



BOSTON COLLEGE
OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK
2011-2012
Program Guide

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

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 Southern Star*: <http://www.southernstar.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

- Professor Barra O'Donnabhain, BC On-site Coordinator
Phone: 353 21 490 4163
e-mail: 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. These agencies generally offer competitive rates and open-ended tickets allowing you to leave Ireland whenever you want (as long as your visa does not expire).
- 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 University College Cork (UCC) 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 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: application form provided by UCC; valid US passport; UCC student ID card; 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 1500 €. The UCC 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 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 2011 (Semester 1)

8/19	Early Start Orientation
8/22-9/16	Early Start Program
9/15-16	Orientation for Fall Semester
9/19	Teaching begins
12/9	Teaching ends
12/12-16	Exams

Spring Semester 2012 (Semester 2)*

1/3	Orientation
1/3-23	Teaching
3/26-30	Study Week
3/31-4/29	Easter Break
4/30-5/25	Exams

***NOTE: All BC 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/>
- 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 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, a new complex that opened in October 2006. More information about housing options is available at: <http://www.ucc.ie/en/international/Accommodation/>. 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
- 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 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://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

- 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/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 Cork: <http://www.corkcity.ie/aboutcork/>
Travel guides for Ireland: www.letsgo.com/
www.roughguides.com/
- Student and parent guides for study abroad:
<http://www.studyabroad.com/guides/handbook/handbook5.html#shock>

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