

Study Abroad in Ireland FAQ

We are happy you are interested in studying abroad in Ireland. There are four universities we partner with including National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG), University College Dublin (UCD), Trinity College Dublin (TCD), and Dublin City University (DCU). Below are some frequently asked questions about the programs available in Ireland.

1. What is the difference between Dublin City University (DCU), University College Dublin (UCD), Trinity College Dublin (TCD), and National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG)?

In general, the Ireland programmes collectively can accommodate students from all majors except for Architecture. Academically, all four universities offer different opportunities for students. The offerings listed here are not exclusive, and the preference for certain majors at some of the universities does not exclude a semester of study at one of the remaining universities. DCU supports students studying CS, CpEg, BAn, or BTec only (students studying these majors can also study at UCD). NUIG is favored primarily by pre-med, business, and Irish Studies/Irish language students and offers independent research options in cancer research and biomedical engineering.

2. Are there certain universities that work better for certain majors?

Yes, in short. There are a few universities where certain majors are tracked, and some universities that only can support certain majors. TCD tends to be favored by Psychology majors, and Neuroscience majors requiring psychology classes while abroad. UCD and NUIG are the main universities for most business majors. DCU only accepts students studying CS, CpEg, BAn or BTec. We can support students from any major here in Ireland, and aside from those exceptions listed above, students can slot into any of the four universities.

3. What is the difference between Dublin City University (DCU), University College Dublin (UCD), Trinity College Dublin (TCD), and National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG)?

Yes, you will need to submit an application for each program separately.

4. Is there a difference between the Fall and Spring semesters? Is there a summer program option?

Most classes at all of our host institutions are offered in one semester or another so it is important to take that into consideration when building viable academic plans. In terms of our programming, our cultural enrichment focus is the same in both semesters. We celebrate differently, a huge Thanksgiving dinner in the fall, St. Patrick's Day celebrations in the spring, but our commitment to open the unseen Ireland to you remains the same regardless of the time of year.

We do have summer programs. There is the Dublin Summer Programme (DSP) with core requirement offerings in history and theology in 2022. There are also affiliated programmes with Engineering, Mendoza (in both Finance and ITAO), and Creative Writing. All of our summer programmes include cultural enrichment through field trips, talks, performances, and site visits. Please [click here](#) to learn more.

5. What does the study abroad application for the Ireland programs consist of?

Each study abroad application will consist of a questionnaire, personal statement, Dean and DUS approval, rector reference, and for Trinity College Dublin a letter of recommendation from a faculty member.

6. Where do I find courses available at each university?

For a complete list of courses that former study abroad students have taken, students are encouraged to review the "[Study Abroad Approved Courses Listing](#)." This list is not exhaustive and students are encouraged to visit the host university websites to find the most updated courses available. It is important to note that when looking at courses directly via the Irish host university websites that the word "course" means major and the word "module" means course.

For updated course information available at [TCD](#), [UCD](#), [DCU](#), and [NUIG](#) please click on each university link. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic advisor to discuss course equivalency and potential new course offerings not listed in the Study Abroad Approved Courses Listing. Students may contact Robert Black, Dublin Programme Manager (rblack3@nd.edu) and Zoe Langsdale, Galway Programme Manager (zlangsd@nd.edu) for more information.

7. How competitive are the Ireland programs?

While nearly all of our applicants meet minimum eligibility requirements, the Ireland programs do have capacity limitations. We highly recommend students apply to a 2nd program and consider prioritizing the Fall semester as Spring applications outnumber fall applications nearly 3 to 1.

8. Where do students studying in Ireland live?

All students in the Ireland programmes live in dorms on their host institution's campus. Everyone has their own bedroom and the vast majority have their own bathroom. Students share a common space and kitchen with up to five other flatmates. UCD, TCD, and DCU are all located within striking distance of the center of Dublin, the Irish capital, and NUIG is located in the bustling city of Galway, on the west coast of the country.

TCD and DCU have large contingents of Irish students living on campus and so there is a high likelihood of having Irish roommates. At UCD and NUIG, there are larger international cohorts, so your roommates will be a mix of Irish and other international students. All of the students studying at Dublin universities are part of the unified Dublin programme with all the same trips and cultural enrichment opportunities. Students studying at NUIG will have access to a similar programme of cultural enrichment trips that line up with their work in the Irish Literature course for Notre Dame students at NUIG (see Question 9). Trips for all programmes include a trip to Northern Ireland, a weekend in Kylemore Abbey, the Cliffs of Moher, the Burren, and more.

9. What are some of the main components of the Dublin and Galway programs?

Students directly enroll into an Irish host university where they will live and take the majority of their coursework. In Dublin, students are required to enroll in Introduction to Ireland. As a part of this course, all Dublin students will come together once a week at the Dublin Global Gateway (also known as the [O'Connell House](#)) and participate in coordinated activities and excursions across Dublin and Ireland. Students in Dublin may also participate in [Community-Based Learning](#).

In Galway, students are required to enroll in "The West" in Irish Literary Imagination course. This course provides not only a literary survey of Irish work, but also a political, historical, and cultural glimpse into Irish society. Galway students will meet once a week for this course and participate in coordinated activities and excursions across Galway and Ireland including a visit to [Kylemore Abbey](#).

10. Are there any research opportunities in Ireland?

Notre Dame students have an opportunity for a three credit research placement at a complimentary lab in the National University of Ireland, Galway. The placement will give students the chance to undertake a range of hands-on tasks under the guidance of a faculty mentor and professional researcher to gain expertise in laboratory and analytical techniques using contemporary technologies. There are four areas of research available where the student will be paired off with a PI: Biomedical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Cancer Research, and Environmental Science/Engineering. Students accepted into the NDI Galway study abroad programme have the opportunity to complete the Scientific Research Experience module. For more detailed information, check out this brochure: [Galway Study Abroad Research Experience](#) and contact [Lisa Caulfield](#) at lcaulfield@nd.edu if you have any questions.

11. How do I decide which Ireland program is right for me?

We highly recommend completing the first course within Study Abroad Compass, the Study Abroad 101 advising course. This course will help you discern which program is right for you by providing you with guided questions to help determine your goals and aspirations for pursuing study abroad. We also recommend speaking with NDI Staff. You can reach out to [Study Abroad Program Directors](#) or [Global Gateway and Center Staff](#). For Dublin Programmes, please contact Robert Black, rblack3@nd.edu. For the Galway Programme, please contact Zoe Langsdale, zlangsd@nd.edu.

The University of Notre Dame is committed to the values of [diversity and inclusion](#). In accordance with NDI Study Abroad, we believe international education is an important part of the Notre Dame student experience. In Notre Dame's [Spirit of Inclusion](#), regardless of your race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, social or economic class, nationality or level of ability, there is a study abroad program for you. Please visit the NDI Study Abroad website for more information regarding [Identity Abroad](#).

