

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EAU CLAIRE

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Study Abroad



**LIMERICK, IRELAND
2020**

Program Guide

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Congratulations on being accepted to the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire (UWEC) study abroad program with the University of Limerick (UL) in Ireland. Living and studying in a new culture is both an exciting and a challenging experience. Past participants of study abroad report that the many advantages of international study include:

Gaining new perspectives on a chosen academic field

Increasing understanding of different cultures

Enhancing personal development

Developing different perspectives on U.S. culture

Gaining self-confidence and independence

Learning skills for the future international job market

It is up to you to determine how you can best benefit from these possible advantages. This is your adventure!

Use this program-specific guide with the more general resources in your BlugoldsAbroad account. While this guide contains the information available at the time of publication, it is impossible for any single resource to answer all of your questions. Your peer advisor will email information throughout the semester, and we encourage you to do your own research, also, using the web resources listed towards the end of this guide, as well as others that you find. Contact the Center for International Education (CIE) staff or your peer advisor with your specific questions.

Questions only you can answer include:

- 1) What are YOUR goals for this experience? Advancement in a future profession, desire to expand personal and academic horizons, need for a change, and wish to challenge yourself in a new environment?
- 2) How can you best prepare to meet your goals within the context of this program? For example, if one of your goals is truly being immersed in Irish culture, yet you are going with a group of UWEC students, how can you ensure that you do not spend too much time with other Americans?

The information in this guide was current at the time of publication, though changes may occur at any time.

ACADEMICS

Additional information on topics such as maintaining program eligibility, registration at UW-Eau Claire, class attendance, course equivalencies, grades, transcripts and service learning is in the [Academics section of your Study Abroad Handbook](#).

Pre-departure Planning

Please see the **UL Academic Planning Guide** on the [UWEC Limerick Academics page](#) for details on how to plan your courses at UL.

Semester: During the Limerick program application, you will indicate modules you are interested in taking. You will not finalize your registration until after arrival at UL, and it is possible that some of your first-choice modules will be full. It is important to identify alternate courses.

The CIE will ask the Admissions Office to evaluate any courses listed on your Limerick Module Interest Questionnaire that do not have UWEC equivalencies. Equivalencies will be posted on the Transfer Wizard as they are evaluated.

It is difficult to get into physical education courses at UL, and that equestrian skills (riding) classes are limited to those students in the equestrian science major.

Summer: You will indicate the top five courses on your Limerick application form. Limerick will confirm your registration around April 1. Most students usually get into their first choice, but it can be good to have backups in mind.

Credits and Course Load

Semester: You must enroll in a minimum of 12 credits and can take a maximum of 15.

Students at UL take an average of five courses (modules) per semester. Each course is worth three credits. UL allows study abroad students to drop down to four courses with special permission from their home university.

At the beginning of the semester, your UW-Eau Claire Study Abroad Coordinator will send an email to UL approving all UW-Eau Claire students to take four classes; you can then choose to take four or five courses. There is no difference the cost of tuition for four or five courses.

With four courses, you will be taking the minimum number of credits (12 credits) to maintain your full-time status at UWEC.

Summer: You will take one course and it will be worth 3 credits. If you need to use financial aid in the summer, you will need to be enrolled in 6 credits, which means you need to enroll in another course back at UWEC during the latter part of summer or do an online course.

All students, keep in mind:

- The credits you earn abroad are considered UW-Eau Claire resident credits and will count towards your GPA.
- The classes you take abroad will count towards the total credits needed for graduation.
- Semester: Dropping below full-time status may result in loss of financial aid and/or insurance coverage and **must be approved in advance by the CIE and UL.**

Registration at Limerick (Semester only)

During orientation at UL, you will get a list of classes that are available to study abroad students. After looking over this list and comparing it with your course equivalency sheet, you will decide on 7-10 classes. For the next two weeks, you have the opportunity to go to that many classes and try them out to see which ones you like and which ones you don't. At the end of those two weeks, you officially register with the University of Limerick. Registration is subject to academic prerequisites for the individual subjects, scheduling constraints, and ceilings on enrollments.

Reporting Your Registration (semester only)

As soon as you confirm your final registration at UL, **log in to your UW-Eau Claire online study abroad account and complete the Course Descriptions questionnaire.** You will find it at <https://studyabroad.apps.uwec.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Abroad.Home>. Choose LOGIN from the top toolbar and login with your UWEC username and password.

If a course you are taking is **not already in the UWEC Transfer Wizard**, you will need to provide the following information:

- course title
- course number
- course description
- number of credits
- name of the department you would like credit in

Once equivalencies have been established by all department chairs involved, the courses will be posted to the [Transfer Credit Wizard](#), and you will be able to see them there.

Equivalency timeline: The process of determining an equivalency can take four to six weeks. In other words, you will most likely not be able to ask to have equivalencies established for 6-8 courses so that you can choose which one you wish to take.

Class Attendance

You are required to follow the UL attendance. In general, you are expected to attend all regularly scheduled classes and field trips unless illness or other unavoidable circumstances make this impossible. Absences must be approved in advance by the instructor and may result in lower grades.

Class Schedule

Semester: Each class usually has lectures twice a week for about an hour each time, and then there is a tutorial/discussion section. However, the lectures and tutorials don't meet at the same time every day in the same place. You need to pay careful attention to your schedule the first few weeks to be sure you make it to all lectures and tutorials.

Summer: Being this program is so condensed and you are only taking one course, you can expect to be in class a few hours each day. On top of that, there may be tutorials or tours that you have to participate in. Each summer course is different.

Grades

The University of Limerick awards letter grades following the completion of a module. These letter grades are transferred to the 4-point QCA grading system (similar to the GPA system).

Limerick grades convert to UW-Eau Claire grades according to the following scale:

Limerick	UW-Eau Claire
A1, A2, B1	A
B2, B3, C1	B
C2, C3, D1	C
D2	D
F	F

Note: UWEC students abroad are not allowed to take classes pass/fail unless that is the only grade option offered for the class. Grades from UL are figured into your UWEC GPA and posted to your UWEC transcript. No exceptions will be made.

UL & UWEC Transcripts

Please see [the Academics section of the Study Abroad Handbook](#) for important information if you are **graduating, transferring or applying for a competitive major** such as Nursing or Education at the end of your term abroad.

A UL transcript with Irish grades is sent to UWEC, 2-3 months after the end of the UL semester or summer. Because UL grades will arrive later than the end of the UWEC semester or summer, your MyBugold CampS account will initially indicate "NR" (not reported). This will be changed once the transcript arrives.

Irish Academic System

The Irish system encourages students to develop through independent learning. As such, your learning is much less prescribed than it is in the United States: the professor will not specifically tell you what to read/study and when do it. As a student

- It is your job to pick the materials you want to read from the class reading list and pace your learning

- You will not have regular assignments/quizzes to make sure that you are keeping up with your work.
- You are expected to do your own reading and will be assessed one or two times in the semester.

Most courses at UL are taught in the traditional method of lecture and tutorial common in the U.K. and Ireland. Both the lecture and the tutorial play an important yet different role in student learning.

Lectures: Like in the U.S., the lecture allows lecturers (professors) to pass important information to many students. However, you will be expected to take notes; handouts with lecture notes will not be provided. Also, lectures offer less opportunity to ask questions; you ask questions and discuss the topic in the tutorial.

Lectures are not intended to tell you everything you need to know for the test or assignment. Instead, they provide an overview to allow you to place your course material or readings in context or to focus on a difficult concept or theory. **To best learn from lectures, keep up with course reading and come to lecture prepared. You will then be able to engage and ask questions in the tutorials.**

Tutorials/discussion groups: Tutorials, or discussion groups as they are also called, are NOT mini-lectures. They are active learning opportunities where the lecturer and students discuss the material covered in lecture **and** in the reading you are doing outside of class. They require active student participation. This means you:

- must have read assigned and suggested work in advance

- should be prepared to contribute to the discussion
- make note of any difficult concepts or points from lectures or your readings that you do not understand
- should raise issues for discussion.

Tutorials are not optional. Attendance is kept, and absences are noted. A benefit of tutorials is that they allow for closer professor/student relationships than are typically found at the undergraduate level in the U.S.

Advanced planning and independent learning:

At the beginning of a course, you will likely be given a long reading list. This is not a required reading list: it is a list of suggested readings that will expand your knowledge of the subject area. What you actually read is mostly left up to you. **If you are told that “You may wish to look at these specific titles,” take that as a strong hint to read those books.** You should also browse through several of the others and choose two or three to read carefully. These readings will form the basis of your contributions to tutorial discussions, as well as for the essays that serve as the graded work for the course.

Assessment: at UL, you will rarely find a lecturer who gives short, weekly assignments. In some courses, you may not hand in any work until the last few weeks of the term. At this point, you will probably be asked to hand in 5-15-page essays or papers. You often receive the essay questions with your syllabus at the beginning of the semester. Start writing early!

Below, past students talk about the major differences they encountered between UW-Eau Claire and UL.

Grading: *"The grading is a lot different. The assessment for most classes is to attend/participate in tutorial sessions, write one essay, and have a final. The entire grade for my science class is the final exam."*

Scheduling: *"Irish students' schedules (or timetables) are a lot more rigid than ours. They get their timetable at the beginning of the semester, and those are the classes they must take. If they fail, they can re-take the final. It would be really hard to re-take a class because they have another set schedule for the next semester."*

"The university schedules are not organized like ours are. By this, I mean that they don't have a class at the same time every day, in the same place. For example, I had my science class on Monday at 10 in one building, on Wednesday at 11 in another, and on Thursday at 2 in another room. There are no 1:00 MWF classes."

Classes: *"Each class usually meets with the professor/lecturer twice a week for about an hour each time. (In Ireland, not everyone is called "professor" – you have to earn that title, so most are referred to as lecturers.) Then, each class also has a discussion section, or tutorial. ATTEND THESE. They are where you really learn/discuss the material and can ask questions."*

Teachers: *"You have a lecture (with a "lecturer" not professor, professor is a very formal term in Ireland and isn't used often) where you take notes, and then a tutorial where you discuss the module content in a smaller group setting. The tutorials are how professors take attendance and are super helpful!!"*

Assignments: "Typically you will not get any daily/weekly assignments. The lecturer will recommend that you read certain things, but there will be no quiz or assignment that is due along with it. You still need to do the reading—most lecturers teach using the Socratic Method, meaning that they call on you in class and ask you to explain something from the reading to everyone else. Also, it is expected that you will use ideas from it in your mid-terms and final exams. You will learn a lot about Irish culture from reading journals, books and other literature."

Homework: "Since there isn't homework throughout the semester, Irish students claim that they slack off a lot early in the semester, but it seemed to me that they worked very hard throughout. Most classes don't have a required attendance (they aren't graded on it) so many don't go—or so they say. It seemed like they went to the classes I was in."

"No homework sounds great, but if you don't keep up with the reading it can come back to bite you at the end of the semester."

Papers: "For almost any class you will take, you will be asked to write a paper or two. The papers are generally three to five pages and require you to use numerous sources. The most important thing is that you CITE YOUR SOURCES CORRECTLY. Here are some tips for you:

- 1) You must use scholarly sources. If you are familiar with JSTOR, that will give you access to an endless amount of scholarly journal articles.
- 2) When using Microsoft Word, become familiar with using footnotes at the bottom of

each page. This is something I learned how to do while abroad. Most papers will require the use of footnotes.

- 3) Get a copy, from the library at UL, of the pamphlet that tells you how to correctly cite sources.
- 4) Overall, if you use scholarly sources and cite them in the correct format, you are halfway to earning an A.
- 5) Be careful of using the FIRST PERSON in essays. Lecturers usually discourage the use of the first person when assigning essays."

Exams: "The exams are essay style, and you will typically only have a midterm (semester) and a final. They are different from exams here. You will be given a list of questions or essay topics, and you will get to choose which ones you want to write about. You will have two hours to finish the exam and you need that entire two hours to finish it. In fact, if you leave early from these exams you will lose points. Basically, you have two hours to tell the lecturer everything you learned that semester in a clear and organized way."

"Exams at UL are very strict. You know the movies where you see students head into a gym with individual desks and teachers walking around and ripping up people's tests if they cheat? Well... it is almost exactly like that without the whole ripping up tests, they just take it away from you. Final exams are taken very seriously at UL, if you do not have your student ID or you are like 2 minutes late you will not be allowed to take the test..."

Lecturers: *"Most of the lecturers are great. They are available right after class to talk with you and answer any questions that you may have; they also hold office hours. They are very accustomed to American students and they know that their exam format is different from exams here, so they are more than willing to talk with you about this and give you tips on how to study. Other Irish students are also a great resource for advice!"*

"Introduce yourself to your lecturers at the beginning of the semester. They don't bite! Many will be much more accommodating with special request or issues if they know you are a study abroad student from the start."

Internships (semester only)

UL offers an International Practicum class, BR 4103, where teams of Irish and international students work together with community members to address an issue in the Limerick community. It comes back to UWEC as IDIS 230, Experiential Internships. Depending on the semester's project, you may be able to earn UWEC Service-Learning for the course if you follow the steps below.

Honors students: BR4103 has also been approved as an Honors course. Because UL does not have a way to indicate Honors credit on their transcripts, students should contact the UWEC Honors program for a substitution upon return

Service Learning (semester only)

There are many volunteer opportunities through UL. See the "Student Life-Volunteering" section of this guide for details. If you need to fulfill your UWEC service-learning requirement, successful completion of a UL volunteer assignment may fulfill part or all of it. You will complete the

service-learning forms online once you have your volunteer assignment before you begin your service.

To do so, go to the following website:

<https://www.uwec.edu/service-learning/students/>.

Click on "Create a Project".

The UWEC Limerick study abroad coordinator, Jenna Krosch, will be your UWEC Mentor. Enter her username on the form: kroschjm

For the question, "**How would you like your mentor to be involved in your project?**" state that your mentor will read and comment on your reflection paper and may ask you follow-up questions as necessary.

MONEY MATTERS

UWEC information about making payments, when they are due, withdrawal and refund deadlines, financial aid, general scholarships, budgeting and ways to bring money abroad is in the [Money Matters section of your Study Abroad Handbook](#).

Cost Estimate

You can find the most current Cost Estimate for your program, in easily printable format, on the [CIE Ireland webpage](#). Be sure you are looking at the correct term. The cost estimate includes what you pay to UW-Eau Claire, what you pay to UL, and what you pay directly to other vendors.

Housing Costs

Semester: You will apply to and pay for your housing directly through UL. **A €50 deposit will be due when you apply**, typically in April for fall and September for spring. An additional

€300 security deposit and the full semester's housing payment* will be due when you accept your placement, usually in July for fall and November for spring.

*If you receive financial aid and need to access the aid before you can pay your housing bill, **contact your UWEC Ireland coordinator**. She will let UL know, and they will defer the rest of your payment to the first day of the UWEC semester, when financial aid is released. You will still need to pay your security deposit at the time you accept your placement.

Summer: Housing costs are included in the program fee you pay to UWEC. You will receive instructions on how to reserve housing in your UL acceptance email, after you've submitted your Limerick online summer application.

Currency Exchange

The currency of Ireland is the Euro. One Euro has 100 cents. There are 8 Euro coins, ranging in amount from 1 cent to 2 Euros. Coins have different designs in the various countries that use the Euro. Bills range from €5 to €500 and have a standard design across countries.

You can find current exchange rates at <http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/>.

Cost of Living

For an idea of what everyday costs you may encounter, check out this website:

<https://www.numbeo.com/cost-of-living/in/Limerick>

Credit Cards and ATMs

Credit cards are widely accepted throughout Ireland. However, finding ATMs in some rural counties, including Limerick, may be difficult. Be sure to pull out cash in Limerick City before heading to the country.

HEALTH & SAFETY

General information on these issues, as well as information on CISI insurance, is included in the [Health & Insurance](#) and [Safety Abroad](#) sections of your Study Abroad Handbook.

Centers for Disease Control

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has vaccination suggestions, how to stay healthy when abroad, and health information specific to Ireland. Review the [CDC site for Ireland](#).

Due to increasing measles and mumps cases in Europe, we strongly encourage all students to check their vaccine history to see if they have had the MMR vaccine.

STIs at UL

In December 2016, the Irish Times reported an "outbreak" of STIs, specifically gonorrhea and chlamydia, at UL. You can [find the article here](#). Please discuss any questions or concerns you may have with your healthcare provider.

Healthcare

Campus Medical Services:

An acute care advisory service is provided to all registered students. There is a fee to use this service; you can claim for any medical expenses through CISI.

This service includes a full-time nursing service and daily attendance by doctors. A consultant psychiatrist and chartered physiotherapist are available through internal referral. The Student Health Centre is open Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 4.00pm. You will receive additional information during orientation at UL.

Counseling Resources:

UL counsellors provide a comprehensive, confidential counselling service, free of charge.

The service can help students deal with the wide range of problems common to any student population, e.g. personal problems, difficulties in studying, vocational uncertainty, family problems and examination anxiety. The service also offers a range of modules for students, including Stress Management, Personal Development and Study Skills.

Medical Supplies/Medications: You can find basic medical supplies or medications in local pharmacies. They are plentiful and are identified by a green cross (universal symbol in all of Europe). They even sell personal hygiene items that you might not expect, like toothbrushes.

Services for Students with Disabilities

UL's [Disability Services Office](#) can provide assistance and accommodations to study abroad students. All campus housing is accessible and there are adapted rooms for students with disabilities. It is vital that students book early and outline their needs to the accommodation office.

As part of the inclusive measures provided by the university there is a Disability Services accessible bus available to bring students to and from the villages. Early application is important.

It is also important to look at the level of accessibility in Ireland. To find more information on this topic, please see the [State Department Country Specific Information page](#).

If you have questions or concerns about this, please contact your UWEC study abroad coordinator.

Safety in Ireland

Information on crime, specific safety issues, road safety, drug penalties, and terrorist activity

in Ireland is included in the U.S. State Department's [website](#). Specific safety in and around Limerick will be discussed during orientation in Eau Claire and in Limerick.

ATM Use: Theft around ATMs has been reported. Thieves generally work in teams and use distraction, such as waiting until a person has entered their PIN, then asking a question or for loose change. While the person is distracted by the first thief, the second quickly withdraws cash and leaves. If you are distracted in any way around an ATM, cancel the transaction immediately.

Pickpocketing/Stolen Phones: these are two of the most reported occurrences for foreigners who visit Europe and many places around the world. You are encouraged to securely store your personal belongings and when possible, use your cell phone discretely.

Emergency Contacts

General emergency procedures are described in the Safety Abroad section of the *Study Abroad Handbook*, and UL has a Study Abroad Manager who is available for consultation if difficulties arise. You will receive an emergency contact card at Orientation 2; be sure to keep it in your wallet. The information is also on the [Contact Names & Addresses](#) page of this guide.

911 Equivalent in Ireland

If you are in an emergency in the Republic of Ireland, you will need to know how to reach the local police, fire, or ambulance services. The local equivalent to the 911 emergency line in Ireland is 999. However, you can also use the European wide emergency number which is 112. We suggest you save these numbers in your cell phone in case you need to use them quickly.

The U.S. State Department also provides a list of [911 numbers abroad](#). Please note that in some countries there are different numbers for fire, police, and ambulance. Plan ahead and research numbers before you go.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Passport information is included in the [Travel Resources section of your Study Abroad Handbook](#).

Visa

A visa is official permission to temporarily reside in another country and is granted by the government of that country. As of this writing, U.S. citizens do not currently need a visa to enter Ireland. Should that change, **however, it is your responsibility to apply for and receive a visa from an Irish consulate or embassy in a timely manner.**

Semester Students: Irish Immigration/ Registration

You will eventually have an item in your BlugoldsAbroad account, under, Learning Content “Limerick Immigration Entry Requirements” in your BlugoldsAbroad account and read the “Visa” section of your Study Abroad Handbook for more information about what documents you should bring with you for immigration and what to do to keep up-to-date on visa requirements.

Irish Immigration Regulations

At the time of this writing, U.S. citizens are deemed to be from a “non-visa” country, [per this document](#), meaning that you do not need a visa to enter Ireland. However, because you will

be in Ireland for more than 90 days, you do need to register with Irish immigration within a month after arrival.

Please note that these regulations may affect your airline ticket purchase. See the "Travel Arrangements" section of this guide for details.

Registering with immigration after arrival (semester students only):

Immigration registration takes place at the Garda Síochána (police) station at Henry Street in downtown Limerick during normal office hours, excluding public holidays. Your appointment will be organized through the Study Abroad Office at UL, but it will be your responsibility to get to and from the appointment. Directions will be provided by UL.

To register with Immigration, you will be required to produce all of the documents needed at immigration, plus:

- A valid UL student ID card (provided by UL Study Abroad Office during orientation)
- An immigration letter (provided by the UL Study Abroad Office during orientation)
- €300 fee (as of 2019-2020) payable by bank giro (similar to a money order) or credit card **in your name**. You cannot use a parent's credit card, nor can you pay cash.

More information on Irish immigration requirements for students can be found at the Irish Council for International Students site: <https://www.internationalstudents.ie/info-and-advice/immigration/visas-and-immigration>

Summer Students: Irish Immigration

U.S. citizens staying in Ireland for 90 days or less do not need a visa, nor do they need to

register with the Immigration Office upon arrival. If you are NOT a U.S. citizen, please contact your home country's Irish consulate to see what processes you need to take. More information can be found here:

<https://www.internationalstudents.ie/info-and-advice/immigration/visas-and-immigration>

Visas for Travel to Other Countries

If you plan to travel while abroad, you should verify visa requirements for each country you will visit by contacting the nearest consulate for that country, or your travel agency. Most Western European nations do not require U.S. citizens to have a visa for tourist travel of less than three months but that is subject to change.

PACKING TIPS

There is general packing information in the [Travel Resources section of your Study Abroad Handbook](#), and you will get a suggested packing list for Ireland at Orientation 2. In addition, you should know the following:

Weather

Limerick has a temperate climate due to the Gulf Stream. Spring is from March – May with April starting to be more pleasant. Summer is June – August and is Ireland's driest season (but you can still expect short rain showers). Past participants have noted, however, that at times the weather can be very cold, rainy, and windy, and that it can change several times throughout the day. Temperatures in May and June average between 65-75°F. Autumn is from September – November and starts to see more rainfall. The temps will drop off to the upper 40's -50's. Average temp of winter (December – February) is in the upper 30's-40's. The rain will definitely make it feel colder. It can also get pretty gloomy and the sun may hide for a bit. Snow is rare in the winter.

Clothing

UL students dress casually, with jeans and sweaters being the most common clothing. Student residences are often cold by U.S. standards, so be sure to have some warm clothes. Having some cold weather gear can also come in handy during many parts of the semester. Bringing appropriate rain gear is going to be important no matter when you study in Ireland! Whether you bring it or buy it when there, having a sturdy umbrella, warm raincoat and maybe water-resistant shoes is key to staying dry. Summer students should be prepared with a variety of clothing to dress in layers to add/remove throughout the ever-changing forecasts.

Converters & Adapters

If you plan to bring a hair dryer, razor or other appliance from the US, you will need to **buy both a voltage converter and a plug adapter**. Another option is to buy the appliances after you arrive.

If you plan to bring your laptop abroad, check the power cord to see acceptable voltage inputs and outputs. If it includes 220 volts, you will only need to use a plug adapter, not a voltage converter.

If you have several US appliances you plan to use abroad, consider bringing a power strip, also. You will still need to have a voltage converter in order to plug it into the wall.

GETTING TO IRELAND

There is information on student-oriented travel agencies, instructions for booking a flight, and other travel information in the [Travel Resources section of your Study Abroad Handbook](#)

Travel Arrangements

It is your responsibility to make travel arrangements to Limerick. You will fly into Shannon International Airport, which is located 16 miles from the city and is directly accessible from many destinations, including daily flights to and from the United States. **Note that a roundtrip ticket is required for immigration.**

Buying a Changeable Ticket (Semester students)

As noted earlier, exam dates are only set 4-6 weeks before the end of the semester. If your exams are early in the exam period, you may want to change your ticket to come home earlier. **Therefore, we strongly recommend that you buy a roundtrip ticket with a low change fee.** Note that trip insurance does not cover flight changes if you buy a non-changeable, non-refundable ticket.

Going Through Immigration & Customs (semester students)

At Irish customs, make sure you say that you are coming to Ireland as a student **so that you receive the correct immigration permission stamp in your passport.** (It is not possible to change to student status if you receive a tourist immigration stamp on arrival.)

The Irish immigration authorities will review the documents and computer-swipe and date-stamp your passport. You have one month from the date stamped in your passport to **register with the Immigration Office.**

Getting to Limerick the City & University

Pick-Up by UL

Your acceptance email from UL will include information about airport pick-up. As long as you return the information before the due-date, and you are arriving on one of UL's designated

"arrival dates," you will be picked up at Shannon International Airport and transported to your accommodation. Typically, you must submit the form at least 3 weeks in advance of the arrival day.

If you have turned in arrival information but your flight is delayed, please phone the UL Study Abroad Coordinator (see [Contact Names and Addresses](#)) as soon as possible so they know when to expect you. You may need to take a taxi to UL. You can also try to call/email the UW-Eau Claire Center for International Education and we will try to contact UL staff to notify them of your delay.

You should wait in the "Arrivals" terminal, and you will be paged if you are not met immediately.

Independent Arrival

If you did not return your Airport Collection Form to UL by the requested date, UL will not arrange for you to be picked up from the airport. However, there is regular bus or taxi service from the airport to UL.

You are not required to fly into Shannon Airport; you can also fly into Dublin. However, when comparing ticket costs, be sure to factor in the time and cost of getting from Dublin to the UL campus with all of your luggage!

Early, Late or Delayed Arrival

Since UL cannot accommodate students prior to the start of orientation, you will need to find alternative housing arrangements if you arrive early. If you decide to remain in the city of Limerick, you may want to stay in a bed-and-breakfast (B&B) for one or more nights. There is a [Limerick Tourist Office](#) located at 20 O'Connell Street in Limerick City Center. They offer housing suggestions on their site or you can email at limericktio@failteireland.ie.

At Orientation 2, you will discuss a back-up arrival plan in case your flight is delayed, and you will be arriving outside of check-in hours.

SETTLING IN

Student life is centered on the campus with restaurants, pubs, a modern dance company, chamber orchestra, and a national art collection.

Orientation: Semester students

UL offers an orientation for incoming international students at the start of the semester in Ireland. All new students attend the program. The program gives a student's view of the university: its physical layout, courses, administrative procedures, counseling services, library, student services office, and sports and recreation facilities. You will register for your classes at this time, too. Regular sessions are also held with visiting students during the first weeks of each semester to assist the integration process and to resolve outstanding issues.

Orientation: Summer students

Orientation begins when you are picked up at the airport. You'll receive a welcome pack and your university ID. That evening there is a welcome meal for all Summer School students. The next morning, you will have a campus tour and a variety of orientation sessions to introduce you to UL. Classes begin after lunch that day!

On-Site Support

The UL International Office staff will be your main advising office while at UL. Their contact information is on the Contact Names & Addresses page of this guide.

Student Clubs & Organizations

All registered students are members of the Students' Union at UL, and the Union's aim is to promote student well-being and welfare. It has developed an extensive range of services and other facilities in support of this aim. The Union supports more than 70 clubs and societies which cover almost every interest, mainstream sport, and specialist activity. Past students recommend the International Society, the Outdoor Pursuits Club, the Kayak Club, and Language Exchange. Find more information at <https://www.ul.ie/international/clubs-societies>.

Summer students will see less activity as most UL students will be on break or finishing up exams. However, the summer staff will present a lot of opportunities to get exposed to the local culture.

Activities/Events

This mostly pertains to semester students: There are also workout classes offered at the UL athletic center, and you have a free gym membership for use of athletic center facilities. (Specific classes may have a small additional fee.)

Communication about university/community events is very decentralized, it takes some effort to find out what is going on. Good sources of information are bulletin boards, particularly the board in the Students' Union.

Volunteer (semester students)

UL strongly encourages semester study abroad students to volunteer in the community (there just isn't enough time in the summer). There are many opportunities to get involved that enrich your study abroad experience, and can enrich your resume, including getting involved in

research projects and tutoring in local schools. This is a great way to experience more about the Irish culture and way of life by interacting with Irish people from all ages!

Students interested in volunteering or who wish to undertake a practicum module are advised to secure **Local Police Clearance before arriving in Ireland**. To do this, submit a record check request through the Wisconsin Department of Justice.

<https://www.doj.state.wi.us/dles/cib/background-check-criminal-history-information#request>

There is a small fee, and it will take 7-10 business days for you to receive the report, so plan ahead.

Once you receive your letter, **put it in a safe place and bring it with you**. You will ultimately share it with the volunteer site coordinator.

While this is not necessary for all volunteering opportunities, it is increasingly required for any placements working with children, the elderly or other vulnerable groups, all of which are popular options with Study Abroad students. You must apply for and receive your background check before you depart for the UK.

The next step is to apply for Garda Vetting; UL will provide further information on this during Orientation.

You can register on the Volunteering website: [Volunteering opportunities in UL and Limerick City](#) as soon as you have a working UL email address, however most students will register during orientation week, once they arrive in UL.

Volunteering is not for academic credit; however, it is listed on your UL academic

transcript. (UL is the only university in Ireland to include this!)

Those who wish to do so can also apply for the (UL) [Presidents Volunteer Award](#), to quality students must volunteer for a minimum number of hours and are required to submit a reflective portfolio.

Remember to submit your service-learning forms online before you begin your project if you want it to count for UWEC service-learning! (<https://www.uwec.edu/service-learning/>)

Other Campus Services

Aside from the services mentioned within the residential villages, the campus center at UL offers:

- Book shop
- Full banking service (including ATM)
- Food store
- Pharmacy
- Laundromat
- Full bar and restaurant facilities
- Student function rooms
- Students Union offices
- Athletic center w/ pub

HOUSING

Summer Students: Housing

Summer School students are housed on campus in private rooms with bathrooms, and shared living and kitchen areas. All houses include male and female housemates.

Past participants report that living with five to seven other people can be challenging at times. Each living group is responsible for keeping their apartment clean, taking out garbage, etc. If everyone agrees at the beginning to a specific approach to keeping the apartment livable, it will be easier to hold people to it later on. Don't

be afraid to be the one to organize the initial discussion!

Semester Students: Housing

You will apply for housing through the UL online application system. Your UL acceptance letter will include instructions. Please see the “Money Matters” section of this guide for details on dates and payments.

The University offers five residential villages specifically designed for Irish and international students. Individual two-story terraced houses of six to eight bedrooms are arranged in landscaped courtyards in an attractive village style.

Unlike the dorms at UW-Eau Claire, there are no RAs, but there is a village manager. One time during the semester, the village manager will inspect the house or apartment to make sure it is up to par. If you fail an inspection, you will get another try. If you fail a second time, all roommates will pay a fee to a cleaning crew.

Semester student housing is booked for the full semester, so fall and spring students can stay in their room during any breaks at no additional charge. Year-long students are booked in accommodation from September to the end of exams in May and can stay in their room during all breaks at no additional charge.

One or two U.S. students live with six or seven Irish or other international students to enable integration into the social life of the full-time Irish students. All villages are mixed gender, so you will have both male and female housemates.

Past participants report that living with five to seven other people can be challenging at times.

Each living group is responsible for keeping their apartment clean, taking out garbage, etc. Address these issues directly and early on, in an organized manner: a cleaning chart agreed upon by all household members and hung on the refrigerator door is one suggestion. If everyone agrees at the beginning to a specific approach to keeping the apartment livable, it will be easier to hold people to it later on. Don't be afraid to be the one to organize the initial discussion!

Residence Hall Descriptions

The following descriptions of the five villages were provided by a past participant. For a look at the residences, go to <http://www.studentliving.ul.ie/>.

1) **Kilmurry (KIL-mur-ee)**: This village consists of two-story houses that generally have six to eight people living in them. There is a bathroom upstairs and downstairs. All the occupants share a kitchen and living room. The village has its own shop and launderette. In terms of location, Kilmurry is just a short walk from the workout center and about a 5-15-minute walk from where classes will take place.

2) **Plassey (PLAH-see)**: Plassey is much like Kilmurry, although they are located on completely opposite sides of the UL campus. Generally, these two-story houses are designed for eight people, and roommates will share kitchen, living room, and two bathrooms. A bus stops and other shops are nearby, and a launderette is located in the village center. Plassey village is the least expensive of the five accommodations.

3) **Dromroe (drum-ROW)**: This village is made up of apartments in connected housing complexes. Six people share an apartment with

a living room and kitchen. At Dromroe, everyone gets their own double bed and their own private bathroom. The village has its own shop, restaurant, and launderette. While the walk to the bus stop is longer when compared to Plassey and Kilmurry, Dromroe is the closest building to the campus where you will be attending classes.

4) **Thomond (TOE-mund)**: Thomond is similar to Dromroe in the apartment style layout with six occupants. All six share the kitchen and living room and there is a launderette in the village. UL is located on the River Shannon, and you must cross the river to get to Thomond, which is about a 10-15-minute walk from campus. The bridge is a little bigger version of the UW-Eau Claire footbridge.

5) **Cappavilla (CAH-pa-VIL-ah)**: This village is the newest addition to UL and the village is newer and larger. It is laid out in a way similar to Dromroe and Thomond, but Cappavilla offers six and four ensuite units to undergraduates and it also has a launderette. It is located behind Thomond next to the health service building. Living in Cappavilla means it is quite a walk to campus, but a shuttle bus frequently runs from this unit to campus.

What's Provided?

Each house offers:

- single study-bedrooms*
- a large kitchen/living room
- two bathroom facilities
- a telephone
- cable TV.

Each room contains:

- a bed, (usually a single bed, except in Dromroe)
- desk
- closet

- sink
- Bedspreads are provided, but you have to bring your own sheets and pillowcases.

*In rare cases, you may be asked to share a room, usually with another U.S. student.

Rainbow Housing

UL announced in fall 2019 that they are the first university in Ireland to offer LGBTQI+ specific housing. UL announced: "Rainbow housing is for students who wish to live together in a house/apartment that supports the LGBTQI+ and allied community at UL. When applying for on campus accommodation residents will be asked if they would like to live in Rainbow housing. Students can either tick yes or no depending on their preferences, rooms will be allocated accordingly."

Internet Access

Computer hook-up from individual study-bedrooms to the University network can be provided, and there is a good Wi-Fi connection throughout the house. UL provides an Ethernet cable for your use if you wish. The Internet charge is included in your rental fee.

Free Internet access is available in the library and computer labs throughout the university. If you have questions about computer services or support at UL, please visit the Student Computing website:

<https://ulsites.ul.ie/itd/student-computing-services-information>

Laundry

Each village has communal laundry facilities with washers and dryers where you can wash and dry your clothes. Buy laundry tokens can at the village reception to operate the machines. Past students report that doing laundry is expensive and machines are much smaller.

You should expect to pay \$6-7 per load. To save money, you can purchase a laundry package for one load of laundry/week ahead of time, which will be cheaper in the long run.

Meals: Semester Students

Meal plan: UL offers optional meal plans. You can sign up through the UL housing application. If you select a meal plan, you will get a voucher book that good at designated food outlets on campus. The UL Meal Plan is available from 8.30am to 8.00pm Monday through Thursday and 8.30am to 3.00pm on Fridays. Weekends are not included. For students who don't like to cook at home, the meal plan may be less expensive than buying single meals at the University cafes. Depending on the plan option selected, you can save between 10-20% at campus dining.

Self-catering: Historically, students have been expected to cook for themselves in their kitchen or purchase food/meals at the University cafes or cafeterias. Each kitchen is equipped with dishes, cups, utensils and cutlery for each resident. Kitchens are fully equipped with oven and stove top, refrigerator and freezer. UL also offers a Farmers Market every Tuesday in the Student Center Courtyard where students can buy fresh produce from local vendors.

Meals: Summer Students

Breakfast is provided in your kitchen area: a breakfast basket is delivered each afternoon for the following morning, including breads, cereals, fruit, yogurt, tea, coffee and milk.

You will receive meal vouchers for the university cafeteria for lunch and dinner, Monday-Friday.

Lunch and dinner on the weekends are up to you. You can cook in or eat out.

Traditional Irish Foods to Try

Bangers and mash: Sausages with mashed potatoes and gravy

Beef and Guinness stew: A beef stew made with a Guinness beef broth, served with mashed potatoes

Irish stew: A lamb and mutton stew

Corned beef and cabbage: Beef cured in salt and pickling spice, with cooked cabbage and root vegetables

Shepard's pie/Cottage pie: Minced lamb/beef and vegetables topped with mashed potatoes

Irish soda bread: a yeast free bread, delicious with soups or for breakfast!

Traditional Full Irish breakfast: Fried eggs, rashers (bacon), sausage, potatoes, baked beans, fried mushrooms and tomatoes, brown bread, and black and white pudding (blood sausage). It is served with your choice of tea or coffee, and sometimes orange juice.

Irish breakfast tea: Black tea served with milk and/or sugar. The Irish milk is so good, and it makes Irish tea very addicting! The two famous and rival tea brands are Barrys and Lyons, you will find that Irish people could argue for days about which one is better.

COMMUNICATION

Information on accessing/forwarding your UW-Eau Claire email address and on computer app-based phone services (SKYPE, What's App, Facetime, etc) is in the [Contacts & Communication section of your Study Abroad Handbook](#).

Time Difference

Ireland is normally six hours ahead of Eau Claire. For example, when it is 1:00 PM on Thursday in Eau Claire, it is 7:00 PM on Thursday in Limerick. However, daylight savings time does not happen in both places simultaneously, so for a few weeks, there is a seven-hour difference!

To see the current time in Limerick visit:

<https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/ireland/limerick>

Email/Internet Access

With computers all over campus, internet is free and easy. However, if you have a laptop, you may want to bring it so that you can do homework in your residence.

Landline Phone Information

UL does not offer phones in the room, but there is a phone in each residence. You are charged to use the phone. To make phone calls, you will probably want to use calling cards. Some students have also bought cell phones. Both options are more expensive than email.

Cell Phone Information

If you bring your own phone, the easy Wi-Fi access on campus makes communicating with a free app such as WhatsApp fairly simple. Set it up before you leave, and make sure those you plan to contact have it, too.

It is not necessary to get a local number for your cell phone, but you can choose to do so.

Options:

- Some students buy a new SIM card that allows you to get an Irish phone number. You can then call any Irish number as well.
- Others decide to get a burner phone for emergency purposes. They keep their US phone & number (check with your provider about an international plan), and they also have an Irish burner phone with an Irish number.

There are many places to get a phone or SIM card in downtown Limerick.

Calling from:

The U.S. to Ireland: You must first dial 011, which is the international dialing code. Next, you must dial 353, the country code for Ireland, and then the rest of the number to reach a specific city and location. Note that if there is a "0" listed before the main number, drop it when dialing internationally.

Ireland to the U.S.: To dial directly, you can dial "001," the area code, and the phone number you are calling. Note that "00" is the international access code in Ireland and "1" is the country code for the United States.

Snail Mail

International airmail takes 7-10 days in either direction. Until you have an exact address, your family and friends can send mail to:

Your Name
Study Abroad Student
University of Limerick
Limerick
Ireland

TRAVEL WHILE ABROAD

See additional information in the [Travel Resources section of your Study Abroad Handbook](#).

Organized Travel

Summer students will have some planned travel in the program. Additional or longer trips should be saved for after the program.

Semester students:

The International Society at UL plans some trips for international students. In past semesters, the Society has offered trips around Ireland, to Scotland, and to London. Past students recommend them: *"They are reasonably priced, a great way to meet students from around the world, and someone else does the planning for you!"*

Bus, Train & Air Travel

Taking a bus is probably your least expensive travel option in Ireland. To travel by bus around

Ireland, check out Bus Eireann at <https://www.buseireann.ie/>. Show your student ID for a student discount!

To travel by train, you leave from the same location as the buses. Check out this website to book a train <http://www.irishrail.ie/home/>. The nice thing is that you can buy tickets at the bus/train station. There are buses that leave from campus that go near the bus/train station too, or you can pay a bit more and take a cab.

In the words of a past participant, *"The bus was my main source of transportation all over Ireland. Usually, you will not pay over 20 Euro for a round trip bus ticket, which is fairly inexpensive for a weekend trip. Another option for travel is by train."*

If you plan to travel outside of Ireland, you may want to consider a Eurail pass. Ryanair and Easyjet also fly out of Shannon Airport. Just be careful of hidden fees for baggage, seats, etc. See [Travel Resources section of your Study Abroad Handbook](#) for details.

CONTACT INFORMATION

University of Limerick

Semester Students:

Katherine Martin
Study Abroad Manager
International Education Division
Main Building Room EO-030
University of Limerick
Castletroy, Limerick, Ireland
Phone: + 353 61 234653 or 353 61 213034
Fax: + 353-61-213062
Email: katherine.martin@ul.ie. Or study.abroad@ul.ie
Web: <http://www.ul.ie/international/en/home/study-at-ul/study-abroad/>

Carol Moloney
International Room Bookings
Accommodation
Campus Life Services
University of Limerick
Limerick, Ireland
Phone: +353-61-202433
Fax: +353 61 202188
Email: accommodation@ul.ie

Summer Students:

Summer.schools@ul.ie

<https://www.ul.ie/international/summer-schools>

Irish Consulate in the U.S.

Consulate General of Ireland
1 East Wacker Drive, Suite 1820
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: (312) 337-2700
Fax: (312) 836-1267
Web: <https://www.dfa.ie/irish-consulate/chicago/> or <https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/USA/>
HOURS:
(Monday -Friday)
Public Office Hours - 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

U.S. Consulate in Ireland

American Embassy
42 Elgin Road
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4, IRELAND
Phone: +353 1 668 8777
(During Business Hours)
Fax: +353 1 668-9946
After Hours Emergency Tel. +353 1 630 6200, follow prompts to reach operator

Email: acs_dublin@state.gov
<http://ie.usembassy.gov>

UW-Eau Claire

Center for International Education
Jenna Krosch
Study Abroad Coordinator
kroschjm@uwec.edu
3 Schofield Hall
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Eau Claire, WI 54702
Phone: (715) 836-4411
Fax: (715) 836-4948

After Hours Emergency

University Police:
(715)577-9045

Remember that in most cases, local contacts are best in local emergency situations.

If you have an after-hours emergency that can be helped on the U.S. side, please call University Police at the number above. Calls can be made to this number 24 hours a day.

You may get an answering machine; however, an officer is alerted as soon as you have left your message. Be sure to give the officer the phone number you can be reached at, as well as what type of assistance you require.

WEB RESOURCES: IRELAND

University	Culture	Country
University of Limerick Homepage http://www.ul.ie	Limerick Life http://limerickslife.com/	Everything You Wanted to Know about Ireland http://www.ireland.com
City of Limerick Homepage http://www.limerick.ie/	Irish Genealogy http://www.ireland-information.com	Directory of Irish Websites http://www.browse.ie/
	Poetry in Ireland http://www.poetryireland.ie/index.php	Irish Government http://www.gov.ie/
	Irish Weather http://www.met.ie/	International Country Codes http://www.countrycallingcodes.com/
	Irish TV/Radio News http://www.rte.ie/news/ http://www.tg4.ie/	Irish Newspapers Irish Times: http://www.irishtimes.com/ The Irish Independent: http://www.independent.ie/ Limerick Leader: http://www.limerickleader.ie/

Past Participant Tips: their experiences, what they wish they knew, etc.

My semester in Limerick, Ireland was hands down the best four months of my life! Going abroad frees you from the routine of everyday life and forces you to acknowledge the world around us. Every day is a new adventure. I wouldn't trade my memories for anything in the world. Rain or shine, Ireland is always bursting with life and culture. I absolutely love this country!"

"You learn so much by experiencing and living a new culture. With many programs you live or learn only with US students and teachers, but here in Ireland you live and learn with the Irish. In doing so, you learn about yourself, others, and another culture and come back a different person, not changed directly, but with a greater appreciation for another culture and world outside your own if you actually give it a chance."

"There really aren't any words to describe how amazing Ireland was. I have come away a new person, with new life and new hopes for my future. I was so fortunate to have had this experience. I have learned so much, not only about myself, but about a different culture and a different lifestyle. Overall, this journey was nothing short of fabulous. I am coming home without regrets and with an immense longing to stay here forever. The people I have met are ones that will be my forever friends and always in my heart."

"I have had so many "once-in-a-lifetime" experiences while abroad that I can't put them all into words. All I can say is that this has been the best experience of my life. I have grown in so many ways, both personally and academically. I have learned so many new things; I cannot begin to list them."

"My semester abroad was incredible! I learned so much about the culture, school system and lifestyles of Irish people as well as of people from around the world. The best part of the program was being integrated with the Irish students and with students from other states and countries in accommodation as well as in classes. The people who I met this semester were from many different places, and I am so grateful for the relationships that I have developed with them - they helped to enrich my study abroad experience more than I could have ever imagined. I wouldn't trade my experiences abroad for anything - I had the time of my life, and if given the chance to do it all over again, I would be on the plane in a second!"

"I feel that my time abroad gave me a perspective of this world and my place in it that I could never have come to realize without leaving. It was a time to reflect on my past, present and future in a different environment. I grew so much as a person in such a short time, my college experience has become so much better because of my time abroad."

"It was amazing to experience a different culture and get the opportunity to travel around the world. I have met so many nice people here, both Irish and other study abroad students. You have to make an effort to meet people, but that is exactly what studying abroad is about - coming out of your shell. I recommend traveling and studying abroad to anyone because I think that it really changes a person for the better. I spent a lot of time talking to my roommates about the differences between Ireland and the U.S."

"People may ask questions about America and/or make jokes about America. It is all in fun but was weird at first. There are people from all over the world here and we're all curious about each other's cultures."

"One of the biggest adjustments I've had has been getting used to my new personal routine of sleep, social time, meal time, and school. School is different over here. You aren't obligated to weekly assignments yet you should still look over the content consistently."

"I absolutely have met my goals! I think one of the biggest things I recommend is create a list of different personal, academic, and career goals. Write them down in a journal or notebook and look over them every day or at least frequently. Yet, do not get stressed on reaching one goal or accomplishing everything you had in mind, sometimes you need to just go with the flow and enjoy all you can. Spontaneous moments are sometimes the best."



Updated: November 2019 jmk