

University College Cork (UCC)



Location!



UCC is 30-40 minutes away from the airport when taking a cab or bus.

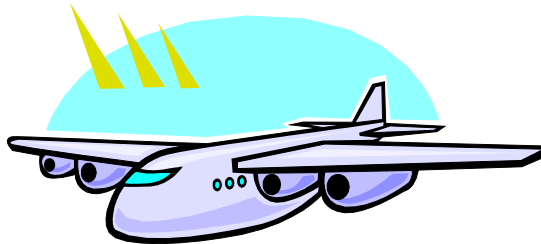
Cork City, County Cork Ireland is a part of the Republic of Ireland, and is located in the South West

UCC is a 20 minute walk from Cork City Center (Oliver Plunket Street).

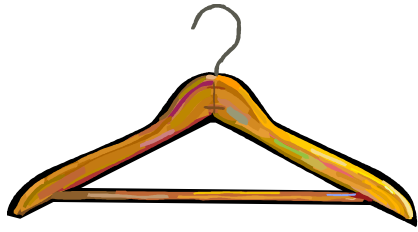
Link to Cork City map: <http://mappery.com/map-of/Cork-City-Map>

Link to campus map: <http://mappery.com/map-of/University-College-Cork-Main-Campus-Map>

Cork and Dublin Airport



- Passport is required for customs upon arrival at Cork and Dublin Airports.
- You will be asked to go through security.
- Both airports are easy to navigate. Simply follow the signs above walkways to find the baggage claim and exits out of the airport.
- There is a bus that takes you to Cork City Center from the airport. It costs 10 euro and is located on the ground floor. Exchanges for euro are located on the ground floor near the doors to the bus stop.
- Dublin airport is a 30-40 minute ride away from the bus and train station. Exchanges for euro can be found following walkway signs. Expect to pay 30 euro for a cab ride to the station. Bus and train rides to Cork cost 35 euro as well. (65 euro total)

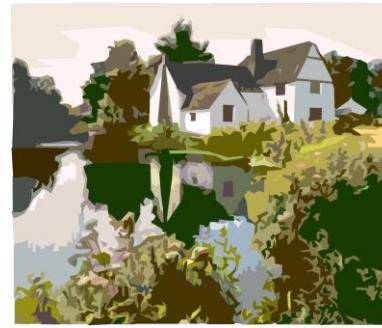


Packing



- A checklist of what you'll need upon arrival (excluding European health card):
<http://www.ucc.ie/en/study/international/erasmus-in/examinations/>
- Pack warm clothing for the Fall semester. Spring attire includes clothing for cold and warm climates.
- Temperatures rarely go under 30 degrees. However, Ireland reached record lows during the month of December in 2010. Make sure to pack a warm coat, hat, scarf, and mittens/gloves.
- Rain boots or Sperry boat shoes are a must for wet weather. Especially for the rainy season during the month of November.
- It's recommended that you bring an empty suitcase. It can cost up to 75 euro+ (Roughly 100 dollars) to ship, and you'll be surprised at how much you'll want to take back home with you!
- Basic necessities such as shampoo, toothpaste, soap, razors, etc. are reasonably priced in Cork. It's easier to just purchase them once you arrive.
- It is best to purchase bedding (Pillows, pillow case, sheets, etc) from the department store (Mark and Spencer's) than bringing your own with you. It will cost around 30 euro for a basic pillow, sheets, and comforter (Duvet).
- A sturdy umbrella can be found in Cork for 11-15 Euro. You can choose to bring one with you.
- Towels: Most students end up throwing them away because of the extra weight. Bringing an old towel or purchasing cheap ones to throw away later is a good idea.
- Important note: Make sure to read the guidelines for airport security. Any liquids will need to be stored in your suitcase and will not be allowed as a carry-on.

Living Arrangements



Students will be offered housing options (apartments) from the UCC international office.

- There will be apartments with single or double rooms to choose from. Singles are more expensive.
- Walking distance to UCC varies. Copley House and South Mall Court are 25 minutes away from campus and are located near City Center (The heart of Cork City). Farranlea Hall is 15 minutes and The Spires are 10 minutes away from campus but cost more.
- Availability varies each semester.
- Links to apartments:

South Mall Court & Copley: <http://www.southmallcourt.com/>

Farranlea: <http://www.farranleahall.ie/>

The Spires: <http://www.thespires.ie/>

Citizenship Requirements



- Students do not need a visa. However, an immigration card is required for students living in Cork for more than 90 days. You can obtain one from any Garda (police) station in the city. It costs 150 euro.
- The following documentation is required for an immigration card:
 - Passport
 - UCC letter of acceptance
 - A bank statement from the Bank of Ireland OR a letter from K-State stating that the student has sufficient aid to live in the country. The format for the letter can be obtained from the UCC International Office.
- It is highly encouraged to get your immigration card as soon as possible. Arrive two hours early before the station opens in the morning. If you arrive during the day the chances of getting your card are very slim due to extremely long lines and slow service. Don't be surprised if you're sent home two hours before closing time.
- Complete information: <http://www.ucc.ie/en/study/international/student-info/arrival/immigration/>

Courses at UCC

- Students will take up to 30 credit hours (equivalent to 15 at K-State)
- There is a list of specific classes that international students may take. This is made available at the start of each semester.
- Some classes will require special permission such as Zoology and Engineering. Students may have to contact the head of a department for course listings (Drama studies).
- There will be a lecture given to international students during orientation to help them choose their classes.
- Students will hand in a sheet with courses listed to the international studies office during the second week of classes.
- The first week of school is reserved to help students decide if they want to take the course or switch out. Some departments (English specifically) may start classes during the second week instead.

Choosing Courses and Class Information

- There are hundreds of classes to choose from at UCC! History and English are the most common.
- A lot of courses have time conflicts. It can be very difficult choosing classes that will fit into your schedule. It is easier if you are taking electives only.
- Most subjects are taught in large lecture halls. Smaller classes are held in normal classroom settings.
- Each lecture is taught by two professors. Usually one professor will teach before midterm, and the other one will come in after. Both give out their own syllabuses for their half of the semester.
- Class handouts, materials, and information can be found on Blackboard, which is very similar to K-State Online.



Homework and Study

- Most classes do not have homework assignments. Instead, students will take a midterm and an end of the year final (usually take home). International students leaving Cork before the due date may email their finals to the International Studies Office. Ask them for specific instructions.
- It is the student's job to read and take good notes during lectures, just as you would at K-State.
- Don't be afraid to approach your professors! They are there to help you. If you are going to miss lecture for any reason, know that they will most likely give you the information you need to study later on. Professors who use lecture slides will also post them on Blackboard.
- The grading system in Ireland is different from the US. Percentages are given under categories known as "honours." Here is a link to the grading system:
<http://www.ucc.ie/en/study/international/erasmus-in/examinations/>
- Do note that First Class Honours is very difficult to obtain. An "A" in the US would fall under the category of Second Class Honours.





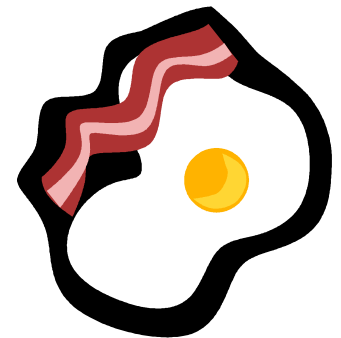
Meals



- Students are responsible for all their meals.

There are several options available:

- Home Cooking. Food can be bought at Supervalu, and Mark & Spencer's (located on Grand Parade St). There's also Tesco (The Irish Walmart).
- Fresh food. If you're looking for the best meat, veggies, fruit, honey, and chocolate at the best prices go to The English Market. Link: http://www.cork-guide.ie/cork_city/english-market.html
- Going out to eat. There are hundreds of pubs and restaurants all over Cork City! It can get rather pricy depending on where you go (between 15-50 euro), but the food is great.
- Snacks. There are lots of convenience stores everywhere you go. Most of them charge the same for sandwiches, crisps (potato chips) and soda as the grocery store. The most popular is Spar.





Night Life



- Everything closes before 5pm on weekdays, and some stores are open until 9pm-10pm on the weekends. Except for pubs.
- Pubs are the main attraction once it gets dark. Students like to go out for a casual night of hanging out with friends and chatting over drinks and tea. It's much more quiet and lax than a bar in Aggieville.
- Some pubs offer music and room for dancing!
- Clubs are the equivalent of American bars. Lots of music and tons of people dancing and having fun. Everyone dresses up to go clubbing. Most places have a cover charge of 5 to 15 euro. Expect long lines on Thursdays as that's the most popular night to go out.



Travel



Cork has some of the best transportation in the world! Nothing is out of reach once you're living in Cork City.

- Train: The Kent Station is only 10 minutes away from City Center. It goes just about anywhere in Ireland. Travel up to Belfast for a weekend, or simply take the 15 minute journey to Cobh, a beautiful town near the ocean. Link: http://www.irishrail.ie/your_journey/your_station.asp?letter=C&action=showdetail&station_id=47
- Bus: Buses are everywhere in Cork, and they travel as far north as Dublin and just about anywhere in the West and East parts of The Republic. Ticket prices are cheaper, and you can obtain a student pass if you decide to ride the bus on a regular basis. Link to bus Eireann: <http://www.buseireann.ie/>
- Plane: Cork and Dublin airport are the best places for flying out of Ireland. You can get cheap tickets (15 euro up to 150) from Ryan Air. Sometimes Aer lingus will have deals on flights to and from Europe.
- Ryan Air: <http://www.ryanair.com/en>
- Aer lingus: <http://www.aerlingus.com/home/index.jsp>



Links and Information

- UCC's official website:

<http://www.ucc.ie/en/>

- UCC's international Student Website:

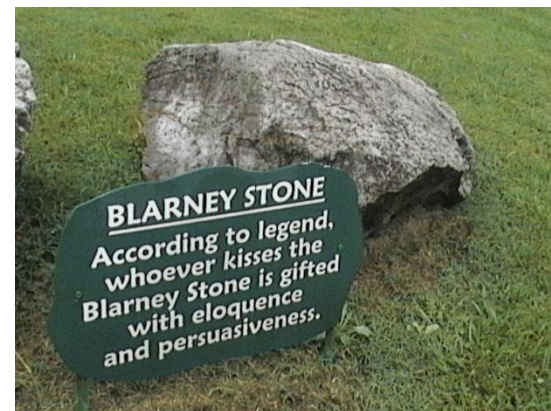
<http://www.ucc.ie/en/study/international/>

- Stuff to do while in Cork:

<http://www.cork-guide.ie/attracts.htm>

- Top Ten Places to visit while in Ireland:

<http://goireland.about.com/od/preparingyourtrip/tp/top10sights.htm>



UCC

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh, Éire
University College Cork, Ireland