



**BOSTON COLLEGE**  
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK**  
**2014-2015**  
**Program Guide**

University College Cork (UCC)  
<http://www.ucc.ie/en>

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### **Preparing for Study Abroad**

- To maximize your study abroad experience, you should prepare yourself by learning about your host country, its history, and culture. You may want to begin with: <http://www.britannica.com/> for a summary.  
Know what is happening in the news in your host city by reading the local newspaper, *The Irish Times* at: [www.irish-times.com](http://www.irish-times.com)
- Engaging with and adapting to a different culture is an inherent component of study abroad. You will find the following websites useful to learn about intercultural communication before you leave home: <http://www.pacific.edu/sis/culture/> and <http://www.peacecorps.gov/wws/educators/enrichment/culturematters/index.html>
- Customs and traditions in your host country are different from those at home. To learn a little about the local customs and traditions you should visit the following website: <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/293754/Ireland>
- You and your parents should refer to the Office of International Programs website ([www.bc.edu/international](http://www.bc.edu/international)) and specifically to the *Study Abroad Handbook* for more information regarding the abroad experience.
- Prior to your departure you will meet with your International Study Advisor at an orientation to help you further prepare for your study abroad experience.

### **On-Site Contact Information**

- Professor Barra O'Donnabhain, BC On-site Coordinator  
Phone: 353 21 490 4163  
e-mail: [barraod@ucc.ie](mailto:barraod@ucc.ie)

### **Travel Information**

- You are responsible for making your own travel arrangements. In the past BC students have often used student travel agencies such as STA Travel at [www.statravel.com](http://www.statravel.com). These agencies generally offer competitive rates and open-ended tickets allowing you to leave Ireland whenever you want to (as long as your visa does not expire).
- To study in Ireland, you must have a passport that is valid for at least six months beyond your estimated return date. You may apply for a passport at any major US post office. Be sure to start this process as soon as possible as it usually takes six to eight weeks to complete.
- Upon arrival in Ireland you must also have a letter of admission from University College Cork (UCC). Without proper documentation you may have difficulty getting through customs. When you are admitted by the Irish Immigration Officers your passport will be computer-swiped and date stamped; you will have to register with the local Immigration Office within one month of that date. There is a 300 euro charge for registration with the Immigration Office. Representatives of

the Aliens Office will contact the University shortly after the start of term to facilitate registration for all International students. To register with Immigration you will be required to produce the following: GNIB form provided by UCC; valid US passport; UCC student ID card; health insurance policy (stating that you are covered while in Ireland and that hospitalization is included); and evidence of financial support. You will find more information at:

<http://www.ucc.ie/en/international/VisitingUSNon-EUStudents/ImmigrationProcedures/>

- The acceptable form of financial evidence is generally considered to be an Irish bank statement (your name and address must be on it) showing funds of at least 500 € per month of stay or 3000 € per year. The UCC International Office will advise you about this at Orientation; however, if you need to open an Irish Bank account you will need proof of residence in the US (driver's license), an address in Ireland (letter from UCC's International Office), and a valid US passport.
- Vaccinations are not required for U.S. citizens.
- Plan to fly into Dublin Airport. All flights leave the U.S. in the evening and arrive in Dublin at approximately 7 am. From Dublin there are regular train services to Cork. You can find the train schedules from: <http://www.irishrail.ie>. Outside the Cork train station, you will find a taxi stand. It is only a short ride from there to the campus. The No.5 bus route will transport you between the train station and UCC's main campus as well. The frequency of the bus service is approximately every 20 minutes.

## Academics

- **Academic Calendar**

Please consult the acceptance materials that UCC sends you for the dates of the orientation. Plan to stay until the last exam date; you must remain for all of your exams. As of now, the semester dates are:

### Fall Semester 2014 (Semester 1)

8/15	Early Start Orientation
8/18-9/5	Early Start Program
9/3-5	Orientation for Fall Semester
9/8	Teaching begins
11/28	Teaching ends
12/8-12/19	Exams

### Spring Semester 2015 (Semester 2) \*

1/8	Housing available
1/9	Orientation
1/12- 4/3	Teaching
4/4 - 4/19	Easter Recess
4/20-4/25	Study Week
4/27-5/15	Exams

**\*NOTE: All BC Fall Semester students are required to participate in the Early Start Program at UCC. Spring Semester students are required to take an Irish Studies course taught by Dr. Barra O'Donnabhain. The class will be in lieu of one course at UCC and will carry 3 BC credits. It will be offered at a time to be announced and scheduled not to conflict with your other classes.**

- Upon arrival, you will participate in a comprehensive orientation program aimed at introducing you to the university system, its students and facilities. During the orientation you will be advised

about course selection. In addition, once you arrive, the BC On-site Coordinator, Dr. Barra O'Donnabhain will meet with all the BC students and help you get to know each other.

- Course selection information at UCC is available at:  
<http://www.ucc.ie/en/international/VisitingUSNon-EUStudents/ModulesandCourses/> and you will find more information about academics at UCC at:  
<http://www.ucc.ie/en/international/VisitingUSNon-EUStudents/InformationBooklet/>
- BC Course approval information will be found at:
- <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/advisingservices/academics/courseapproval.html> You must take a full credit load of 30 ECTS to receive full credit at BC. Questions should be directed to your ISA or to the OIP Registrar at [oopreg@bc.edu](mailto:oopreg@bc.edu)
- Information about Transcripts and grades is available at:  
<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/advisingservices/academics/transcripts.html>
- If you have a learning disability you should discuss with your ISA whether your host university is able to make appropriate accommodations; if so, bring documentation from your doctor or the BC Disabilities Office to support any request for accommodations at your host university.

## Housing

- Please note that although you are paying BC tuition, you must pay housing fees directly to the provider. The following information may be of help in making your decision about housing. You are advised to use UCC accommodations, most of which have been recently renovated and are very close to campus. Campus accommodation consists of five complexes either owned or managed by University College Cork. They comprise: Farranlea Hall, Victoria Lodge, The Spires, Castlewhite Apartments, Brú na Laoi (Irish speaking community within Castlewhite), and University Hall. More information about housing options is available at:  
[www.uccampusaccommodation.com](http://www.uccampusaccommodation.com). As soon as you receive your acceptance you should apply on-line for housing.
- Don't forget to send your contact information abroad to OIP once you're settled.
- Irish universities do not have meal plans but UCC has many on-campus dining facilities as well as off-campus restaurants, and your accommodations will also have kitchen facilities.
- Information about local transportation may be found at: <http://www.buseireann.ie/>
- Most students purchase a cell phone when they arrive in Cork. During the university's orientation you will receive information about buying a cell phone.

## Wellness, Health and Safety

- Make sure that you have had any required or recommended vaccinations for your travel destinations by consulting the Centers for Disease Control website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)
- HTH Worldwide Insurance Services is an emergency health and emergency services provider. All registered BC students are covered by our blanket policy while living and traveling outside of the United States. For more information, visit the following website:  
<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/travel-health-safety.html>. You are encouraged to consult HTH on-line services for health and safety information about all world destinations, travel illnesses, and as a resource for international medical providers.
- You are advised to visit the U.S. State Department website: <http://www.state.gov/> for important travel information including travel advisories.
- Adjusting to a new culture and environment can be stressful. You will have a smoother transition by making sure that you prepare to remain healthy. Following are some websites that provide important information and advice about how to have a healthy and safe experience abroad:  
[http://kidshealth.org/teen/your\\_mind/emotions/culture\\_shock.html](http://kidshealth.org/teen/your_mind/emotions/culture_shock.html)

<http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/cultural-services/articles/cultureshock-stages.html>  
<http://www.bravenewtraveler.com/2007/11/20/the-4-stages-of-culture-shock-and-how-to-beat-them/>

- Be aware that the manner in which medical help is obtained, the way patients are treated, the conditions of medical facilities, and how health care is afforded may be quite different from U.S. practices. U.S. health care values, assumptions, and methods are not universally practiced; even notions regarding the onset of an illness or the timing of expert attention may be considered culturally based.
- Refer to your Study Abroad Handbook for further information about health and safety issues including women, LGBT, disabled people and others.
- In the event of a large-scale emergency, such as a natural disaster, you should first text your onsite coordinator; follow the emergency procedures discussed in the onsite orientation; and call or text your parents to let them know where you are and that you are safe.

The emergency phone number in Ireland is **999**.

- Be sure to visit the OIP website for additional information about Health and Safety:  
<http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/travel-health-safety.html>
- BC emergency contact information:  
OIP: (617) 552-3827 (Monday to Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.)  
BCPD: (617) 552-4444 (outside of normal business hours)
- Alcohol and Drugs  
In many cultures, alcohol consumption is an acceptable part of the culture and people are taught to drink in moderation at home. Many countries have a lower drinking age than the U.S. while other countries have drinking and drug abuse laws that may be more severe. You are subject to the laws of your host country, so if you choose to drink alcohol abroad, always drink responsibly and be knowledgeable about your host country's laws by visiting:  
[http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips\\_1232.html#drug\\_offenses](http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips_1232.html#drug_offenses)

## Finances

- For information about the cost of living in Cork, you may want to look at:  
<http://www.ucc.ie/en/international/StudentInformationandServices/Pre-departureInformation/EstimatedCostofLiving/>
- The OIP website provides information about estimated expenses for study abroad:  
[http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/meta-elements/pdf/0910\\_estimated\\_stude.pdf](http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/meta-elements/pdf/0910_estimated_stude.pdf)
- Scholarships and Financial Aid information can be found at:  
[http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/financesawards/Scholarship\\_Opportunities.html](http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/financesawards/Scholarship_Opportunities.html)
- Only students attending UCC for a full year are allowed to work.

## Returning to BC

- Complete a Program Evaluation. Upon completion of your program OIP will e-mail the link to the evaluation
- Mentor an exchange student from your host university by contacting [oiexchange@bc.edu](mailto:oiexchange@bc.edu)
- Volunteer for Discovery Night, Pre-departure Orientation, Re-entry seminar by contacting your International Study Advisor, Esther Messing at: [messines@bc.edu](mailto:messines@bc.edu)
- It is not uncommon when you return from studying abroad to experience "reverse" culture shock. The following may help you transition back to home: <http://www.cie.uci.edu/prepare/shock.shtml>  
<http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/handbook/handbook5.html#shock>

## References

- Suggested readings:  
Hackney, Ryan and Hackney-Blackwell, Amy. 101 Things You Didn't Know About Irish History. Avon, MA: Avon Media, 2004
- Anything written by William Butler Yeats, James Joyce, Oscar Wilde, George Bernard Shaw, Samuel Beckett, Seamus Heaney, William Trevor, Edna O'Brien, Anne Enright, or a myriad of other Irish writers.
- Useful websites:  
Local information about Cork: <http://www.corkcity.ie/aboutcork/>  
Travel guides for Ireland: [www.lets-go.com/](http://www.lets-go.com/)  
[www.roughguides.com/](http://www.roughguides.com/)
- Student and parent guides for study abroad:  
<http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/handbook/handbook5.html#shock>