



National University of Ireland Maynooth (NUIM)
<http://www.nuim.ie/>

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
- 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) 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

- Dr. Leeann Lane is the BC On-site Coordinator. She is Coordinator of Irish Studies at Mater Dei Institute of Education. Leeann is available in case of emergency on a 24-hour basis.
Leeann is available at:
Office Phone: 353 1 808-6533
Emergencies only: 353 0860417394
e-mail at: leeann.lane@dcu.ie
- Jodi Killackey, International Student Advisor
Office phone: 353 1 708 3868
e-mail: Jodi.M.Killackey@nuim.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. These agencies generally offer competitive rates and open-ended tickets allowing you to leave Ireland whenever you want to.
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 NUI Maynooth and a letter from a parent or guardian guaranteeing the amount of funds available annually to support you there. 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 € 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: application form provided by NUIM; valid US passport; NUIM student ID card; and evidence of financial support. You will find more information at:
<http://international.nuim.ie/studyabroad/visasimmigration>
- 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 your stay. The NUIM International Office will advise you about this; 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 NUIM'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 the airport the easiest thing to do is to take a taxi to your accommodations. More information about getting to NUIM is available at:
<http://international.nuim.ie/studyabroad/transporttomaynooth>

Academics

- **Academic Calendar**

Please consult the acceptance materials that NUIM 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 2013 (Semester 1)

9/18-9/20	Orientation Week
9/23-12/20	Term dates
10/28-11/1	Study Week
11/4	Classes resume
12/9-12/13	Examination period for visiting students

Spring Semester 2014 (Semester 2)

1/30-1/31	Orientation Week
2/3-5/2	Term dates
5/5--5/9	Study Week
5/12-5/31	Examinations

- **All BC students are required to take an Irish Studies course taught by Dr. Leeann Lane at BC Dublin, 42 St. Stephen's Green. The class will be in lieu of one course at NUI Maynooth 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.**
- There will be a general orientation for new students provided by the International Student Office at NUIM. The staff recommends that you arrive one week before the start of term, so that you can take care of formalities, and acquaint yourself with the town and University. In addition, once you arrive Leeann Lane will meet with you and the other BC students to organize a dinner and help you get to know each other.

- You will find course information at: <http://international.nuim.ie/studyabroad/availablecourses>.
- Course approval information will be found at: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/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 oipreg@bc.edu
- Information about transcripts and grades is available at <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/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

- You will be paying BC tuition, but you will pay for your own housing. Payment will be made directly to the provider. On-campus accommodation consists of five-bedroom, self-catering apartments. You should contact Fiona Kenny, Accommodations Officer as soon as you are accepted to request housing. Please note that you probably will not know where they will be living until you arrive. Fiona's contact information is: + 353-1-7083826 or fiona.kenny@nuim.ie
- Don't forget to send your contact information abroad to OIP once you're settled.
- Irish universities do not have meal plans but NUI Maynooth has many on-campus dining facilities as well as off-campus restaurants.
- Most students purchase a cell phone when they arrive in Dublin. During the university's orientation you will receive information about buying a cell phone.
- The following website has more useful information about living in and around Maynooth: <http://international.nuim.ie/studyabroad/livinginmaynooth>

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
- 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.
- 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://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

Finances

- The OIP website provides information about estimated expenses for study abroad: http://www.bc.edu/content/dam/files/offices/international/pdf/Updated_Budget_2010-.pdf
- Scholarships and Financial Aid information can be found at: http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/Scholarship_Opportunities.html

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
- Volunteer for Discovery Night, Pre-departure Orientation, Re-entry seminar by contacting your International Study Advisor, Esther Messing at: 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 Dublin: <http://www.dublin.ie/>
Travel guides for Ireland: www.lets-go.com/
www.roughguides.com/

- Student and parent guides for study abroad:
<http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/handbook/handbook5.html#shock>

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