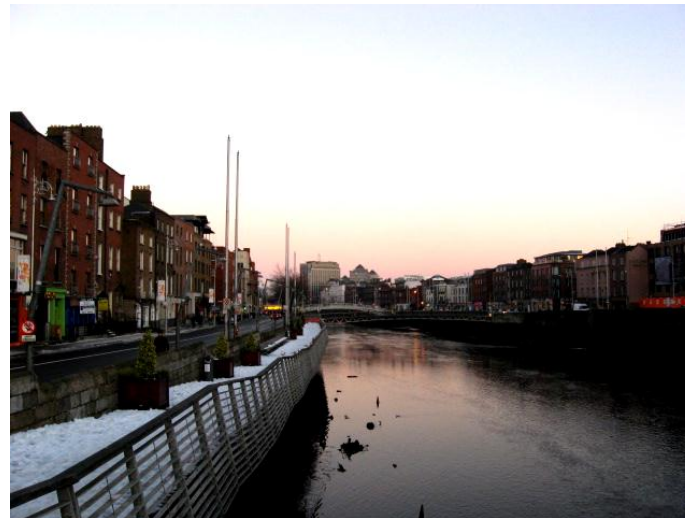




UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

DUBLIN, IRELAND





Preparation: What to pack

- Clothing:

- It is much more formal on campus than at KSU, sweats are rarely seen on campus. Warm clothes are practical, but if you want to blend in, expect to look nice while you bundle.
- Rain boots (called Wellies there) are practical, but are uncommon in the city. Water-resistant/water proof boots that are more formal would be best.
- Layer up! It can get pretty cold, come prepared. Lots of warm layers underneath a waterproof shell would be the best defense.
- Women: Open-toed heels, skirts/dresses without leggings, etc... would be a waste of space in your luggage. It most likely won't be warm enough for you to wear them, so keep that in mind.
- Even though they say “it rarely snows in Ireland,” come prepared for it. Uni was cancelled for us for nearly 2 weeks due to snow.



Preparation Continued...

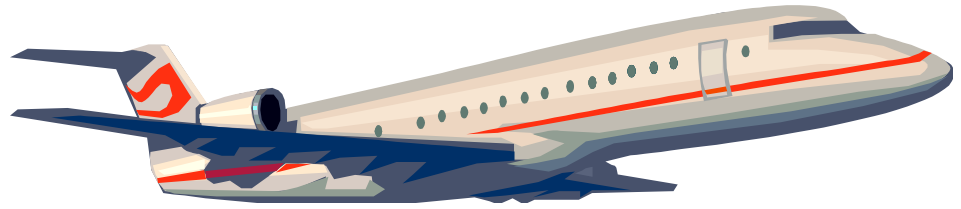
- **BRING AN UMBRELLA!** The weather is a bit like Kansas in the sense that it can change on a dime. A small umbrella that you can carry with you at all times is a must
- **A small backpack:** If you will be travelling around, a backpack for daytrips is handy. Especially if you will be travelling outside of the country, RyanAir charges extra for check-in luggage.
- **Medications:** If you have medications that you need to bring with you, make sure you bring enough to last your entire stay. It can be a big pain to try and get them overseas.
- **Carry on:** Bring sufficient clothing and toiletries along with all important documents in case your luggage is lost. This is more common than you think!
- **Avoid sandals, shorts, etc while travelling there...** dress for the weather in Dublin
- **Make sure you have a map of UCD & Dublin with you prior to arrival.**
- **Having cash on hand is helpful in case of an emergency, even if it is US cash.** When I arrived, all of the ATMs at the airport were not working, but I was able to exchange my Dollars into Euros at the counter.
- **Bring reusable shopping bags, you have to use your own at the grocery stores. Go Green!**

Preparation: Housing



- On campus housing fills up quickly, so be sure to apply early.
- Although living on campus is more expensive, it is much more convenient and a great way to meet people. Plus, the campus has ATMs, groceries, and even wine. Many of the upperclassmen still live on campus, so it is not necessarily comparable to the dorms.
- Do your research! There are two campuses: The main campus and the Blackrock campus. Unless you are a graduate student in the College of Business, it is unlikely that you will have classes at the Blackrock campus. The Blackrock area is neat, but getting to and from the main campus can be a hassle. It is about a 40 minute walk and the bus which goes there (#17) is very unreliable. It is more convenient to live on the main campus, unless you are staying for an entire year, in which case I would recommend investing in a bicycle.
- There are plenty of housing options on campus, their website provides great information: <http://www.ucd.ie/residences/mainmenu/studentaccommodation/>
- UCD will provide information on what you need to bring regarding kitchen ware, etc. You can either bring things for home or find cheap things there (IKEA is great!). UCD also provides trips to IKEA and around town during orientation week, so pay attention to the events offered.

Arrival



- **At the airport:**
- Although there are ATMs on campus, it would be best to get cash here from an ATM. If they are not working, you can exchange your US dollars into Euros at the currency exchange counter.
- Follow the signs, there will be buses (AirCoach) in one area and taxis in the other.
- Be sure to have all of the required documents for entry in your carry-on. UCD should send information regarding the specifics.
- There will be signs directing you where to go for customs, etc.
- Also – Pay close attention to the required documents if you are living on campus.

Arrival



- Transportation to UCD:
 - **AirCoach:** Bus system that travels from the Dublin Airport to various stops all over the country. It is extremely helpful and much more predictable than the City Buses. To get to UCD, you want to take the bus to LEOPARDSTOWN and get off at the UCD (AKA Montrose Hotel) Exit. You will see UCD on your right and the Montrose Hotel on your left. If you are still unsure, ask the bus driver to let you know when to get off! They deal with this all the time.
 - Pros: Return ticket ~ 15 Euros, Single ~ 8
 - Cons: Bus stops outside of the UCD gate, still quite a trek to the on-campus housing
 - **Taxi:** There will be plenty waiting outside the airport. Tip – bring a map of UCD. Although they will know where the university is, they may not know exactly where to go if they are taking you directly to your apartment/dorm.
 - Pros: Convenience – can take you right to your housing area. It is much easier if you have a lot of luggage or the weather is bad.
 - Cons: Cost – usually ~ 40-60 Euros.

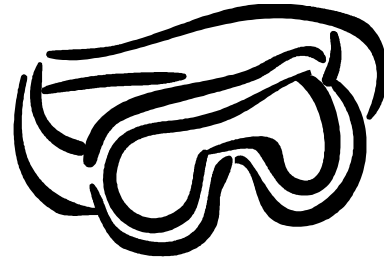
Getting situated

- Upon arriving at your housing complex, go to the office to receive your room key. Chances are you will need to turn in your required forms then as well as get your student I.D. (used as your room key) before you can check-in fully. This can be a hassle, so stay calm and they will help you through it. Not all of the housing options may use this system, but Glenomena does for sure.
- Since the different on-campus housing options offer various amenities, it is important to check ahead of time. Some require you to bring your own silverware, kitchenware, etc... while others are catered. They should all have a bed, a desk, and a chair. DO bring your own sheets and comforter.
- You should have already chosen classes and gotten your timetable squared away prior to arrival. However, the class times are subject to change, so it is best to double check for conflicts within your schedule once you arrive. If you do have an issue, don't panic. Talk to the study abroad office and they will usually be useful and accommodating.

The first week

- The first week on campus (after orientation) is called Fresher's Week (at least in the fall). During this time, there are plenty of UCD-sponsored parties, events, etc... It is an awesome time to meet people and enjoy your first week studying in a new country. This is also when the clubs set up displays and try to recruit new members.
- Many of the sponsors will offer free stuff, such as phone sim cards and coupons for free phones with purchase of 20 Euro top-ups, so if you need a phone I suggest waiting to see what they offer.
 - Most phone companies offer deals if you are calling/texting others within the company, so it is economically-beneficial for you to coordinate providers with your friends.
- Familiarize yourself with the campus, the city, the bus routes...etc. The sooner you get oriented, the easier (and more fun!) it will be.

Clubs



- The clubs at UCD can be an awesome way to meet new people, travel around the country, and even try out a new activity. They offer all kinds of clubs that have pub crawls, lecture speakers, weekend trips, and much, much more! A few examples would be:
 - The Snowsports club (which takes a trip to the Alps annually and practices on turf called “dry-slope”... it is an experience!
 - Kite Surfing: Yes, the water may be cold initially, but it is a great workout!
 - Caving/Rock climbing
 - Law club: Holds guest debates on Tuesday nights on campus which cover some interesting, college-student-relevant topics.
 - Sports clubs



Getting Around Dublin



- City Buses
 - The more demand, the more frequent. Most of the buses going into/coming from the City Center will be fairly reliable, but some of the others can be quite off schedule.
 - Timetable and routes can be found online: <http://www.dublinbus.ie/>
 - Monthly passes are convenient, if not, you must have change on hand to pay
- Taxis
 - Taxis are everywhere! You can hail one and have them take you right back to UCD. From the City Center, it is usually ~10-20 Euros
- Walking, Bicycles
- The Dart (Rail system) : <http://www.dublin.ie/transport/dart.htm>
 - Benefit: Goes straight from the City Center into Blackrock

Places to eat/drink

- It can be expensive to eat out with the exchange rate, but here are a few places worth mentioning:
 - Cornucopia Dublin (located on Wicklow Street in the City Center):
 - It is a vegetarian restaurant and can be a little pricey, but the food is awesome... especially the breakfast. Try the pancakes, they are amazing.



- Keily's (located in Donnybrook)
 - Wonderful place to go if you want to grab a drink/dinner but do not want to venture all the way into the City Center. Most buses that run to the Center go through Donnybrook as is, so it is a shorter, more casual trip.

Places to eat/drink

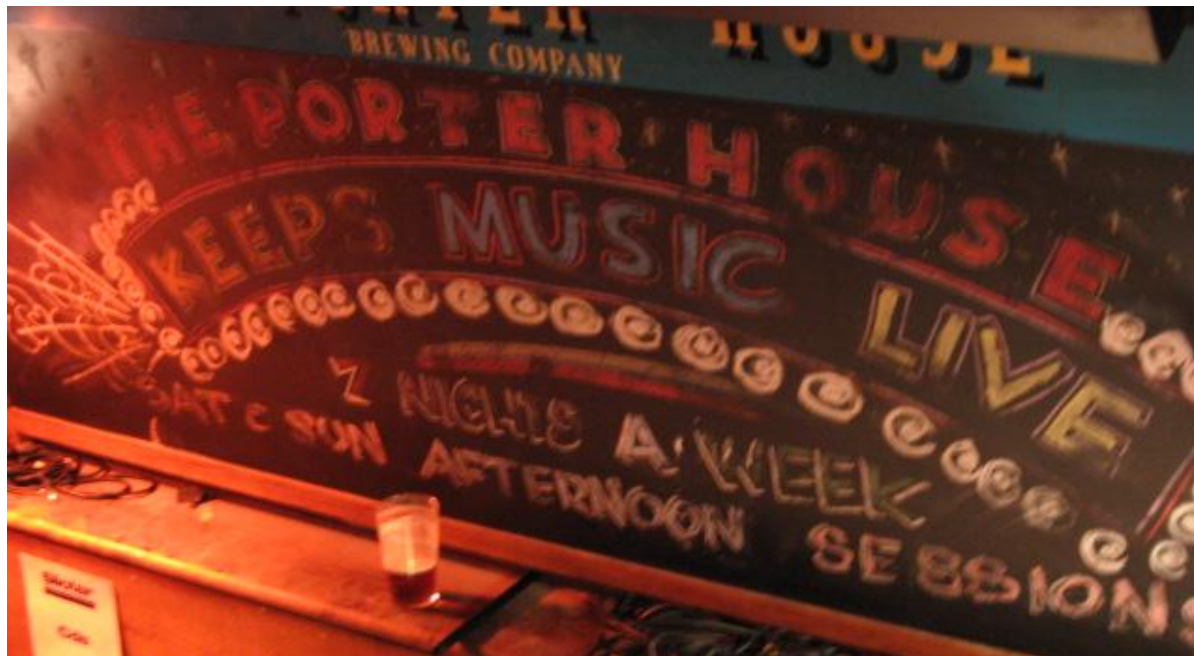
- Farmer's Markets

- Offer a variety of dishes, pastries, and produce; ranging from falafels to fudge!
- Saturdays: Temple Bar Farmer's Market (located in the City Center)
Bonus: Since it is located in Temple Bar, you can grab a drink afterwards
- Sundays: Dun Laoghaire Farmer's Market (located about 15 min via city bus from UCD) Bonus: Gorgeous harbor and coastal view



Places to eat/drink

- Porterhouse Brewery
 - Two locations: City Center and Temple Bar
 - Awesome locally brewed beers, great food, great atmosphere.
 - Bonus: Live music at the Temple Bar location



Places to eat/drink

- The Brazen Head Pub
 - Dublin's Oldest Pub
 - Try some traditional food such as fish and chips, Guinness stew, and soda bread (pair it with an Irish stout!)
- The Temple Bar/The Auld Dubliner
 - Located in the Temple Bar
 - Slightly touristy, but definite "Irish" feel
 - Beautiful festive décor and fun live music



Nightlife: other places worth mentioning

- The Bernard Shaw Pub (great pizza as well!)
- Student Bar (Yes, on campus)
- Messer's McGuire's
- O'Donahuges
- Dawson Lounge (Dublin's smallest pub)
- Flannery's
- Dicey's
- The Bleeding Horse
- Purty Kitchen
- D!two
- The Palace



Groceries and necessities

- Of course, you can find grocery stores and anything you need in the City Center, but if you don't want to make the trip, there are other options:
 - Tesco (Merrion shopping center) has basically anything you need including alcohol, health foods, a pharmacy, and even school supplies
 - Within walking distance, but you can get a taxi for 5-7 Euros
 - Centra (on campus) sells groceries and wine



What to do? Tourist Sites

- There are plenty of “must-see” tourist spots in Dublin alone, among these are:
 - Kilmainham Jail
 - Guinness Storehouse and the Old Jameson Distillery
 - Trinity College (check out the library!)
 - Dundrum shopping center
 - Christ Church Cathedral and St. Patrick’s Cathedral
 - St. Stephen’s Green



Tourist Sites Continued...

- You can venture to these places on your own, or there are plenty of hop-on, hop-off tours offered year-round.
- There are also tons of day trips to places nearby Dublin, the tourist office has great information. I would recommend Howth and Wicklow Mountains National Park.
- Also, there are day trips to Cork & Kilarney, Northern Ireland, Galway, and many other places around Ireland for reasonable prices.



In the “know”.. Some things I wish someone had told me first!

- “Craic” (pronounced crack) means fun. A common phrase for “It was a good time” was “It was good craic”
- “Slainte” (slawn-cha): Cheers
- Black pudding: Not actually pudding... It’s a sausage-type patty made with pigs blood, oatmeal, onions, and pork fat. Part of a traditional Irish breakfast
- A holding up a “peace sign” with your palm facing you is the Irish equivalent of holding up your middle finger
- Although Guinness is perhaps their most famous brew, Ireland has tons of other awesome brews worth checking out: Kilkenney, Murphy’s, Harp, Smithwick’s, and Beamish are a few.



Lastly...

- Have FUN! Ireland is a wonderful place full of awesome people.
- Step outside your comfort zone. (safely, of course!)

