

# Study Abroad



**LIMERICK, IRELAND**  
**SUMMER 2018**

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**Congratulations** on being accepted to the UW-Eau Claire (UWEC) study abroad program with the University of Limerick in Ireland. Living and studying in a foreign 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!

This program guide is to be used together with the general Study Abroad (SA) Handbook. The SA Handbook has information that is valid for all study abroad programs. This guide will provide you with specific information for the Limerick study abroad program. It is designed to complement the Handbook, study abroad orientation, and your individual pre-departure preparations.

Please realize that although this guide contains all of the information available at the time of publication, it is impossible for any single resource to answer all of your questions. Your peer adviser will email additional information throughout the semester. Please contact the Center for International Education (CIE) staff, your peer adviser, and past program participants with your specific questions. You should also make use of the additional written and web resources listed towards the end of this guide.

Basic questions only you can answer include:

1) What are YOUR goals for this experience? Common objectives of student travelers include advancement in a future profession, desire to expand personal and academic horizons, need for a change, and wish to challenge oneself with immersion in a new culture.

2) Given the way the program is set up; how can you best prepare to meet your goals? For example, if one of your goals is truly being immersed in Irish culture, yet you are going with a group of UW-Eau Claire students, how can you insure that you do not spend too much time with other U.S. Americans? The information in this guide was current at the time of publication, though changes may occur at any time.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### *The Program*

UW-Eau Claire will participate in the University of Limerick Summer Schools for the first time in 2018! The Summer Schools run for three weeks and offer courses in a variety of subjects.

### *The Location*

With breathtaking beauty and a long, dramatic history, the island of Ireland is home to 5 million people and 8 million sheep. The people of Ireland combine a keen sense of tradition with the skills and flexibility required to function in an open economy. Ireland's influence in the world far exceeds its size or population because of the renowned creativity of the Irish in literature, film, and popular music. Education is the cornerstone of all economic and cultural activity.

Limerick is a vibrant city of historic and literary interest, lies in the heart of the Shannon Region in Ireland's Midwest. This a region offers spectacular landscapes, heritage attractions, leisure activities, and cultural pursuits. Founded as a Viking fortress in the 10th century, it is Ireland's oldest chartered city.

### *The University*

The University was established in 1972 on the Plassey estate. Just 20 minutes from the city by bus, the University of Limerick quickly gained a reputation among Irish universities for innovation in the design and delivery of its courses. Additionally, UL was regarded for its excellent academic standards and relevance to the needs of the developing Irish economy, particularly in the area of advanced technology and in the context of Ireland's membership in the European Union. The University has

become a focus for a wide range of artistic activity and is home to some fine collections of Irish art, the Irish Chamber Orchestra, and the Irish World Music Centre.

The compact nature of the campus and the UL's size foster a close sense of community. UL believes strongly that the creation of a friendly, caring, and cooperative atmosphere is an important factor in the successful pursuit of a program of study.

UL study abroad has been recognized for meeting the [Forum on Education Abroad's Standards of Good Practice](#).

### *Academic Calendar*

Per the official UL Summer 2018 offer letters:

Depart the U.S.	May 22
Official Arrival Date/Pick-up from Shannon Airport/Housing Check-in	May 23
Orientation & Classes Begin	May 24
Field Trip-Bunratty Castle	May 26
Field Trip-Dublin & Book of Kells	June 1
Field Trip-the Burren, Cliffs of Mohr, Ailwee Caves	June 6
Classes End	June 11
Finals & Farewell	June 12
Check-out/Return to Airport	June 13

## ACADEMICS

*There is additional information on program eligibility, as well as academic topics such as registration, class attendance, credits and course load, grades, transcripts, and accessing the UW-Eau Claire library while abroad in your Study Abroad Handbook.*

### **Pre-departure Planning & Course Equivalencies**

You can find the courses UL plans to offer and their UW-Eau Claire equivalencies on the [Academics page](#) of the UWEC/Limerick website.

### **Registration**

**At UW-Eau Claire:** All you need to do for registration at UW-Eau Claire is **sign your online PPA for Summer 2018**. Center for International Education (CIE) staff will work with the Registration Office to enroll you in the Limerick program under a temporary INTA course number. This “blanket registration” will appear on your billing statements and will be replaced by the specific UL course once your transcript from UL arrives. You do not need to complete any other registration at UW-Eau Claire.

**At UL:** You will indicate your top five courses on your UL application form. UL will confirm your registration after April 1. However, they indicate that most students are enrolled in their first choice classes.

### **Class Attendance**

When studying abroad, you are required to follow the attendance policies of your university abroad. 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.

### **Credits and Course Load**

The credits you earn abroad are considered UW-Eau Claire resident credits. Your UL class will be worth 3 credits, will count towards the total credits needed for graduation, **and the grade will be figured into your GPA.**

### **Grades**

The University of Limerick awards letter grades. 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: UW-Eau Claire students abroad are not allowed to take classes pass/fail, and grades from Ireland are figured into your UW-Eau Claire GPA.**

### **Transcripts & Graduation**

A transcript for your time abroad will be sent from UL to UW-Eau Claire. **Transcripts are not available until two or three months after the end of the term.** Due to this delay, you will initially receive a UW-Eau Claire grade report with “NR” (not reported). A revised grade report will be available after the transcripts have arrived. UL will only send one transcript to UW-Eau Claire; do not request transcripts

from UL directly, because the UW-Eau Claire Registrar's Office cannot accept a transcript sent directly to a student.

### *Irish Academic System*

**The Irish system is centered on encouraging students to develop through independent learning.** As such, your learning is much less prescribed than it is in the United States: basically the professor will not 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 and pace your learning. For example, your professors will not assign reading or regular assignments/quizzes to make sure that you are keeping up with your work. Instead, you will be given a reading list and assessed one or two times in the semester.

Most courses at UL are taught in the traditional method of lecture and tutorial that is 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 is a traditional method of teaching that allows lecturers to pass important information to a large number of students. However, you will be expected to take notes as handouts with lecture notes will not be provided. Also, lectures in Ireland may offer less opportunity for students to ask questions as students are expected to ask questions and discuss the topic in the tutorial. Lectures in the Ireland are not intended to tell you everything you need to know for the test or assignment. Instead, the lectures might 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 take the best advantage of lectures, you should keep up with course**

**reading and come to lecture prepared. By being prepared for lecture, you will 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. Instead, tutorials are active learning opportunities where the professor and your fellow students meet regularly to discuss the material being covered in lecture and the reading that you are doing outside of class. For tutorials to be effective, they require active student participation. This means you:

- must have read assigned work and suggested sources in advance
- should be prepared to contribute to the discussion
- made note of any difficult concepts or points from lecture or your readings that you do not understand
- you should be willing to raise issues for discussion.

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

### **Advance planning and independent learning:**

Upon beginning your class, you may 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 from the list 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 assessment for the module.

**Assessment:** Unlike in the U.S. system, you will rarely find a lecturer who makes short, weekly assignments. In some courses, you may not hand in any work until the last few week. At this point, you will probably be asked to hand in essays or papers, which will range in length from 5-15 pages. You often receive the essay questions with your syllabus at the beginning of the term. 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/or have a final. The entire grade for my science class is the final exam."*

**Scheduling:** *"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:** *"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 paper or final exam. And you will learn a lot about Irish culture from reading journals, books and other literature."*

**Homework:** *"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 term."*

**Papers:** *"For almost any class you will take, you will be asked to write a paper. 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 usually essay style. 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 in the class 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 peoples 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."

## MONEY MATTERS

Information about how payments are made, when they are due, the UW-Eau Claire withdrawal/refund deadlines, financial aid, scholarships, budgeting and ways to bring money abroad is in 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. Remember that 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 and Housing Costs

Housing costs are included in the program fee you pay to UW-Eau Claire. You will receive instructions on how to reserve housing in your UL acceptance email, after you have submitted your UL online summer school application.

### Personal Travel

The actual amount spent on personal travel will vary greatly from student to student, depending on your budget and your priorities. The program is short and already includes several day trips—be sure to take advantage of them.

To do any extensive travel, you will need to stay after the program ends.

### 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.

The exchange rate as of December 6, 2017 was 1 euro = \$1.14907 US. You can find current exchange rates at <http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/>.

### ***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.

### ***Travelers Checks***

Due to a decrease in demand, many Irish financial institutions have stopped accepting and/or cashing traveler's checks. At the banks that do still accept traveler's checks, you will need to pay a fee to cash them. However, traveler's checks can be useful in an emergency situation such as when your credit or debit cards are lost or stolen, your cards are damaged, your cards are deactivated due to fraud concerns, etc.

## **HEALTH & SAFETY**

*Additional information on these issues, as well as information on CISI insurance, is included in the Health Issues and Safety Abroad sections of your Study Abroad Handbook.*

### ***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.

### ***Campus Medical Services***

There is a campus health center at UL similar to Health Services at UW-Eau Claire. It is free, but you do need to call for an appointment. There is also a pharmacy near the Students' Union.

### ***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 very important to contact UL early if you will need an adapted room.

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.

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.

### ***Emergency Contacts***

General emergency procedures are described in the *Study Abroad Handbook*, and UL has a Study Abroad Adviser who is available for consultation if difficulties arise. You will receive an emergency contact card from your Peer Advisor. The information is also on the *Contact Names & Addresses* section of this guide and will also be posted to the Learning Content of your UWEC online study abroad account closer to departure.

## ***911 Equivalent in Republic of Ireland***

If you are in an emergency situation 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.

## ***Safety in Ireland***

Information on crime, road safety, drug penalties, and terrorist activity in Ireland is included in the State Department Consular Information Sheet which you can find at this link. Safety in and around Limerick will be discussed during orientation in Ireland.

## **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

*Passport information is included in your Study Abroad Handbook.*

### ***Immigration/Visa***

US 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 US citizen, please contact your UWEC study abroad coordinator for information on

More information on Irish immigration requirements for students can be found at the Irish Council for International Students site:

[http://www.icosirl.ie/eng/student\\_information/immigration\\_and\\_visas](http://www.icosirl.ie/eng/student_information/immigration_and_visas).

## ***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.

## **PACKING TIPS**

*In addition to the general packing information in the Study Abroad Handbook, you will receive a packing list at Orientation 2 and should know the following about Ireland.*

### ***Weather***

Limerick has a temperate climate due to the influence of the Gulf Stream. Temperatures in May and June average between 65 and 75 degrees F. 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. A raincoat and waterproof shoes are recommended.

### ***Appliances***

The standard electric current in Europe is 220 volts. U.S. appliances such as hair dryers and razors run on 120 volts. If you plan to bring these appliances, you will need to buy both a **converter and a plug adapter**. You may also choose to buy the appliances abroad.

## **GETTING TO IRELAND**

### ***Travel Arrangements***

It is your responsibility to make travel arrangements to Limerick. UL recommends

that you 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.

There is information on student-oriented travel agencies, instructions for booking a flight, and other travel information in the *Study Abroad Handbook*.

### ***Getting to Limerick***

#### **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 UL's designated "arrival date," 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.

#### **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 can find details on pages 31-33 of the UL Pre-Arrival Handbook. We recommend that you print this handbook, or at least these pages, so that you can easily access the information if necessary.

#### **Early Arrival**

Since UL cannot accommodate students prior to the start of orientation, you will need to find alternative housing arrangements if you arrive early. Page 8 of the UL Pre-Arrival Handbook has suggestions of places to stay.

## **SETTLING IN**

### ***Orientation***

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!

### ***Housing***

Summer School students are housed on campus in private rooms with bathrooms, and shared living and kitchen areas. 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. 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!

### ***What's Provided for My Room?***

Each house offers single study-bedrooms, a large kitchen/living room, two bathroom facilities, a telephone, and cable TV. Each room contains a bed, desk, closet, and sink. Bedspreads, sheets and towels are provided.

Computer hook-up from individual study-bedrooms to the University network can be provided. The Internet charge is included in your rental fee. (Note: 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:  
[http://www2.ul.ie/web/WWW/Services/Information Technology Division/Student Computing](http://www2.ul.ie/web/WWW/Services/Information_Technology_Division/Student_Computing)

If you discover you need something for your room that you forgot to pack, don't worry! Past students suggest the Roches Store on O'Connell Street in the Limerick city centre (downtown) to pick up little appliances like curling irons or alarm clocks. You can take the bus from campus, or walk if you want the exercise. (It's about two miles.)

### **Laundry**

Each village has communal laundry facilities with washers and dryers where you can wash and dry your clothes. Laundry tokens can be purchased at the village reception to operate the machines. Past students have reported that doing laundry is expensive and machines are much smaller. You should expect to pay \$6-7 per load.

### **Meals**

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.

### **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

## STUDENT LIFE

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

### Activities/Events

There are a number of 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, so you'll need to make an effort to find out what is going on. Good sources of information are bulletin boards, particularly the board in the Students' Union.

## COMMUNICATION

*Information on accessing/forwarding your UW-Eau Claire email address and on computer-based phone service (SKYPE) is in 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!

### Telephone Information

**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.

**From Ireland to the U.S.:** To "phone home" while you are abroad using a calling card or calling collect, you must dial 0800-89-0011 to get an AT&T operator, and then the regular area code and number. Many students get a pre-paid Irish calling card to use for calling home while they are away. 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.

To make phone calls, you will probably want to use calling cards. Some students have also bought cell phones (mobiles). If you have a sim free phone (unlocked), you can pick up a free sim card and top it up with minutes as necessary. Check with your phone company if you have questions.

### Computer Access/Email

With computers all over campus, email is free and easy. To limit email time, set up a mass distribution list of friends and family – then you can write up a message about what you've been doing and send it to everyone at once. You can print the emails to serve as a journal of your time abroad.

### ***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 travel information in your Study Abroad Handbook.*

### ***Organized Travel***

See the Academic Calendar on page 2 for field trips included in the program. The University of Limerick Students Union will offer optional excursions at an additional fee.

### ***Bus & Train Travel***

Taking a bus is probably your least expensive travel option in Ireland. To travel by bus around Ireland, check out Bus Eireann at <http://www.buseireann.ie/>. Show your student ID for a student discount!

To travel by train, you leave from the same location as the buses (<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. This will be more expensive than a bus ride, but you will generally get to your destination faster. If you go to Northern Ireland,*

*train may not be a bad option because the bus ride can get fairly long."*

If you plan to travel extensively outside of Ireland after the program, you may want to consider a Eurail pass. Ryanair and Easyjet also fly out of Shannon Airport. See your *Study Abroad Handbook* for details.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## WEB RESOURCES: IRELAND

University/City	Ireland	Culture
<b>University of Limerick Summer Schools</b> <a href="https://www.ul.ie/international/summer-schools">https://www.ul.ie/international/summer-schools</a>	<b>Everything You Wanted to Know about Ireland</b> <a href="http://www.ireland.com">http://www.ireland.com</a>	<b>Irish Genealogy</b> <a href="http://www.ireland-information.com">http://www.ireland-information.com</a>
<b>City of Limerick Homepage</b> <a href="http://www.limerick.ie/">http://www.limerick.ie/</a>	<b>Irish Government</b> <a href="http://www.gov.ie/">http://www.gov.ie/</a>	<b>Directory of Irish Websites</b> <a href="http://www.browse.ie/">http://www.browse.ie/</a>
<b>Limerick Life</b> <a href="http://www.limerickslife.com">http://www.limerickslife.com</a>	<b>Irish Weather</b> <a href="http://www.met.ie/">http://www.met.ie/</a>	<b>Poetry in Ireland</b> <a href="http://www.poetryireland.ie/index.php">http://www.poetryireland.ie/index.php</a>
	<b>Irish TV/Radio News</b> <a href="http://www.rte.ie/news/">http://www.rte.ie/news/</a> <a href="http://www.tg4.ie/">http://www.tg4.ie/</a>	
	<b>Irish Newspapers</b> Irish Times: <a href="http://www.irishtimes.com/">http://www.irishtimes.com/</a> The Irish Independent: <a href="http://www.independent.ie/">http://www.independent.ie/</a> Limerick Leader: <a href="http://www.limerickleader.ie/">http://www.limerickleader.ie/</a>	

## ***When past participants of the Limerick program were asked to sum up their experience, here is what they said:***

"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!" Angel P.

"Amazing. Unforgettable. Irreplaceable. It's not even that my time abroad was filled with endless travel and crazy experiences, because it wasn't really. But it enabled me to see things differently and gave me a new perspective on not only the world, but also my life". Kelly G.

"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." Bryan R.

"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." Chelsea L.

"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." Jacklyn F.

"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!" Becky A.

"I feel that my time abroad gave me a perspective of this world and my place in it that I could have 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." Billy B.

"My experience in Ireland was definitely life-changing! 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." Erin L.

"My experience in Ireland was one of the most rewarding of my life. Never before have I experienced another culture to such an extent. I loved all my friends, my professors were absolutely some of the best I've ever had, and the country and people in it were wonderful. I would do this again in a second!" Julia S.

