



BOSTON COLLEGE
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN
2011-2012
Program Guide

Trinity College Dublin
<http://www.tcd.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 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. Leann Lane is the BC On-site Coordinator. She is Coordinator of Irish Studies at Mater Dei Institute of Education. Leann is available in case of emergency on a 24-hour basis.

Leann is available at:

Office Phone: 353 1 808-6533
Emergencies only: 353 860417394
e-mail at: leann.lane@materdei.dcu.ie

Ms. Sinead Ashe, Non-EU Visiting Students, TCD International Office

Office phone: 353 1 896 3150
e-mail: sineadashe@tcd.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 Trinity College Dublin (TCD) 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 TCD; valid US passport; TCD student ID card; and evidence of financial support. You will find more information at: <http://www.tcd.ie/international/pre-arrival/visas-and-immigration/>
- 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 TCD 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 TCD'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. Alternatively, Aircoach or Dublin Bus will take you from the airport into city center inexpensively and you can take a taxi from there. Check the website: www.buseireann.ie for local information.
- If you will be looking for off-campus housing, you may want to ask Leeann to make a reservation for you at a hostel so that you have accommodations when you arrive.

Academics

- **Academic Calendar**

Please consult the acceptance materials that TCD 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:

Academic Year 2010-2011 (approximate)

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|--------------|--|
| 8/29-9/16 | Optional pre-semester program (not included in tuition)* |
| 9/19 | Freshers' Week – Orientation/Registration |
| 9/27 - 12/16 | Michaelmas Term |
| 1/16 - 4/7 | Hilary Term |
| 4/10 - 5/25 | Trinity Term (Exam period) |

*NOTE: If you choose to take the optional pre-semester program, Boston College does not award any credit for the program and you will still be required to take a full load of 60 ECTS during the academic year.

- The staff of the International Office will provide an orientation to familiarize you with TCD. Before you arrive you may want to look at: <http://www.tcd.ie/international/assets/pdf/guide-for-international-students-2009.pdf>

- Following the orientation, you will meet with advisors from the departments in which you will be taking classes; they will help you select your courses. Once you arrive Leeann Lane will meet with you and the other BC students in Dublin and help you get to know each other.
- Course selection information is available from: <http://www.tcd.ie/international/course-directory/index.php>
- **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 Trinity 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.**
- 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

- Although you will be paying BC tuition, you will pay for your own housing. Payment will be made directly to the provider.
- Once you receive an offer and accept a place at Trinity, you may apply for university housing but keep in mind that TCD housing is limited and BC students often live in off-campus shared apartments. Plan to look for housing when you arrive in Dublin. You will find information about housing at: www.tcd.ie/accommodation/.
- Be sure to let Leeann know well before the start of the semester if you will be looking for off-campus accommodations and she will book temporary housing for you at a nearby hostel. If you prefer booking your own temporary housing in a hostel or B&B via the web, you may want to look at: www.ireland.com/services.htm. Don't forget to send your contact information abroad to OIP once you're settled.
- Additional information about the estimated cost of housing may be found at: http://www.bc.edu/content/dam/files/offices/international/pdf/Updated_Budget_2010-.pdf
- Irish universities do not have meal plans but Trinity has many on-campus dining facilities as well as off-campus restaurants. Your accommodations will also have kitchen facilities.
- Information about local transportation may be found at: <http://www.dublinuncovered.net/transport.html>
- 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.

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

- 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
- The following website provides some information about the cost of living in Dublin:
<http://www.tcd.ie/international/assets/pdf/guide-for-international-students-2009.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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