Understanding Ireland offers international students the best possible foundation for settling into their time at Trinity. The programme is unique in providing both an orientation to life in Trinity and an academic introduction to understanding Irish culture—all before normal teaching begins.

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?
Understanding Ireland immerses you in the rich world of Irish history, art & architecture, literature and culture. There are three academic themes to the course:
1. The Story of Ireland: From St Patrick to the Present Day
2. Visualizing Ireland: Archaeology, Art and Architecture
3. Representing Ireland: Ireland and Irish Identity in Literature and Culture

As well as attending lectures and participating in small-group discussions (seminars), the programme includes a field trip to a site of major historical importance, such as the Hill of Tara or Glendalough. You will also visit national cultural institutions and historical landmarks around Dublin, such as The Abbey Theatre (founded by W. B. Yeats in 1904) and Croke Park, headquarters of the Gaelic Athletics Association (GAA).

WHO RUNS THE PROGRAMME?
Understanding Ireland is organized and taught by the academic staff of Trinity’s School of Histories and Humanities. The programme runs at the beginning each semester prior to the start of normal teaching. Full details of the academic content of the programme are available in the Understanding Ireland handbook, which is available on our webpage.

ACCOMMODATION
Students enrolled in the Semester Start-Up Programme will be housed in a Trinity-approved accommodation complex in the city centre. The complex works closely with Trinity and is a quick walk from campus. It has excellent facilities, including speedy broadband and Wi-Fi, a gym, bike storage, large common and study rooms, laundry facilities, an active social events calendar and 24/7 on-site staff. Each student receives a fully furnished private bedroom and en-suite bathroom, with a shared kitchen and living space for 3 to 8 students.

Instructions on how to apply for accommodation will be sent after students submit their applications for admission.

Further information

Academic Director: Professor Patrick Walsh
Programme Coordinator: Dr Patricia Stapleton

For general enquiries and further information, please contact the Understanding Ireland coordinator:

Email: pstaple@tcd.ie
Telephone: 00 353 1 896 8589
Web: www.tcd.ie/study/understandingireland

VISITING AND EXCHANGE STUDENTS

AUTUMN ENTRY (5 ECTS): If you are a visiting or exchange student coming to Trinity for a year or a single semester, the three-week autumn programme is for you. The programme begins three weeks before teaching term and covers the first one-sixth of your semester work commitment at Trinity (5 ECTS), with the remainder being covered by the other undergraduate courses you choose for that semester.

SPRING ENTRY (NOT CREDIT-BEARING): If you are arriving in Trinity for the spring term, you have the option to take a week-long version of Understanding Ireland, which runs in the week before normal teaching begins in January. The week-long programme offers an overview of Irish history and culture through a combination of lectures and field trips. This course is optional, carries an additional cost and does not qualify for credit.

FEES
Both the Autumn and Spring programmes incur an additional fee. For students participating in institutional exchanges, this cost will be additional to the fees charged by your home university. For fees please visit our website: www.tcd.ie/study/understandingireland

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

AUTUMN ENTRY ONLY: If you are an international student coming to Trinity to study as a full-time undergraduate, there is a programme designed especially for you! This programme is called Understanding Ireland: The Trinity Smart-Start Programme.

FEES
Participation in Understanding Ireland incurs an additional fee. Please check our website: www.tcd.ie/study/understandingireland

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THE TRINITY SEMESTER START-UP PROGRAMME

www.tcd.ie/study/understandingireland
UNDERSTANDING IRELAND

THE TRINITY SEMESTER START-UP PROGRAMME

ORIENTATE YOURSELF INTO TRINITY LIFE BEFORE YOUR FIRST SEMESTER BEGINS

The programme includes a tour of our historic city-centre campus, an introduction to our library services and IT induction classes. The teaching staff will also help with your transition to the teaching and learning environment of Trinity.

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE RICH WORLD OF IRISH HISTORY, ART, LITERATURE AND FILM.

There are three academic themes to the course:
1. The Story of Ireland
2. Visualizing Ireland
3. Representing Ireland

MAKE NEW AND LASTING FRIENDSHIPS BEFORE YOUR CLASSES AT TRINITY EVEN BEGIN

Moving to a new country can be challenging. You will thrive during your stay in Trinity having spent your first weeks meeting fellow students who are also experiencing Ireland for the first time.

USE THE PROGRAMME AS A LAUNCH PAD FOR DISCOVERING IRELAND WITH YOUR NEW FRIENDS

As well as visiting venues in Dublin such as the Abbey Theatre (the National Theatre of Ireland) and Croke Park (the home of the GAA), the programme includes a field trip to sites of major historical importance outside the capital, such as the Hill of Tara (the ancient seat of the High Kings of Ireland) or the monastery of Glendalough with its famous round tower.

Learn more at www.tcd.ie/study/understandingireland