



BOSTON COLLEGE
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY of IRELAND GALWAY
2011-2012
Program Guide

NUI Galway (NUIG)
www.nuigalway.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: www.economist.com/countries or <http://www.britannica.com/> for a summary.
- Know what is happening in the news in your host city by reading the local newspaper, *The Galway City Tribune* at: <http://www.galwaynews.ie/>
- 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

Margaret Daly, BC on-site coordinator

Home Phone: 353 91 583 048

Mobile: 353 087 2450531

E-mail: mbdaly@gofree.indigo.ie

Please remember to give Margaret a contact telephone number where you can be reached before leaving the US in case she needs to get in touch with you.

Ms. Florinda Green, Administrative Assistant, NUI Galway

Phone: +353 91 495424

Fax: +353 91 49551

E-mail: Florinda.green@nuigalway.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 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 Galway and a letter from a parent or guardian guaranteeing the amount of funds available annually to support you in 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 150 € 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 NUIG; valid US passport; NUIG student ID card; and evidence of financial support. You will find more information at: http://www.ucd.ie/international/pdf_files/GNIBreg0910.pdf
- 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 1500 €. The NUIG 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 NUIG's International Office), and a valid US passport.
- Vaccinations are not required for U.S. citizens.
- Plan to fly into Shannon Airport. All flights leave the U.S. in the evening and arrive at Shannon at approximately 6:30 a.m. From the airport the easiest thing to do is to take an Aircoach bus from the airport into city center inexpensively, and take a taxi from there. Check the website: www.buseireann.ie for local information. Once you arrive Margaret Daly, BC On-site Coordinator, will meet with all of the BC students and help you get to know each other

Academics

- **Academic Calendar**
Please consult the acceptance materials that NUI Galway 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 2011 (Semester 1)

9/1	Orientation
9/5	Semester begins
11/26	Teaching ends
11/28-12/5	Study week
12/5-12/16	Exams end

Spring Semester 2012 (Semester 2)

1/5	Orientation
1/9	Semester begins
3/31	Teaching ends
4/1-12	Study week and Easter vacation
4/13	Exams begin
5/11	Exams end

- 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. You will find more helpful information about orientation at: http://www.nuigalway.ie/international/documents/international_2008_2009.pdf
- Course selection information at NUIG available at: http://www.nuigalway.ie/arts/overseas_students.html
- Course approval information will be found at: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/academics/courseapproval.html>
- Information about transcripts and grades is available at <http://www.bc.edu/offices/international/academics/transcripts.html>

Housing

- Please note that although you will be paying BC tuition, you will be paying all housing costs directly to the provider. The following information may be of help in making your decision about housing. Student residences are managed independently of the University. Information on each residence and application forms are available on the following website: http://www.nuigalway.ie/accommodation/student_residences. Bear in mind that most student residences are available for full year students so be sure to apply early for housing. Margaret Daly can also advise you about available housing.
- Irish universities do not have meal plans but NUI Galway 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.tripadvisor.com/Travel-g186609-s303/Galway:Ireland:Public.Transportation.html>
- Most students purchase a cell phone when they arrive in Galway. 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
- 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>
- 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 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

- Information about the estimated cost of living in Galway may be found at:
http://www.nuigalway.ie/international/beforearrive/cost_of_living.html
- 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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