

BOSTON COLLEGE

Ireland



Office of International Programs



Welcome to Ireland

Ireland, known for its beautiful vistas, literary influence, and Catholic heritage, was divided into the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland in the early twentieth century after a long history of political and religious strife. Nicknamed the “Emerald Isle” for its lush and verdant scenery, today Ireland is a popular tourist destination and long-standing member of the European Union. Birthplace of literary giants such as Joyce, Shaw, and Yeats, and home to a vibrant Celtic music scene, Ireland offers many opportunities to both delve into the past and explore contemporary life in a variety of settings.

Boston College students wishing to spend a semester or year in Ireland have many options. Program locations include the capital cities of Dublin and Belfast, and smaller cities and towns where students can easily integrate into local life. Students may choose among larger institutions with a broad discipline range, such as University College Dublin, or smaller universities offering more individualized attention, like NUI Maynooth. All BC students are fully integrated into their host university. No matter what students’ academic and personal interests entail, they will find a suitable program in Ireland.



County Cork

DUBLIN

Dublin, the capital of the Republic of Ireland, attained its status as one of Europe's great cities in the eighteenth century. The past economic boom strengthened Dublin's prominence as a cultural center for literature, theater, and the arts, and elevated it to a truly international city. Students enjoy the lively atmosphere of the historic St. Stephen's Green, Grafton Street shops, restaurants, and the clubs of Temple Bar.

Boston College has a permanent base at the Centre for Irish Programmes on St. Stephen's Green. Located in a beautiful Georgian building, the Centre serves as a focal point for BC's work in Ireland, the UK, and throughout Europe. It operates on a multidisciplinary basis and is open to the entire BC community. The Centre organizes a wealth of cultural and academic events, has wireless internet access and workspaces, and also allows students to watch BC games. The Centre offers a six week summer internship and has expert staff ready to offer support to all BC students in Ireland.

Only a short ride west of Dublin center, Maynooth is one of the most picturesque towns in County Kildare. The tree-lined main street has thatched-roof, stone-fronted houses and swans swimming in the Royal Canal. Maynooth is best known for St Patrick's College, established in 1795, that was once one of the largest Catholic seminaries in the world and is now part of the National University of Ireland (NUI). The ruins of the thirteenth century Maynooth Castle have been designated as a national monument.



Republic of Ireland

CORK

Founded in the sixth century by St. Finbarr, Cork has retained its charm, friendliness, and also remnants of its Viking past. Ireland's second largest city, it offers numerous cultural activities and traditions including international jazz, opera, choral, film, and folk festivals. The region is also known for its rich literary heritage and noted authors Frank O'Connor, Sean O'Faolain, and William Trevor.

The Program

www.ucc.ie

Closely linked to BC for over twenty years, University College Cork (UCC) boasts Gothic revival buildings and beautiful grounds and is a short distance from the city center. The university has a student body of about 16,000 and houses one of Ireland's newest art spaces, the Lewis Glucksman Gallery. UCC has particularly strong programs in the arts, Celtic studies, music, social sciences, commerce, and the sciences. BC students reside in nearby dorms or in off-campus apartments.

Program Highlights

- Fall pre-session program which examines Irish culture
- Optional spring certificate program in Political Issues in Ireland Today
- BC on-site coordinator teaches mandatory Irish history and culture course in spring

PROGRAM KEY



FALL



SPRING



FULL YEAR



Book of Kells

University College Dublin

www.ucd.ie

Originally founded as a Catholic university, University College Dublin (UCD) is the National University of Ireland's largest constituent. Located near the city center, UCD has a large campus encompassing a lake, parkland, and playing fields. It is noted for academic excellence in the arts, Celtic studies, film studies, economics, politics, social sciences, and life sciences. The Quinn School of Business has a number of international accreditations. BC students are required to live on campus in UCD dorms.

Program Highlights

- Wide range of student activities and societies
- Irish culture course taught by BC on-site coordinator in the fall and spring
- New Center for Study Abroad offers strong support for international students

National University of Ireland

Maynooth

www.nuim.ie

Comprised of eighteenth century architecture and modern teaching facilities, the National University of Ireland (NUI) Maynooth is a small, innovative university of over 8000 students. The university offers a warm, supportive environment in which students can easily meet Irish and international students. NUI Maynooth has strengths in English, history, mathematics, classics, media, music, computer science, and applied sciences. Various on-campus accommodations are available.



The Program

Students take courses at Trinity College, University College Dublin, or NUI Maynooth just outside of Dublin. An on-site coordinator organizes monthly activities for BC students and teaches a mandatory Irish culture course that students take for one semester.

Trinity College

www.tcd.ie

Founded by Queen Elizabeth I in 1592, Trinity College is Ireland's oldest university. The campus occupies a unique location in the heart of the city, and the college is modeled on the academic framework of Oxford and Cambridge. Many literary and historical greats were educated at Trinity, including writers Swift, Wilde, and Beckett, and Ireland's former president, Mary Robinson. Trinity excels in the liberal arts, sciences, math, social sciences, business, theology, and information technology. Students apply online for Trinity accommodations.

Program Highlights

- Tutorial system similar to Oxford and Cambridge
- State-of-the-art facilities in central Dublin
- Irish culture course taught by BC on-site coordinator in the fall

FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT



GALWAY

Its narrow streets, quaint shops, restaurants, and a lively music scene make Galway one of the most charming cities in Ireland. Its proximity to the Aran Islands and the Connemara region—the largest Gaelic-speaking community in the country—contributes to Galway's distinct Gaelic culture. The city hosts over forty annual arts, literature, and sports festivals and celebrations, and has renowned theater companies.

The Program

www.nuigalway.ie

National University of Ireland (NUI) Galway boasts one of the most beautiful campuses in Europe. The quadrangle's Tudor-style buildings are surrounded by newer buildings that reflect the university's recent growth. NUI Galway, which has a student body of 15,000, is noted for excellence in sciences, health sciences, arts, Celtic studies, social sciences, and commerce. BC Arts and Sciences students may attend during the fall or full year only and must complete a BC Irish Studies prerequisite course before departure (visit www.bc.edu/centers/irish/studies/academics/courses.html). Students live near campus in student villages or in apartments in central Galway.

Program Highlights

- BC site coordinator organizes monthly activities, including a fall study tour of Ireland
- Pre-approved ethics and theory classes for BC Nursing students
- Volunteer activities for interested students

Program Highlights

- One of Ireland's most picturesque campuses in close proximity to Dublin
- New sports and recreation facilities and a range of clubs and activities
- New courses in computer science and software engineering
- Irish culture course taught by BC on-site coordinator in the fall and spring





Belfast

Northern Ireland

BELFAST

Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland, is known for its friendly citizens, gracious parks, quiet river walks, splendid Victorian architecture, and trendy nightlife. Despite its past political strife, the city has prospered since the signing of the Good Friday Accord and the end of the Troubles. Northern Ireland has produced its share of well-known writers, performers, and musicians, including Seamus Heaney, C.S. Lewis, Liam Neeson, James Galway, and Van Morrison. Students have easy access to other parts of Northern Ireland and to nearby County Donegal in the Republic of Ireland, known for its breathtaking scenery.

The Program

www.qub.ac.uk

Founded in 1845, Queen's University of Belfast (QUB) is a member of the United Kingdom's prestigious Russell Group of research-intensive universities. Situated on a picturesque campus on Belfast's south side, Queen's has approximately 3000 courses in one hundred subjects and is well known for its offerings in English, history, anthropology, politics, economics, sociology, mathematics, and the sciences. BC students are guaranteed housing in newly built off-campus dormitories near the university.

Courtesy of Queen's University of Belfast

Program Highlights

- One of the UK's most comprehensive universities
- Each student assigned an academic advisor
- Internationally renowned Institute of Irish Studies
- Wide range of clubs and societies ranging from sports to academic interests

In addition to these BC programs in Ireland, students also have the choice to enroll in an approved external program. For details visit the OIP web site at www.bc.edu/international.

