ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT
- D. ORIENTATION & CLASSES
- E. ASSESSMENT
- F. STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES
- G. STUDENT VISA

## Academic year

There are 7 universities, 14 Institutes of Technology and several private institutions in Ireland. Visit [www.educationinireland.com](http://www.educationinireland.com) for more information on institutions. The academic session typically runs from September to June and is divided into two or three semesters with holidays in December (Christmas) and March/April (Easter).

## Medicine: GAMSAT

If you are interested in applying for graduate entry medicine, you will need to do the GAMSAT examination. GAMSAT is a specific test developed by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) for medical schools offering graduate-entry programmes.

## English language requirement

All degrees are taught in English and it is expected that students are able to read, write, speak and articulate ideas clearly in English. Being able to use the language fluently is a must to perform in lectures, seminars and examinations. Usually international students are asked to take IELTS or TOEFL examination and produce the score card for assessment by the institution. It is best to check with the institution about their entry criteria.

## Orientation & Classes

Orientation is very important to help you quickly integrate with your institution and understand its various rules. Teaching is a mixture of lectures with tutorials, practical demonstrations and laboratory work (depends on the course). The institution will provide you with valuable information to help you study and live in Ireland. Most institutions organize an orientation week to ease you into the institution structure, governance, campus layout,

student associations and clubs.

Lectures in Ireland vary in terms of sizes and specialization depending on what course you have taken. For example, if two students are pursuing different degrees in economics and marketing, they may both have a shared lecture on the principles of business during the initial year of their course and a more general lecture which may be attended by other students pursuing similar fields such as marketing. At postgraduate level, lecture sizes tend to be smaller. Throughout the course, there will be tutorials alongside lectures, with smaller, more personal interactions with the lecturer available to the student to ask questions. In many cases, a certain level of attendance for tutorials is mandatory. At postgraduate level, students are also expected to spend ample time in self study and reflection.

## Assessment

Assessment will vary once again from course to course, but the trend is that the overall grade will be based on a mixture of handed in assignments, practical projects, end of term exams as well as the highly weighted final exams towards the end of the academic year.

## Student Support Services

Irish institutions provide students with information on orientation, academic progression, pastoral care, accommodation and academic/administrative contact. Institutions offer support to ensure that you adjust to your new life in Ireland. There are designated staff members at institution that you can turn to for help and guidance. The Irish have a huge maternal side and love to

welcome or 'mother' new guests. If staying with a host family, you're sure to be treated as one of the family. If not, there's always a greeting or a helping hand just around the corner.

#### Student visa

Students who wish to study in Ireland can apply for their visa online well in advance and allow up to eight weeks for their application to be processed. In your application you will be asked to supply the following information:

- Printed and signed summary from online application
- **Valid passport:** A passport with at least 6 months validity after the expected completion of your studies in Ireland.
- **Evidence of course:** A Letter of Acceptance from the institution, confirming you have been accepted and enrolled on a course of full-time education, involving a minimum of 15 hours organised daytime study each week.
- **Ability to follow your chosen course:** You have to provide evidence that you have the academic ability to follow your chosen course.
- **Level of English:** English proficiency is compulsory. IELTS or TOEFL scores are acceptable.
- **Approval in Principle Scheme (AIP):** Under this scheme, applicants for a study visa from India, who have been accepted on to a University course, Institute of Technology course or QQI (Quality and Qualifications Ireland) approved course, can apply for a study visa without having to pay the requisite college fees in advance.
- Fees need only be paid when the visa application has been approved. Once evidence of the fee has been submitted to the Visa Office, Irish

Embassy, New Delhi, the visa will be issued.

- The evidence of the fee can be a copy of the electronic transfer of funds showing the details of the beneficiary's name, address, bank details and the same details for the sender or a valid receipt showing that the course fees have been lodged to an approved fee payment service like EduStep ([www.educationbondireland.com](http://www.educationbondireland.com)).
- Please check with your Irish Education provider as to whether or not your course is QQI approved. This is also detailed on the Internationalisation Register of the Department of Education in Ireland.
- **Fees:** Where the course fee is less than €6,000, fees must be paid in full to the college, prior to applying for the visa. Evidence of the amount paid should be included in the Letter of Acceptance from the college. Where the course fee is in excess of €6,000, the applicant must pay at least €6,000 prior to applying for their visa, and evidence of this should be shown in the Letter of Acceptance. This minimum amount is an immigration requirement. However, the college you wish to attend may require full payment of fees.
- **Private Medical Insurance:** Every student should have full private medical insurance.
- **Applicant's self-sufficiency:** Applicants must provide evidence that they have sufficient funds to support their stay in Ireland, including emergencies, without recourse to State funds.
- **For more details, you can visit**

## HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS THAT COME UNDER THE EDUCATION IN IRELAND BRAND (2014)

### UNIVERSITIES

Dublin City University  
Maynooth University  
NUI Galway  
Trinity College Dublin  
University College Cork  
University College Dublin  
University of Limerick

### URL

[www.dcu.ie](http://www.dcu.ie)  
[www.maynoothuniversity.ie](http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie)  
[www.nuigalway.ie](http://www.nuigalway.ie)  
[www.tcd.ie](http://www.tcd.ie)  
[www.ucc.ie](http://www.ucc.ie)  
[www.ucd.ie](http://www.ucd.ie)  
[www.ul.ie](http://www.ul.ie)

### INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY

Athlone Institute of Technology  
Cork Institute of Technology  
Dublin Institute of Technology  
Dundalk Institute of Technology  
Galway Mayo Institute of Technology  
Institute of Art, Design & Technology  
Institute of Technology Blanchardstown  
Institute of Technology Carlow  
Institute of Technology Sligo  
Institute of Technology Tallaght  
Institute of Technology Tralee  
Letterkenny Institute of Technology  
Limerick Institute of Technology  
Waterford Institute of Technology

[www.ait.ie](http://www.ait.ie)  
[www.cit.ie](http://www.cit.ie)  
[www.dit.ie](http://www.dit.ie)  
[www.dkit.ie](http://www.dkit.ie)  
[www.gmit.ie](http://www.gmit.ie)  
[www.iadt.ie](http://www.iadt.ie)  
[www.itb.ie](http://www.itb.ie)  
[www.itcarlow.ie](http://www.itcarlow.ie)  
[www.itsligo.ie](http://www.itsligo.ie)  
[www.ittdublin.ie](http://www.ittdublin.ie)  
[www.ittralee.ie](http://www.ittralee.ie)  
[www.lyit.ie](http://www.lyit.ie)  
[www.lit.ie](http://www.lit.ie)  
[www.wit.ie](http://www.wit.ie)

### SPECIALIST COLLEGES

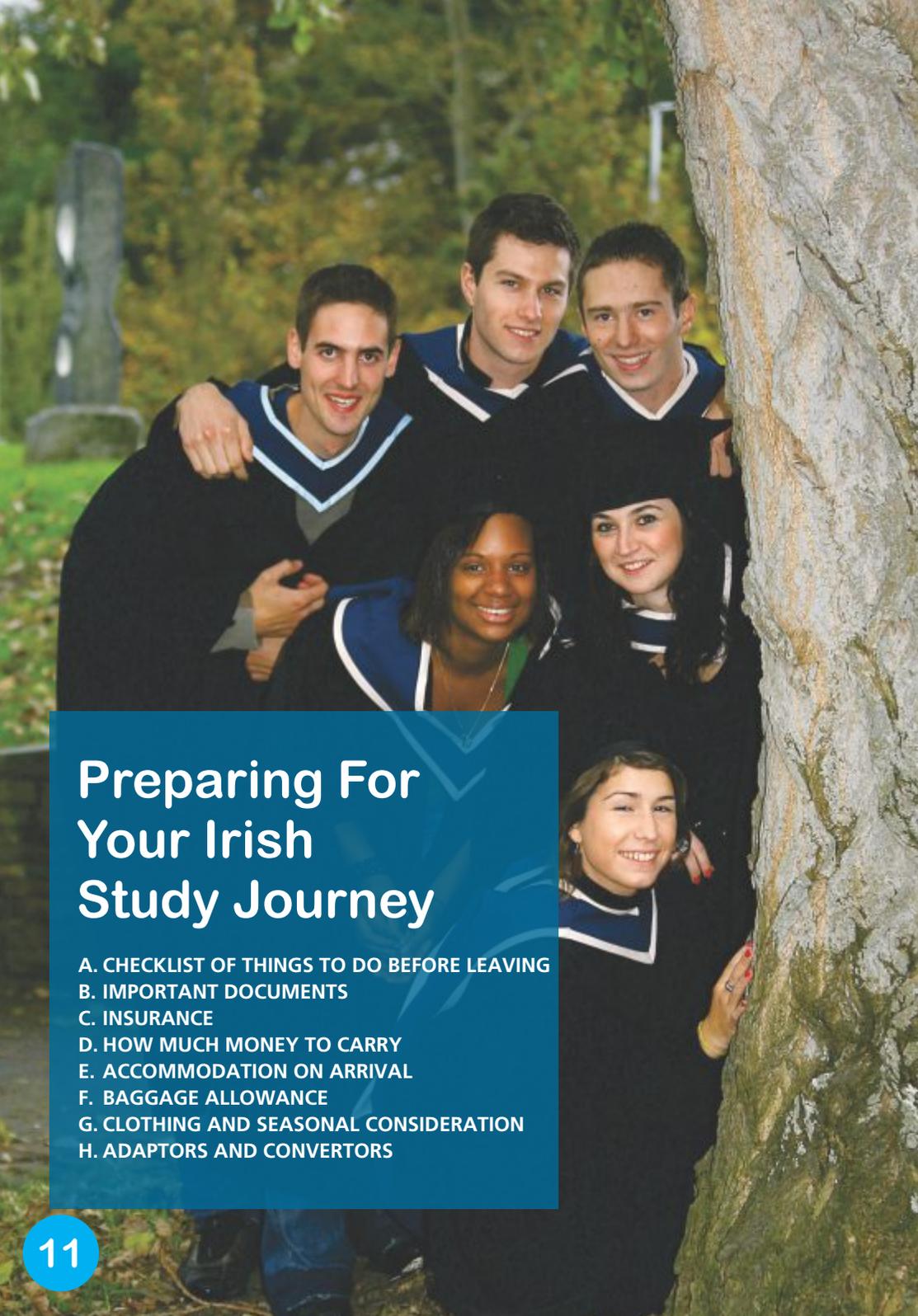
National College of Art and Design  
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland  
Shannon College of Hotel Management  
Uversity  
Mary Immaculate College

[www.ncad.ie](http://www.ncad.ie)  
[www.rcsi.ie](http://www.rcsi.ie)  
[www.shannoncollege.ie](http://www.shannoncollege.ie)  
[www.uversity.org](http://www.uversity.org)  
[www.mic.ul.ie/](http://www.mic.ul.ie/)

### PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Dublin Business School  
Griffith College  
Hibernia College  
IBAT College  
ICD Business School  
Independent College Dublin  
National College of Ireland

[www.dbs.ie](http://www.dbs.ie)  
[www.griffith.ie](http://www.griffith.ie)  
[http://hiberniacollege.com/](http://http://hiberniacollege.com/)  
[www.ibat.ie](http://www.ibat.ie)  
[www.icd.ie](http://www.icd.ie)  
[www.independentcolleges.ie](http://www.independentcolleges.ie)  
[www.ncirl.ie](http://www.ncirl.ie)



# Preparing For Your Irish Study Journey

- A. CHECKLIST OF THINGS TO DO BEFORE LEAVING
- B. IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS
- C. INSURANCE
- D. HOW MUCH MONEY TO CARRY
- E. ACCOMMODATION ON ARRIVAL
- F. BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE
- G. CLOTHING AND SEASONAL CONSIDERATION
- H. ADAPTORS AND CONVERTORS

## Checklist of things to do before leaving

- A valid passport for the entire duration of your study
- Check start date of your course in Ireland
- Arrange a student visa
- Check immunization required and carry prescriptions from doctor for medicines
- Check for sufficiency of funds, confirm with your bank that these funds will be available to you overseas
- Make travel arrangements
- Get travel and medical insurance
- Arrange for accommodation, at least temporary accommodation before departure to Ireland
- Check with institution to see if they offer an airport greeting service
- Advise your institution of your travel dates
- Arrange for some forex (€) for immediate use on arrival
- Arrange for transport from airport to your accommodation



"I always wanted to study abroad, I like almost everything here. I wasn't expecting anything big from Ireland apart from first class honours degree from my college and my dream job. And I got that. NCI has a very positive environment and that really helped me to improve my skills and get a job with AIB as Risk Analyst."

**Rajendra Singh**  
MSc in Finance from National College of Ireland in Dublin and now works as a risk analyst for AIB, one of Ireland's largest banks.

## Important Documents

Prepare a folder containing all the following documents

- Valid passport with visa stamped
- Copy of student visa
- Institution's offer letter
- Confirmation of enrolment
- Receipt of payments already made – tuition fees, accommodation, etc.
- Insurance policies – travel & medical
- Original or certified copies of your academic transcripts and qualifications
- Other personal documents – Driver's license, birth certificate, ID card, etc.
- Medical records and prescriptions
- Photocopy of credit/debit card
- Prescriptions of medications

Please keep a photocopy of all these documents with someone at home in case you lose the original and need to call for them. When flying, please keep all these documents in your carry-on luggage.

## Insurance

**Travel Insurance** - Although most travel is incident free, it is always advisable to take a travel insurance. Cancelled flights and lost luggage, if they happen, can be very expensive.

**Medical Insurance** - All non-EEA students are required to have private medical insurance when coming to and residing in Ireland for the purpose of study. The private medical insurance should provide cover for accident and/or disease and should cover the student for any period of hospitalisation.

Proof of insurance is required at the time of registration with immigration authorities.

For short-term students and newly arrived first year students, travel insurance may suffice in some circumstances.

### How much money to carry

It is advisable to carry enough foreign exchange with you to help you settle in Ireland. Please do not carry large amounts of cash, instead have between €2,000 – €3,000 in travellers cheques in your name. If you intend to carry more than €10,000 in cash, you must declare it at customs<sup>4</sup>.

### Accommodation on arrival

Your educational institution should be able to help you with your accommodation. It is advisable to have your accommodation finalized before you depart for study. Some of the popular websites for searching for private accommodation around Ireland are [www.daft.ie](http://www.daft.ie), [www.collegecribs.ie](http://www.collegecribs.ie) and [www.myhome.ie](http://www.myhome.ie).

Some students may choose to stay with a host family in their home.

This way, you have your own independence but still have the home comforts (and some rules) as well as a family to show you the ropes and help you settle in to a new way of life in a new country.

Students are normally provided with their own room and with morning and evening meals - at a cost of between €125-€180 per week.

The tenant advisory service, Threshold

provides information on your rights as a tenant. Please visit [www.threshold.ie](http://www.threshold.ie) for finding out more.

### Baggage allowance

Baggage allowance for your flight to Ireland is between 23-30 kg for checked in luggage and upto 7 kg for carry-on luggage. It is always advisable to check with the airline that you plan to fly with regarding the baggage allowance to avoid paying excess baggage fees.

### Clothing and seasonal consideration

In general, students in Ireland dress informally, i.e in jeans and t-shirts; and jumpers in the winters. Summer runs between June and August; Autumn between September and October; Winter from November to March and Spring between April and May. You should carry appropriate clothing for the winter months as the temperature can drop very low. Like its people, Ireland's weather is never boring or predictable. Dancing in the rain, blowing in the wind, but all the time, the sun is never far away! Rain is quite probable, hence you should not forget to pack your rain gear.

### Adaptors and convertors

The standard voltage for electrical items in Ireland is 230 volts. Most electronic goods automatically adjust to the correct voltage. It is advisable to buy an international adaptor or have the plugs changed when you arrive in Ireland if you are bringing your own devices.



<sup>4</sup>[http://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/customs/customs\\_controls/cash\\_controls/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/customs/customs_controls/cash_controls/index_en.htm)

# Entry into Ireland

- A. IRISH IMMIGRATION
- B. CLEARING CUSTOMS
- C. STUDENT VISA CONDITIONS
- D. GNIB CARD / STUDY VISA RENEWAL
- E. STUDY VISA/GNIB CARD RENEWAL

## Irish Immigration

On entry into Ireland, you will have to clear Irish immigration first. There is a separate queue for students. The immigration officer will ask to see your passport, your confirmation of enrolment and will ask you a few questions about your stay in Ireland.

## Clearing customs

Once you clear immigration you will go to the baggage hall to collect your luggage. Once you have picked up your luggage you will have to clear customs. There are two channels for customs; green is when you have nothing to declare and red is if you have something to declare. You must declare any food items, electronic goods that you are carrying into Ireland. A list of things that you must declare can be found on <http://bit.ly/1vFjilp>.

Your luggage including handbag will be screened and inspected. If the customs officer finds anything that needs quarantined they will either confiscate it or destroy it.

## Student visa conditions

An Irish student visa permits students to take up casual employment while studying in Ireland. During term time students can work up to 20 hours per week and during normal college holiday period students can work on a full time basis up to 40 hours per week.

## GNIB Card

All non-EU/EEA students must register with the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) after they have registered with their institutions and before the expiry date on their passport.

You will need to have the following documents when registering with GNIB:

- Valid passport (and entry visa if applicable)
- Valid Student ID card of your institutions
- Evidence of financial support e.g.

current Irish bank statement showing your name and balance of €3,000\*; sponsored students with less than €3,000 should bring evidence from their sponsoring body confirming financial support (\*Note: Single semester students must have €500 for each month of their stay)

- Evidence of private medical health insurance, which must have a minimum coverage of €25,000 for in-hospital treatment
- A credit/debit card for payment of €300 fee (or Bank Giro obtainable from the GNIB office)

On successful completion of your GNIB registration you will be issued with a GNIB Card/residence permit. This is valid for one year or for single semester students, to the end of their course.

## Study Visa Renewal/ GNIB Renewal

- Your GNIB card is valid for one year (unless you are a single semester student). It must be renewed each year by the expiry date.
- Note that if your attendance is low, you may not be given permission to stay for the next year of your course.
- You must pay a renewal fee of €300 every year.
- You must have private health insurance.
- If you are from a visa required country, and wish to travel outside of Ireland, you must renew your Re-Entry visa every year (and pay the fee).

# Money Matters

- A. OFFICIAL CURRENCY
- B. BANKS IN IRELAND
- C. OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT
- D. CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS

## Official Currency

The Euro is the official currency of Ireland. 1 Euro is equivalent to 100 cents. It is possible to exchange money for Euro at airports as well as Banks.

## Banks in Ireland

There are a number of banks available for students to open an account.

The 'big 4' banks are the following:

- The Bank of Ireland
- AIB – Allied Irish Banks
- Danske Bank and
- Ulster Bank

## Opening a Bank account

You need a valid passport as well as a certificate of attendance confirming your address to open your bank account. Most institutions will have a bank branch within the campus or close by and will guide you with respect to necessary paper work.

Most Irish banks prefer seeing applicants in person before they will open an account for you. It is also sensible to keep an account open in the country you are leaving to deal with final bills and unexpected expenses which one may incur upon the initial months in Ireland.

## Credit & Debit Cards

### Credit Card

Visa card, Mastercard and Eurocard are very widely accepted in Ireland. All hotels, petrol stations (gas stations), supermarkets, shops/stores, pharmacies, restaurants, transport operators, payphones, etc will accept them.

## Debit Cards

Irish Laser Cards, Maestro, Visa Debit and MasterCard debit are widely accepted. Other debit cards, not carrying the Maestro, Visa Debit or MasterCard logos are not accepted. Check with your card issuer that your card is acceptable abroad before you travel.

Some very small retailers and cafés may only accept cash payment. Certain retailers will also refuse credit cards for small amounts e.g. less than €10. However, they will often accept Irish debit cards.

Most of Ireland has now shifted to Chip and Pin cards as a way to ensure that your money is secure.



# Settling Into life in Ireland

- A. ACCOMMODATION - RENTAL ACCOMMODATION AND TENANCY AGREEMENTS
- B. BUYING FOOD AND SUPPLIES
- C. OTHER EXPENSES
- D. MAKING FRIENDS

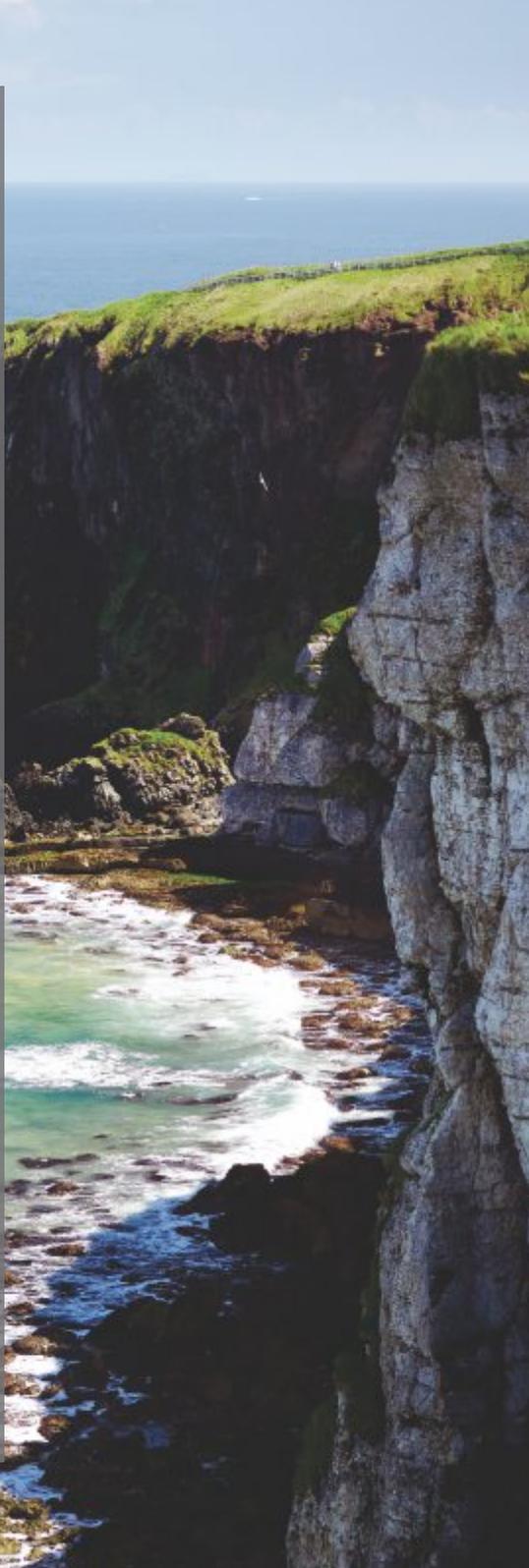
## Accommodation

Students have an array of choice when it comes to accommodation. Some opt to stay in on-campus accommodation, which is available in many colleges, and experience the life of a student surrounded by all commodities such as shops, restaurants etc. Universities and colleges will have further details about their accommodation and how to apply.

Students who want to be totally independent tend to go for self-catering, rented accommodation, often shared with other students. In recent years, rents have plummeted and there's a surplus of rental accommodation out there, so you will have a choice of quality premises. But make sure to visit Ireland ahead of your course in order to go hunting for a suitable home.

## Buying food and supplies

Food costs can vary depending where you live and shop. You may spend around €70-100 a week on food (allowing for some meals bought at



cheap restaurants). While living in Ireland, you might want to be adventurous and try the national specialities.

- Dublin Bay prawns.
- Oysters (served with Guinness and wholemeal bread).
- Irish stew (traditionally made with mutton or old sheep, now mostly made with lamb or juicy beef, this dish is usually served with potatoes, stock, onions, carrots and garlic).
- Colcannon (a mixture of potatoes and cabbage cooked together).
- Bacon & Cabbage.
- Soda bread.
- Irish Breakfast, a fried or grilled meal generally comprising bacon, egg, sausage, black and white pudding and fried tomatoes.
- Souffle made with carrageen (a variety of seaweed).

The two most internationally distinctive alcoholic products are whiskey and stout. Irish whiskey has a uniquely characteristic flavour and is matured in a wooden barrel for a minimum of seven years. Certainly as popular as whiskey is stout which is bottled or served from the tap.

Increasingly in Ireland, there are Asian and Indian food stores opening alongside great Indian restaurants. You will be able to shop for Indian cooking ingredients in Ireland without having to carry it from India. It will be good to carry a small pressure pan from India to help you make a dal once in a while. Take some cooking lessons before you leave and it is a fantastic way to make friends. You will notice a lot of your classmates cooking and bonding together.

If you are a vegetarian, the website [irishvegetarian.com](http://irishvegetarian.com) can be a good

resource to find out about health food shops, restaurants that cater for vegetarians in the county you are in.

## Other Expenses

You will need to account for other expenses such as travel, social life and healthcare and this can range between €1,000-€2,500 per annum.

As a guide, the average bus fare in Ireland is €2, an average cinema ticket is €7-12 and an average nightclub entrance is €7-15

Please note that these are only approximate costs – your living expenses can vary greatly according to location, lifestyle and activities. Visit [www.consumerhelp.ie](http://www.consumerhelp.ie) for tips about money and budgeting in Ireland.

## Making friends

Moving to a new country can be difficult and having friends or people with same interest will make it easier for you. The best place to find people who have similar interest is in the course you have applied for. Student associations, clubs, societies will provide you a great opportunity for social interaction with your peers.



# Staying Connected

- A. MOBILE NETWORKS
- B. CALLING CARDS
- C. PEAK AND OFF-PEAK RATES
- D. INTERNET ACCESS
- E. POSTAL SERVICES
- F. TELEVISION

## Mobile Networks

In Ireland, there are five major mobile operators, which include Meteor, O2, Tesco, 3 & Vodafone. You can pay for your mobile phone service using either pre-pay or bill pay.

## Pre-pay & Bill Pay

This method is also referred to as 'top up' or pay as you go. Customers choose to pre-pay by topping up their credit in advance of making calls. This payment

method can provide more control over the amount that is spent using the phone on an ongoing basis. It is important to note however, that some tariffs for pre-pay services can be higher than those charged on post pay. Using the Bill pay method, the customer will receive a bill, usually on a monthly basis. You may also be able to view your bill online.

## Calling Cards

There is a range of calling cards that is available that can be used for making cheap transnational calls.

## Peak and Off-peak rates

Peak times are normally during the day when most people and businesses are making calls. Generally calls cost more during "Peak" times. "Off peak" rates are normally in the evenings, night and at weekends. Calls can cost a lot less during these periods. Make sure you know the times and rates for "peak" and "off peak" as these may change with different mobile phone call packages.

## Internet Access

Internet connectivity is generally high across Ireland, with campuses, independent shops and businesses all having an increasing availability of wireless services. Vodafone, Sky, Eircom and Meteor, UTV and 3 Network are the main providers of broadband services. Broadband in Ireland is approximately €40 a month. You can use [www.callcosts.ie](http://www.callcosts.ie) to compare the price of broadband and combined packages with telephone.

## Postal Services

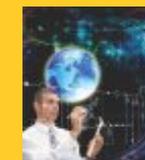
An Post is the state-owned provider of postal services in Republic of Ireland. An Post provides a "universal postal service" to all parts of the country as a member of the Universal Postal Union. Services provided include, letter post, parcel service, deposit accounts, Swiftpost, an all-Ireland next-day delivery service, and EMS, the international express-mail service.

## Television

In Ireland, under Section 148 of the Broadcasting Act 2009, it is a prosecutable offence to be found in possession of an unlicensed television set. Fines for an unlicensed television set can be up to €1,000 for a first offence and €2,000 for subsequent offences. A TV license costs €160 per annum.

You can buy a TV license using the following methods:

- Pay online using Mastercard or Visa
- Cash/cheque at any Post office
- Set up direct debit
- LoCall 1890 228528 using MasterCard or Visa
- Post a cheque (crossed and made payable to An Post) to your local TV Licence Records' Office
- TV licence stamps available at your local Post Office
- Cash at selected Postpoint outlets



# Access To Media Culture And Society

- A. PRINT MEDIA
- B. MUSEUMS
- C. A FEW MAJOR ATTRACTIONS

## PRINT MEDIA

There are a number of newspapers available to the public, ranging from The Irish Times, Irish Independent, Irish Examiner to the Irish Sun and more. These newspapers range from dailies to weeklies to regionals, from financials to tabloids and cover a number of local and international issues.

Weekly, monthly or quarterly magazines supplements in Ireland range from matrimonial to sport to

financials to poetry to walking tours and many more. Irish magazine publishers contribute €150-€200 million to the Irish economy annually<sup>5</sup>. Every year, 40 million magazines are bought in Ireland, 10 million of which are Irish.

## MUSEUMS

The Irish Museums Association maintains a comprehensive database of museums, historic houses, and other venues with public exhibitions/collections, across the Republic of Ireland and it is possible to select which museum you would prefer to visit based on type and locality on <http://www.irishmuseums.org/visit-a-museum>.

Dublin, as the capital of the Republic of Ireland, has some of the most extensive of museums. These include the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Kilmainham Gaol Museum, The Chester Beatty Library, Irish Jewish Museum, National Museum of Ireland, Natural History Museum, James Joyce Museum, Dublin Writer's Museum, and Pearse Museum to name a few.

## TEN PLACES THAT YOU MUST VISIT WHEN IN IRELAND

1. General Post Office (GPO), is located on O'Connell Street in Dublin. It was the headquarters for the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and the provisional government of Ireland in the 1916 Easter Rising.
2. Old Jameson Distillery, on Bow Street in Smithfield Village, tells the story of the "Water of Life". Guided tours are offered in the original distillery and at the end you get a taste.

3. Temple Bar Area is the cultural quarter of Dublin. This is a historical and eclectic area filled with art, theatre, music, pubs, cafes, and the highest concentration of restaurants.
4. Trinity College is one of the oldest centres of learning, dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The library is home to the world renowned 9<sup>th</sup> century Book of Kells, a Latin text of the four gospels, with meticulous artwork around the borders.
5. Guinness Brewery and Hop Shop provides exhibitions and tells of the Guinness Experience over 250 years of history. You end up in the Gravity Bar, with a pint and a great view of Dublin.
6. County Kerry often referred to as "The Kingdom", offers a multitude of contrasts, from astounding scenery to the highest mountain in Ireland (Carrantuohill- 3,414 feet), to the beauty of the Lakes of Killarney. The climate in Kerry is more unique than other places in Ireland. The warm waters from the Gulf Stream bathe the coastline. The water is generally warm enough to swim in all year.
7. Brú na Bóinne (the Boyne Palace) in County Meath contains some of the most important historic sites and monuments in Ireland, and is a designated World Heritage Site.
8. The Cliffs of Moher that stretch for 5 miles and offer breath taking views across the ocean.
9. Aran Islands offer a peek into rural existence.
10. St Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin is Ireland's largest church.

# Getting Around

- A. STUDENT LEAP CARD
- B. BUS, IRISH RAIL & LUAS
- C. TRAVELLING INTER PROVINCES
- D. AIRPORT SERVICES
- E. TAXIS

## Student Leap Card

All full time students are entitled to apply for a Student Leap Card.

Leap Card is the answer to convenient travel across a city and the country. With this pay-as-you go smart card, you save money versus cash fares and you don't have to carry cash.

There are three ways to get a Leap Card. A fully refundable deposit is payable on cards (€5 for Adult and €3 for Child Cards) and you must also Top-Up your Leap Card by a minimum of €5 Travel Credit.

1. Online
2. Leap Card Agents
3. Go to your student Union Shop

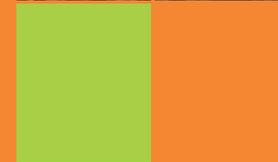
For more information on Leap Card please visit: [www.studentleapcard.ie](http://www.studentleapcard.ie)

## Bus, Irish Rail & Luas

Ireland's main geographical features include low central plains surrounded by a ring of coastal mountains. Public transport in Ireland exists in many of the island's urban areas, and takes a number of forms. Bus transport is the main form of public transport common in all cities. The cities, Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Limerick and Galway all have their own suburban rail networks.

## Dublin Bus

Dublin Bus is the most used public transport provider for the Greater Dublin Area (extending as far as Newcastle in Wicklow, Balbriggan in north Dublin, Dunboyne in Meath and Maynooth in Kildare). It has over 136 routes, servicing 5,000 bus stops, across its network including Airlink to Dublin Airport and sightseeing tours. Normal



"Currently I am working as an Intern in Oracle, Ireland which is part of the Master's programme I am enrolled in. It has been a great experience studying in Ireland. The University's campus is beautiful and is equipped with all the facilities required for studies, fun and sports."



**Arun Lakra**  
Masters in Computer Science (Software Engineering)  
Maynooth University.

services operate from 5.00am until midnight. The Nitelink service operates from midnight until 4.00am at weekends. Dublin Bus operates 364 days a year and has a fleet of 1,000 buses with an average age of 6 years making it one of the youngest fleets in Europe

### Irish Rail

Iarnród Éireann (Irish Rail) is the national train operator. It operates city and commuter services in Dublin and Cork as well as intercity services throughout Ireland. For more information and live train service information see [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie).

### Luas

Luas is Dublin's tram service. There are 2 trams lines, the Luas Red Line linking Tallaght or Saggart to Connolly or The Point via the North City Centre and the Luas Green Line linking Brides Glen or Sandyford to St. Stephen's Green in the South City Centre. Both lines have good Park + Ride and Cycle + Ride facilities. Frequent services operate from early morning to late evening 7 days a week and live tram service information is provided at all stops. Ticket price depends on how many zones you travel and tickets are available from Ticket Machines at the stops. A wide variety of good value tickets including 7 & 30 day tickets are available.

### Travelling inter provinces

Bus Éireann operates a network of over 330 routes across the island of Ireland through an integrated network that allows customers make seamless journeys from small villages to larger

towns and cities.

Bus Éireann provides a range of services such as intercity services; coach services to the UK and Europe; private coach hire; and city, commuter and town-to-town services outside Dublin.

### Airport Services

#### Dublin Airport

Dublin Airport is linked by various buses and coaches. But there is no rail connection, although one is planned in the future. The journey time is about 30 minutes to city centre but may take longer in heavy traffic. The most frequent service is provided by Dublin Bus. For more luxury traveling there is car hire in Dublin Airport. There are a number of international flights and internal European flights available from here, ranging from British Airways to lower cost ones such as Aer Lingus and Ryanair.

#### Cork Airport

Cork Airport has a frequent bus service to Cork City Centre operated by Bus Éireann. Journey time is about 20 minutes.

The SkyLink bus service connects regularly to the city centre and major hotels, it operates two routes through the city centre and information is available at the airport.

#### Shannon Airport

Shannon Airport has bus links to Galway, Limerick, Dublin and Cork. Most services are operated by Bus Éireann. JJ Kavanagh operates a service to Dublin City Centre and Airport via Limerick. City Link operates a bus to Galway. Journey time to Limerick (nearest city) is 30 minutes but it could

take longer depending on the traffic.

There are also airports in Waterford, Kerry, Donegal, Galway, Killarney, Knock and Sligo.

### Taxis

Taxis can be found in all but the smallest of towns. The best place to get a taxi is at the airport, train and bus stations or at taxi ranks. Hackney cabs are a different type of cab. They usually do not have a sign on top and are not licensed to work from ranks or airports, train and bus stations. You have to call their offices to order a cab and they are usually reliable. There are also taxi apps that you can download and use like <https://www.hailoapp.com/> and [www.corktaxi.ie](http://www.corktaxi.ie).

"The best thing about the experienced lecturers is that they have the ability to relate underlying concepts with real industry scenarios and the latest market trends into lectures as examples."



**Akshay K. Chiddarwar**  
MSc in Cloud Computing at the National College of Ireland in Dublin.



# Health Matters

- A. HEALTH INSURANCE
- B. HEALTHCARE SYSTEM
- C. MENINGITIS C VACCINATION
- D. FURTHER INFORMATION ON PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION
- E. NITELINE

## Health Insurance

Students from non-EU countries are not covered for any free medical attention off-campus and must therefore have their own private insurance. Please note that heavy levies are charged for all hospitalisation and it is advised to make provision for adequate medical insurance. Non-EU students are required to show proof of comprehensive medical insurance when registering with the Garda National Immigration Bureau. Proof of health insurance is also required when applying for a student visa.

Students are strongly advised to arrange insurance for private medical care as this ensures choice of hospital, doctor and hospital accommodation in the event of illness.

You should enquire about medical insurance with the International Office at the institution(s) to which you intend to apply as they may have a medical insurance scheme for international students.

There are three main Private Health Insurance schemes operating in Ireland from which insurance may be purchased. This may not be straightforward from outside of Ireland.

## Laya Healthcare

Eastgate Road, Eastgate Business Park,  
Little Island, Co Cork

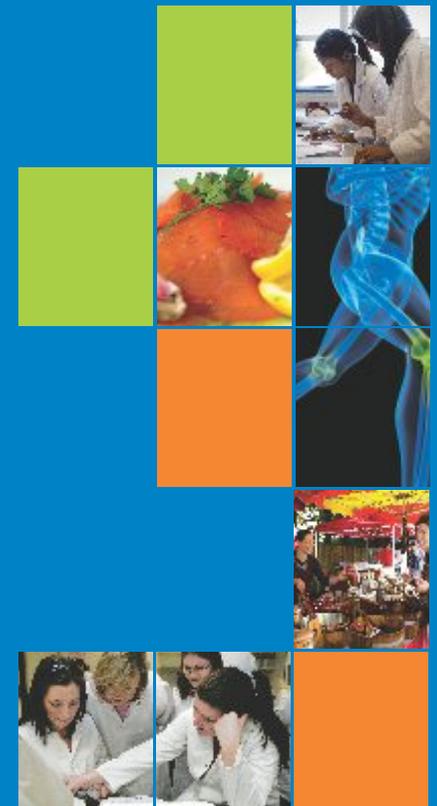
Tel: +353 21 202 2000 (or 1890 700 890  
within the Republic of Ireland)

Web: [www.layahealthcare.ie](http://www.layahealthcare.ie)

"Since, my first day in Ireland, the university made sure that I am well taken care of by organising welcoming ceremonies and orientation programmes. Moreover, the university organises a city walking tour to acclimatise incoming students with the new city and its various stores, markets and popular eateries around our campus. It is important for one to know that the Irish are one of the friendliest people on the planet and are known to be very social."

### Ishan Lanjewar

Master of Science in Innovation, Commercialization and Entrepreneurship in the College of Business and Law, University College Cork



### VHI Healthcare

IDA Business Park, Purcellsinch, Dublin Road, Kilkenny

Tel: +353 56 7753200 (or 1850 44 44 44 within the Republic of Ireland)

Web: [www.vhi.ie](http://www.vhi.ie)

### Aviva Health

One Park Place, Hatch Street, Dublin 2

Tel: 1850 717 717 (available within Republic of Ireland only)

Web: [www.avivahealth.ie](http://www.avivahealth.ie)

Under some policies, you may not be entitled to make any claims from the insurance company until you have been with them for over 26 weeks. However, some companies have special insurance schemes where no waiting period is required. It is important to confirm the options with the health insurance company directly.

You may obtain private medical insurance in your home country - but you must be certain that it is valid in Ireland.

You need to have proof of your private medical insurance when registering with the immigration authorities.

- If you are part of a group insurance scheme operated by your college, a letter of enrolment mentioning this will be adequate proof for the authorities.
- If you are not part of such a scheme, you must secure your own medical insurance from Ireland.
- For newly-arrived first year students, Irish travel insurance will be proof enough if it covers you for one full year or where you are staying for the duration.

- Proof will be required of insurance coverage of a minimum of €25,000 for accident and €25,000 for disease, and as stated, for any stays in hospital.
- After the first year, travel insurance is no longer valid and you must source private medical insurance for any subsequent years.
- For registration in second or later years, all non-EU students can show they are in receipt of private medical insurance from Ireland by way of a letter of renewal.

The good news is that non-EU students who stay in Ireland for at least one year are eligible for public hospital treatment under the same conditions as an Irish citizen. Under this scheme, students pay €100 for a visit to the Emergency Department (ED) and, on admission to hospital, a further €75 per day up to a maximum of €750 for the first ten days. No further charges are incurred if a student remains in hospital for longer than this. However, students will not be covered if travelling to Northern Ireland or other EU countries.

Basic plans costing €120 which satisfy the visa requirement for private health insurance are available from O'Driscoll O'Neil Insurance brokers and are offered by institutions.

### Healthcare system

Ireland's healthcare system is modern and efficient. The public health system is means-tested, with some services provided free to anyone who is ordinarily resident in Ireland, i.e. currently living in Ireland and intending to stay for at least a year, regardless of nationality.

Please note that you will normally have to pay for all optical and dental services while in Ireland. With regard to hospital services, if you have not obtained the necessary documentation entitling you to free or minimum-cost services, costs can be as much as €550 per day.

If you are a non-EU/EEA national, to qualify for free public health services you will have to apply to your local Health Service Executive office. The HSE is likely to require proof of your address in Ireland, bank account details, and your residence permit or visa.

There are also many private health clinics in Ireland and many people choose to take out private health insurance, largely as a result of the long waiting lists for treatment in public hospitals.

Typical fees for medical care are in the range of €20-35 for a GP consultation, €40-50 for treatment from a specialist, and €100-130 per day's stay in a private clinic.

### Meningitis C Vaccination

If you are within 22 years of age, you should get your Meningitis C vaccination done in India. This is a national initiative in Ireland to immunise everyone up to the age of 22 years. If it is not available, once you arrive in Ireland, make sure to get yourself immunised.

### Further information on prescription medication

Visitors, including students staying for a period of time, may carry with them up to three months' supply of their medication. They should, ideally carry a copy of their prescription to facilitate

answering any questions by Customs officers, should that arise. This imported quantity should be the only amount of that medication that they import in this manner during that three months period.

Anyone carrying in excess of a three months' supply is considered to be carrying in excess of what would be a personal use amount.

If the student wishes to bring only a limited (e.g. one month) supply from their home country, but wishes to obtain supply of medication, then they must visit an Irish doctor to be assessed and the Irish doctor can decide if they are in agreement with the treatment and may or may not proceed to issue a prescription. A prescription issued by a physician in the student's home country will not be dispensed by a Pharmacy in Ireland. The prescription must be issued by a doctor in Ireland.

### NITELINE

This line is operated by volunteers and the volunteer will listen without judging and will guide you in complete confidence. Callers can talk through big and small issues. Niteline is completely free to call and you can dial from mobiles as well. You can find more information at [www.niteline.ie](http://www.niteline.ie) and the number to call is 1800 793 793.



# Working In Ireland

- A. PERMISSION TO WORK
- B. TYPES OF WORK
- C. TYPES OF WORK PERMITS
- D. FINDING WORK
- E. PAY

## Permission to work

International students engaged in full-time study of at least one year's duration (on a course leading to a qualification which is recognised by the Irish Department of Education and Skills currently do not need a work permit to work in Ireland.

Degree programme students can get casual work where they are:

- Registered with GNIB.
- Enrolled on a programme listed on the Internationalisation Register.
- Attending a full time programme of

education at or above NFQ Level 7.

- Undertaking a minimum of 15 hours day time study.
- Getting tuition, between the hours of 8 am and 6 pm per week for a minimum of 25 weeks per annum.
- On a programme of at least one year's duration.
- Studying a course leading to a qualification recognised by the Minister for Education & Skills.

Students will also be required to comply with the Universal Social Contribution (USC), Pay Related Social Insurance (PRSI), employment laws and taxation requirements.

## Types of work

### Internship

Students enrolled on courses on the Degree Programme are allowed to undertake an internship where this forms part of their programme. This is subject to the following rules.

- The internship or work placement part of the programme cannot exceed 50% of the duration of the programme e.g. a 4 year programme would permit 2 years of work placement. In addition, the employment cannot be in a self-employed capacity.
- Work placements as part of an academic programme must form an integral part of the programme which contributes to the final award.
- Educational facilities must also ensure that the placements are suited to the programme being pursued.

### Post Study Pathways for International Students

It may be possible to stay in Ireland after you complete your studies for the purpose of seeking employment under the Irish Third Level Graduate Scheme. This scheme exists to allow legally resident non-EU third level graduates to remain in Ireland in order to look for employment or apply for a green card/work permit.

- During their approved stay under the scheme, a student can work full-time (40 hours a week).
- The permission under the Irish Third Level Graduate Scheme is non-renewable.

### One Year Permission under the Third Level Graduate Scheme Permission

To be eligible for the one year permission under the third level graduate scheme, a student is required to have:

- studied in Ireland and completed a qualification at NFQ Level 8-10
- an award granted by a recognised Irish awarding body, for example Dublin Institute of Technology, Irish universities, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Institutes of Technology with delegated authority).

It is not too difficult to find work in Ireland, as employment rates are currently high in all sectors, and there is a high demand for particular groups of professional workers, especially those in health and IT occupations. Non-EU/EEC nationals are required to obtain a work permit or a work authorization visa to work in Ireland.

### Types of work permits

If you are a national from a country which is not in the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland, in general you will need an employment permit to work in Ireland. Under the Employment Permits Acts 2003–2014 there are 9 types of employment permit including a Critical Skills Employment Permit (formerly Green Card permit), a General Employment Permit (formerly work permit) and a Dependant/Partner/Spouse Employment Permit.

Since 1 October 2014, the Employment Permits (Amendment) Act 2014 has

changed the current employment permits system through the provision of 9 different types of employment permit and changes to the criteria for issuing employment permits.

Critical Skills Employment Permits are issued by the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation. Either the employer or the employee can apply for the permit which must be based on an offer of employment – see 'How to apply' below. The permit is granted to the employee and includes a statement of the employee's rights and entitlements. An employee working on an employment permit is protected by employment legislation in exactly the same way as other employees.

#### Eligible occupations

There are 2 categories of eligible occupations for a Critical Skills Employment Permit as follows:

(1) Jobs with annual salaries of €60,000 or more – all occupations (other than certain ineligible job categories and those which are contrary to the public interest)

(2) Jobs with annual salaries of €30,000 or more – the occupation must be on the Highly Skilled Occupations List.

Since 10 April 2013, non-EEA nationals with a stamp 1, 1A, 2, 2A or 3 residence permission, who have been offered a job in an occupation on the Highly Skilled Occupations List, may apply for an employment permit.

More information can be found at [http://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/employment/migrant\\_workers/employment\\_permits/green\\_card\\_permits.html](http://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/employment/migrant_workers/employment_permits/green_card_permits.html) and

<http://www.djei.ie/labour/workpermits/index.htm>.

#### Finding work

You can get advice from the Careers Service team at your institution on job opportunities. Your careers officer will also be able to answer any questions you may have about culture in the workplace. All careers services have 'drop in' sessions during the day when you do not need an appointment. If you need more time, you can arrange an appointment. Check the website of the careers service at your college or university to find out about the times they are open.

#### Pay

Most experienced adult workers in Ireland are entitled to be paid a minimum wage of €8.65 per hour. There are however, some exceptions to this minimum wage, including people employed by close relatives, people aged under 18 and trainees or apprentices. Employers must give your payslip showing wages and any deductions that have been made.

## Safety Matters And The Law

- A. OBEYING THE LAW
- B. PERSONAL SAFETY

#### Obeying the law

It is important to remember that when you are studying in Ireland you need to be aware of the rules and regulation and are requested to follow them.

As a student you agree to respect the values and obey the laws of Ireland during your stay. Failure to do so can result in a fine or in extreme cases the cancellation of your student visa and possible deportation. Conviction of a serious crime can result in imprisonment.

#### Personal safety

Living and travelling in Ireland is not dangerous as such - millions of tourists visit the country every year without coming to harm whatsoever. Still it is a wise to be a safety-conscious traveller. Ireland is a safe country and crime targeting tourists and foreigners is

rare. The greatest danger looms from opportunistic thieves who use bustling crowds as a cover to pick your pockets or simply snatch your bag. Just take the usual precautions to wear your valuables as close and as inaccessible as possible (and sensible) to your body. Never leave your valuables unattended, not even in the hotel or in the car.

You can contact the Garda by calling 112 or 999. Anyone with information regarding a crime can also ring the Garda Confidential Telephone Number 1800 666 111.

Contact details of your local Garda Station should be readily to hand in both your home and place of work, and on speed dial on your home and mobile phones.



# Returning Home

- A. CAREER PLANNING
- B. ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## Career Planning

On completion of your education in Ireland, you will have the qualifications that prepare you for your life ahead. As you are finishing your education you will be anxious to step into the job market either in your home country or elsewhere.

The career planning cell at your institution will be able to help with referrals towards opportunities in Ireland and overseas.

The post study visa will allow you to stay in Ireland for a year to search for a job after you complete your education.

Many institutions organize international student employer fairs that include presentations from both Ireland and international organisations who are interested in recruiting international students. These events will help provide a broader perspective to the many opportunities that exist in the market and also explain the visa eligibility.

## Alumni Association

Each institution runs their own alumni association in Ireland. You are advised to join one of these association as these can help you in maintaining links with people who have made friendship with while studying there. It can also help you with business or job opportunities back home or around the world.



# USEFUL LINKS AND INFORMATION

WEBSITE	DESCRIPTION
<a href="http://www.educationinireland.com">www.educationinireland.com</a>	Provides valuable information about the Irish education system and the various educational institutions of Ireland. Gives a glimpse about the life and culture of Ireland.
<a href="http://www.citizensinformation.ie">www.citizensinformation.ie</a>	The website is built to provide information to people on various subjects ranging from health, employment, housing to consumer affairs.
<a href="http://www.daft.ie">www.daft.ie</a> , <a href="http://www.findahome.ie">www.findahome.ie</a>	These websites provide information about accommodation in Ireland. Information is categorized which helps in finding accommodation according to one's preference of location and price.
<a href="http://www.enterprise.gov.ie">www.enterprise.gov.ie</a>	The website is useful to understand the trading and employment practices and policies of Ireland.
<a href="http://www.icosirl.ie">www.icosirl.ie</a>	The Irish Council for International Students (ICOS) is an independent non-profit network of educational institutions, NGOs and individuals interested in international education and working with government and other agencies to promote good policies and best practice in relation to the recruitment, access and support of international students in Ireland.
<a href="http://www.idaireland.com">www.idaireland.com</a>	Ireland's inward investment promotion agency is a non-commercial, semi-state body promoting Foreign Direct Investment into Ireland through a wide range of services. A good website to get sector news and reports.
<a href="http://www.inis.gov.ie">www.inis.gov.ie</a>	Official website of The Irish Naturalization & Immigration Service (INIS). Provides in-depth information about immigration, citizenship and visas.
<a href="http://www.odon.ie">www.odon.ie</a>	The company deals in various financial services and insurance options. Students can find various healthcare schemes suiting their needs.
<a href="http://www.qqi.ie">www.qqi.ie</a>	Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) is responsible for the external quality assurance of further and higher education and training (including English language provision) and validates programmes and makes awards for certain providers in these sectors. QQI is also responsible for the maintenance, development and review of the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ).
<a href="http://www.research.ie">www.research.ie</a>	The Irish Research Council was formally launched by the Minister for Research and Innovation, Seán Sherlock TD, on 29 March 2012. A sub-board of the Higher Education Authority, the Council was established through a merger of the Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS) and the Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology (IRCSET).
<a href="http://www.studentleapcard.ie">www.studentleapcard.ie</a>	The website provides information to students on travel discounts across Ireland. The website is very valuable for students as they come to know about various offers and discounts.
<a href="http://www.threshold.ie">www.threshold.ie</a>	The website provides information about the rights of both tenants and landlords. It is very important for student to know about their rights when they go on to lease a property.

**Important numbers**  
 Emergency number in Ireland 999 or 112 (Police, Fire, Ambulance, Coastguard)  
 Visa Issue: ☎ : (within Ireland): LoCALL 1890 551 500 ☎ : (from outside Ireland)+ 353 1 616 7700  
 Irish Tourist Assistance Service Call: 01 478 5295