Ireland, Dublin

USIT Irish Studies Summer School
SUMMER 2015 PROGRAM HANDBOOK

This program is offered by International Academic Programs (IAP) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This program specific handbook supplements the IAP Study Abroad Handbook and provides you with the most up-to-date information and advice available at the time of printing. Changes may occur before your departure or while you are abroad.

Questions about your program abroad (housing options, facilities abroad, etc.) as well as questions relating to your relationship with your host university or academics (e.g. course credit and equivalents, registration deadlines, etc.) should be directed to IAP at UW-Madison.
Contact Information

ON-SITE PROGRAM INFORMATION

Your primary contacts will be:

Seona MacReámoinn  
Ireland Local Coordinator  
USIT Director  
+353 1 602 1740  
Seona.MacReamoinn@usit.ie  
USIT  
19/21 Aston Quay, O'Connell Bridge  
Dublin 2  
Ireland  
+353 1 602 1741  
www.usit.ie

Emergency Number for students during the program:  
Seona Mac Reamoinn  00353-87-2460157  
Alessandra Nania  00353-86-3096696

USIT coordinates the local arrangements for the program and staffs a summer school office on the Trinity College campus located in the Graduates Memorial Building. This office is open 10:00 a.m. to 5:15 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and is closed between 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. This office will act as the contact point both for students and faculty during the program. Trinity College’s Summer School Director is also available in this office. In addition, staff are available at USIT’s administrative offices on Fridays.

UW-MADISON INFORMATION

International Academic Programs (IAP)  
106 Red Gym, 716 Langdon St.  
Madison, WI 53706  
Jessa Boche  
IAP Study Abroad Advisor  
(608) 265 6329  
boche@studyabroad.wisc.edu

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

In case of an emergency, call the main IAP number (608) 265 6329 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday; after-hours or on weekends call the IAP emergency number at (608) 516 9440.
U.S. EMBASSY REGISTRATION

All program participants who are U.S. citizens must register at the U.S. Embassy before departure as this will help in case of a lost passport or other mishap. You can register on-line at https://travelregistration.state.gov. If you are not a U.S. citizen, register at your home country’s embassy or consulate.

U.S. Embassy in Dublin
42 Elgin Road
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4
Ireland
+353 1 668 8777
+353 1 668 8056 fax
http://dublin.usembassy.gov

Program Dates

**Summer 2015**
Depart the US
Arrive in Dublin
Orientation
Northern Ireland excursion
Depart Dublin

Wednesday, June 17
Thursday, June 18*
Friday, June 19
Sunday, July 12 – Friday, July 17
Thursday, August 6

*your room will be available beginning at 2PM

Preparation Before Leaving

IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS

**Passport**: A passport is needed to travel to Ireland. Apply immediately for a passport if you do not already have one. Passport information and application forms can be found on the U.S. State Department website http://travel.state.gov/passport/. If you already have your passport, make sure it will be valid for at least 6 months beyond the length of your stay abroad.

**Visa**: U.S. citizens do not need a visa to enter Ireland. Non-U.S. citizens should consult with the Irish consulate for visa requirements.
HANDLING MONEY ABROAD

The official currency of Ireland is the Euro (EUR), with 1 Euro equaling 100 cents. As of 02/13/15 the exchange rate was $1 USD to 0.88 Euro. Students should be prepared to spend some money in cash to cover expenses such as train, bus, and taxi fares, overnight accommodation and meals.

During the excursion to Belfast in Northern Ireland, the currency converts to the British pound (GBP). Students may arrange to exchange Euros for pounds in Dublin prior to departure for Belfast. As of 02/13/15 the exchange rate was $1 USD to 0.65 GBP.

Banks: Most banks have main branches on College Green, which is just outside of Trinity College. There is an AIB and a Bank of Ireland ATM on the Trinity College campus.

ATM/Debit cards: You can access your U.S. checking account using an ATM card; generally you will find that cards of the CIRRUS and PLUS system are the most widely accepted. When you use your ATM card, you immediately receive your funds in local currency; the exchange rate you get is in general better than what you would get when exchanging travelers’ checks. Check with your bank or credit union before departure to ensure that you can use your ATM card overseas and to verify the fee you will be charged for such transactions.

Credit cards: Visa and Master Card are accepted at many locations and cardholders are able to draw cash on their card accounts per their card company’s policies.

PACKING

Most past study abroad participants will tell you that they brought too much with them. Think carefully about what you really will need (and must carry) as you plan for packing. Plan on dressing in casual clothing for class as you would in the U.S. However, shorts are not recommended for class since it is not likely to be hot during the Dublin summer and because shorts are generally not considered classroom attire in Ireland. Past participants have recommended packing:

- Small weekend bag for short trips (2-3 days)
- A travel towel for traveling and staying in hostels
- Raingear and a travel umbrella
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Laptop if desired for internet access, music, movies, photos, etc.
- There may be a few theater events or receptions/parties where something a bit dressier will be in order. The Ireland Office suggests only that you bring whatever you think is appropriate for you in this regard.

You will be able to find most toiletry items easily in Ireland, although they may be under different brand names. However, contact lens care products are very expensive. If you take
special vitamins or prescription drugs, you must bring those with you in their original containers and remember to bring a supply to last you through the full program and any additional travel. Do not plan on having medication sent to you by mail as they most likely will be held up in customs.

**ELECTRONICS**

Ireland runs on 220V (volts), 50Hz (cycles) AC and uses the British Standard 1363 three-pin plug. If you plan on bringing any electronics from the United States, keep in mind that they will require adapters/converters which you should purchase before departure. It may be more convenient and less expensive to purchase appliances in Ireland rather than purchasing the necessary converter/adapters in the United States.

**Travel and Arrival**

You are responsible for making your own flight arrangements to Dublin. The major airport in Ireland is Dublin (DUB) [www.dublinairport.com](http://www.dublinairport.com). As students do not travel to Dublin together as a group, students should plan to secure individual transportation to Trinity College upon arrival at Dublin airport. Located approximately 4 miles from Dublin airport, Trinity College is accessible via the following transportation options:

**Aircoach:** A blue line luxury coach picks up passengers outside of the Dublin airport arrivals area every 15 minutes. The aircoach fare is €7.00—it makes only two other stops and takes you to the front gate of Trinity College.

**Taxi:** Taxis are available at the taxi stand at the Dublin airport arrivals area. Ask the driver to take you to the Trinity College Accommodations Office so that you can be taken directly on to the campus. Taxi fare from Dublin airport to Trinity College is approximately €20.00 to €25.00

**City Bus:** City Bus 746 goes from Dublin airport to Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, following a city bus route and stops outside Trinity College. The fare is €1.90 (but the city bus does not have a luggage compartment).

Once at Trinity College, students should proceed directly to the Accommodations Office and identify themselves as a participant in the UW-Madison Trinity Summer Program. **Rooms will be available beginning at 2:00 p.m. on the arrival day** and the Accommodations Office will remain open from 8:00 a.m. to midnight. Students must arrive and check-in at Trinity on the arrival day in order to participate on the program. Upon check in, students will receive a welcome letter and map highlighting the location on campus where the orientation session will be held.
The Academic Program

TRINITY COLLEGE
Participants will attend classes and live on the campus of Trinity College, a renowned 400 year old university located in the cultural and physical heart of Dublin. Trinity College is an ideal location for studying contemporary Ireland, with the National Museum, Parliament (Dáil Éireann) and National Gallery, as well as cafés, bars, theaters and several music venues all within walking distance of the college.

USIT
USIT is a Dublin-based travel organization whose Incoming Programs department specializes in educational and special interest travel, arranging and designing summer schools and study tours for universities and educational groups visiting Ireland. One of the primary roles of USIT is to provide ongoing assistance and advice to the UW-Madison Trinity College summer program participants.

TRINITY COLLEGE SUMMER PROGRAM
This undergraduate program strives to provide a quality learning experience for students from a wide variety of disciplines. The program focus is Ireland, particularly the cultural life of Dublin, and exposes students to Irish faculty and practitioners in various subject areas spanning the humanities and social sciences.

ORIENTATION
Students will attend an orientation and introductory session on the Trinity College campus the morning after arrival. The orientation will include overviews of:

- **Academics**: The Summer School Director will give an overview of the school, introduce the course modules and faculty, including the Resident Director and all module leaders.

- **Housing**: A staff member from the Accommodation Office will attend to provide specific information relating to housing, campus facilities, and regulations.

- **General**: USIT will provide an overview of all cultural activities and field trips and comprehensive information on Dublin city, with relation to local transport, activities, events and safety issues. USIT will provide all students with a welcome pack including maps, living information, guides, updated schedule, etc., which will be available to students upon arrival at orientation.
COURSE INFORMATION

Courses: The program offers students the opportunity to take classes taught by Irish lecturers in the field of Irish Studies. The program consists of six modules, and students are required to enroll in 4 of these modules. Two summer school modules are the equivalent of one 3-credit UW-Madison course. Students will receive a total of 6 credits, counting as two separate 3-credit courses.

For a description of the modules, visit the IAP program page: http://www.studyabroad.wisc.edu/programs/program.asp?program_id=387

For the most part, classes will be held Monday to Thursday each week from 10:00 to 5:15 p.m., with each course meeting for approximately two and a half hours per week. Students will have a total of 60 contact hours over the six-week period.

Seminars: As part of the academic program, there will be a series of six special evening guest seminars featuring leading cultural and political speakers arranged by USIT and the Trinity College Summer School.

Excursions: The one week visit to Belfast and Northern Ireland is an integral part of the program and students will take classes at the Queens University of Belfast. Located on one end of what is known as the “magnificent mile,” the university is located just outside the heart of Belfast, adjacent to the Ulster Museum of Art and the Botanic Gardens. During the week in Belfast, the summer school faculty will focus on issues particular to Northern Ireland and will offer an inside perspective on the past and present history and culture in the North. Be prepared for an intensive week in Belfast: Evening events will be scheduled most evenings, which last year included round table discussion at Stormont, the Northern Ireland Parliament of Belfast City Hall and a poetry reading by Northern Irish poets.

Several major day trips are also featured on the program while in Dublin, including an archeological tour of the Boyne Valley, featuring the sites of Loughcrew and the Hill of Tara, trip to Co. Wicklow, including the sites of Powerscourt House and Gardens and Glendalough, and a tour of the Antrim Coast during the Northern Ireland week which includes the Giant’s Causeway, a geological phenomenon often referred to as the “eighth wonder of the world.” Apart from presenting physical evidence of historical and archaeological developments, the excursions will also introduce students to the intensely varied landscape of Ireland.

Registration: Students will be required to select their modules by the end of the first week of classes. IAP will register you for a special “Study Abroad Course” for the term(s) you will be studying abroad; therefore, it is not necessary for you to register on the UW-Madison campus. This is a temporary registration, which will be converted into graded UW-Madison credit after the completion of your program.
Course Equivalent Requests: Each course you take abroad must be assigned a UW-Madison “equivalent” and the grade you receive in the course also transfers back to be recorded on your UW-Madison transcript. In order to establish UW-Madison course equivalents for your study abroad courses, you will submit a Course Equivalent Request (CER) through your My Study Abroad account. Detailed information on this process can be found in your My Study Abroad account.

CREDITS
Limits and Load: Participants will receive a total of 6 credits for the program. For details, review the Academic Notes in your My Study Abroad account.

PASS/FAIL/DROP/AUDIT
UW-Madison: Please refer to the IAP Study Abroad Handbook for academic policies.

GRADES AND GRADE CONVERSIONS
Students will be assessed via a 2-hour written final exam for each module. Exam questions will be distributed in advance and students are allowed to bring primary texts for reference. Original exams will not be returned to students after the program.

The following grade scale will be used for UW-Madison students studying in Dublin:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trinity College</th>
<th>UW-Madison</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+ / A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A- / B+</td>
<td>AB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>B- / C+</td>
<td>BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C / C-</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+ / D / D-</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
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Living Abroad

IRELAND
Ireland is an island of five million people located in the Northwest of Europe and is a member of the European Union. Long renowned for its culture, it has a strong tradition of developmental and educational links with other nations.

Ireland has an excellent educational infrastructure and a high rate of participation in third-level education. Its highly-skilled workforce makes Ireland an attractive location for international
corporations and industrialists. Irish graduates have distinguished themselves as leaders of economic, social and cultural development in Ireland and throughout the world.

Ireland is one of six Celtic nations with its distinctive Irish (Gaelic) culture and language. Although Irish is its first official language, English is now the most common language in daily use. However, Irish is still the first language of Gaeltacht (Gaelic speaking) communities which are located mainly on the west coast of Ireland.

Irish Times [www.irishtimes.com](http://www.irishtimes.com)
Irish Tourism [www.ireland.travel.ie](http://www.ireland.travel.ie)

**DUBLIN**

Dublin has been the capital city of Ireland for almost all of its thousand-year history. Originally a Viking settlement, Dublin is situated between Dublin Bay and the mountains within bus and train access to the renowned scenic areas of Kerry, Clare, Cork, Galway, Waterford and Donegal.

Dublin is noted for its vibrant culture, life, and atmosphere, and has been home to many of the world’s leading writers and playwrights including Sheridan, Shaw, Swift, Joyce, O’Casey and Beckett. Contemporary actors, film makers, poets and musicians, from Neil Jordan to U2, have continued to contribute to popular culture in Dublin.

**HOUSING**

**Dublin:** Housing is provided as part of the program fee. Students will live in Goldsmith Hall, a self-catering residence hall within the Trinity College campus. Each student will be assigned a single room with shared kitchen and bathroom facilities in 4 and 5 bedroom units. Bed linens are furnished but students will need to bring their own towels.

Residence hall neighbors will likely be other program students and visiting students attending the several Trinity summer schools, as Trinity College students will not be in residence during the summer. In order to ensure the safety of residents, the residence hall maintains security measures for entry to the building and overnight guests are not allowed in the residence hall during the program. This is a policy of Trinity College and applies to Irish students during the academic year as well as summer school participants. Students should contact USIT for recommendations on guest housing near Trinity College.

Trinity College Accommodation Office [www.tcd.ie/Accommodation](http://www.tcd.ie/Accommodation)

Students who wish to stay in Dublin before or after the program must arrange their own housing. The following are reasonably-priced youth hostels located in the city center:

- Kinlay House 2-12 Lord Edward Street
- Abigail’s Hostel 7-9 Aston Quay
- Generator Hostel Smithfield Square
Meals: Lunch will be provided to students Monday through Friday at the dining hall on campus. While in Northern Ireland, breakfast will be provided instead of lunch. Other meals are the responsibility of students. Residence hall kitchens are available to prepare meals, with most kitchens including a few basic pots and pans, as well as a limited amount of utensils (plate, mug, bowl, and flatware).

There are supermarkets, delis, and a wide variety of restaurants within a ten-minute walk of the campus. A detailed list will be provided for you in your arrival packet. The Dublin Office recommends the following guide for eating out: dinner approximately €20.00-30.00, cappuccino approximately €2.50-3.00.

Please note that this should cover your basic food stipend only and that you should include essentials such as laundry (a small but busy laundromat is available on campus for washing clothes at approximately €6 to €8 per wash and there are several laundries and dry cleaning companies located nearby. Also allow for entertainment (see “Student Activities” below), toiletries, etc., to your weekly budgets, not forgetting your week-end excursions (bus/train fares, hostel, etc.). A price guideline for groceries and essential items, together with a selected listing of shops, supermarkets, etc., will be provided at orientation in Dublin. Students are strongly encouraged to plan their budget carefully in order to cover living and personal expenses.

During the program you will have access to the Trinity library, restaurants, and bar. But access to the sports facilities including a pool is available though a monthly membership of €80.

Belfast: While in Belfast, students will be housed at the university housing known as the Queens Elms Residences, located approximately a 5 to 10 minute walk from the Queens University campus in the midst of residential Belfast. Most accommodations will be single rooms, (dorm style), and breakfast only will be provided. A minimum of basic cooking utensils will be provided in the kitchen on each floor due to the short duration of the stay.
STUDENT LIFE

In addition to a trip to Northern Ireland, there will be a variety of cultural activities and field trips designed to enhance the academic course. Past activities have included:

- City tour including visit to Dublin Castle and St. Patrick’s Cathedral
- Field trip to County Wicklow, including Glendalough
- Archaeological field trip accompanied by an archaeologist guide to the Boyne Valley
- Visit to the Dail Eireann (Irish Parliament)
- Traditional Irish Music seminar and performance
- Theatre performances, film screening, poetry readings etc.

Practical and cultural information for individual activities is available at the campus summer school office, including travel information (lists of hostels, rail schedules etc.) and tickets for program cultural events and field trips. The following is a sample of approximate costs of different student activities provided through the USIT office:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cinema</td>
<td>€9.00, €12.50 evenings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theater</td>
<td>€10.00-30.00+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concerts</td>
<td>€8.00-60.00+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nightclub Admission</td>
<td>€Free -15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museums/Galleries</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students may consider obtaining an ISIC card [www.isiccard.com](http://www.isiccard.com) for student discounts on travel, attractions, and other services in Ireland. USIT will provide additional information on ISIC cards at the program orientation.

TRANSPORTATION

Trinity’s central location allows access to the campus and city center on foot. Students who wish to travel to other areas of the city or suburbs can choose from local transportation options, including:

- DART local suburban rail system (DART) [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)
- LUAS tram system [www.luas.ie](http://www.luas.ie)
- Local bus network [www.dublinbus.ie](http://www.dublinbus.ie)

Bus, LUAS, and DART schedules can be accessed via the internet or in the central Dublin Bus office located on O’Connell Street. A local bus, rail, or tram ride costs approximately €1.65 - €2.30, while a taxi costs approximately €7.00-15.00 (within 3 miles of the city center).

SHOPPING

Shops are normally open from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday and 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Sundays. Many stores will open until 8:00 p.m. on Thursday nights. Dunnes
Stores in St. Stephen’s Green Shopping Center and Georges Street, and Super Valu, Aston Quay are best for groceries and other essentials and are located within a ten-minute walk from campus. More details will be given in your arrival pack when you arrive on-site.

SAFETY

The Trinity College Accommodation Office assists with any campus problems and will contact USIT staff in an emergency. USIT will provide the Resident Director and Accommodations Office with USIT staff home- and mobile-numbers for after-hours emergencies. In order to ensure the safety of themselves and others, students must observe the local rules and expectations of Trinity College while participating on the program.

For emergency response by Fire, Police, Ambulance and Coastal Rescue, Mountain and Cave Rescue, dial 112 and ask the operator for the emergency service you require. There is no charge for this service.

HEALTH

USIT experienced staff are available to provide general information, crisis counseling and to make referrals to professionals (medical, etc.) as needed. A student health center is located on campus, with doctors available on an appointment-only basis during summer. There are also private clinics near campus, such as Grafton Medical Center on Grafton Street and Mercer’s Medical Center on Stephens Street Lower. Nearby hospitals include St. Vincent Hospital and St. James Hospital.

COMMUNICATION

Telephone: When making calls, keep in mind time zone differences www.timeanddate.com/worldclock. To make an international call to the United States, dial the access code for the country from which you are calling plus the United States country code (always “1”) followed by the appropriate U.S. area code and local number. To call internationally from the United States, dial “011”, the country code, city access code (if necessary) and the phone number. Country and city codes can be found online (www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/dialing.html). Some of above steps can vary if you are using a calling card.

It will not be possible for you to receive direct phone calls in your rooms at Trinity College; however, there are phones located in the lobby of the student residence hall. In case of emergency, messages may be left for students at the Trinity Accommodation Office (+353 1 896 1177, +353 1 671 1267 fax) and phone/fax messages will be delivered to the University of Wisconsin campus mailbox, which is located in the front hall of the Accommodation Office. This is not a personal message service—regular calls should not be made to the Accommodations Office.
An increasingly popular option for students is to buy a “Ready to Go” mobile phone (cell phone). These are reasonably cheap to buy (costs start at €20) and you can control your usage as they work on a “phone card” basis, so you pay as you talk. Again more details on arrival ...

As in the US there are now fewer public telephones in many outdoor locations all over Ireland as well as, public buildings, including rail and bus stations, shops, pubs, restaurants and hotels. These will require a call card. There are public call centres and international calls can be made from these using telephone. All cards can be purchased in telecentres and in post offices and retail outlets displaying the CallCard sign. Some former students recommend having a U.S. calling card (AT&T, Sprint, etc.) to be able to obtain cheaper rates than are available through direct dialing.

**Mail:** Your mailing address during the program will be:
(Student Name)
c/o University of Wisconsin
c/o Accommodations Office
Trinity College
Dublin 2
Ireland

**Email:** All students will have access to a 24-hour campus computer lab located in Hamilton Hall, across the street from Goldsmith Hall. The students will gain entry by access cards which will be assigned to each student apartment and must be returned at the end of their time at the summer school. In addition to those assigned to the apartments, a few will remain in the summer school office and will be available to check out by students on an overnight basis. Students will be issued a login and password to computer workstations after registration.

In addition to the on-campus facilities, there are a limited number of wireless hot-spots on the Trinity College campus accessible to program participants. As a 400-year-old campus, many of the buildings of Trinity College cannot be hardwired for internet connection. **Therefore, students should be prepared to locate internet access in alternative venues, such as internet cafés, which can be found around the city centre.** A selected listing of cafés, together with connection and printing charges will be provided in students’ arrival information packs.