

Know Your Way Around Trinity

One of the most exciting parts of a student's journey is higher education – you've chosen a course that you are interested in, applied to a university after lots of research and finally, you have gotten accepted. Congratulations! It's a long process that requires a lot of your time and effort and you've done a great job so far. However, that bit is only just the beginning, especially if you are moving continents and have to settle yourself in a new country with little support from everything you've known. But, fret not! Know Your Way Around Trinity is built to make your transition from your home country to Dublin a smoother process.

Here's a short guide on a few things that every incoming student must know about.

1. Accommodation

Finding a house is perhaps the toughest thing to do in Dublin presently. It's even harder to find a place without actually being present in the city. While they are expensive, Student Accommodations are helpful options to consider and need to be reserved/booked much earlier during the year – sometimes even before you've gotten your acceptance letter if you're very sure about your education in Ireland. Looking at temporary accommodation options or finding an apartment as a group could help as well. A major plus is if there's someone in the city who can have a look at the place. There are multiple groups on Facebook/Whatsapp which are dedicated to helping people find the right home and tenant. However, when looking at individual homes or rooms as your place of stay, one thing to make a note of is to *never* pay any deposit upfront without actually viewing the place and signing the contract. Many students have fallen to the scam only to find that the property they have virtually viewed doesn't even exist.

2. On-campus Job Opportunities

While your initial stay in Dublin may be financially supported, it's not surprising to find students looking at part-time opportunities to fund their living expenses. Finding the right balance between your work-time and study-time is the key to excel in both sections, this can be made much easier if you are able to find an on-campus opportunity. So, how do we go about this? Keeping an eye out on social media accounts by groups and communities associated with the university is always

helpful. The accounts start posting hiring calls during the months June-August, and if something suits your fancy, contacting them through the mentioned means is the best way to secure a part-time role even before you're here! Another option is to check out [My Career Connect](#), regularly but this will depend on you having access to it immediately.

Note: Working in Ireland requires a valid PPSN. For more details, visit [here](#).

3. Banking

Yes, your forex card does the trick for the initial few weeks, but having an Irish bank account helps majorly in conducting transactions within the country in an easy manner and feel financially secure, especially if you've to indulge in a bank transfer. There are two main banks you can reach out to for the same: AIB and Bank of Ireland. Both the banks allow you to create an account virtually where you have to provide a few verification documents (proof of residence in Ireland, valid passport, and a photo ID, etc). When the online verification is completed, the bank will further contact you with details about your account. The process should take roughly about a week if everything goes smoothly. Another alternative is Revolut, which follows a digital banking system and is operable in multiple countries all over the world.

4. Societies

Trinity College Dublin is home to about 50 sports clubs and more than 120 societies. Once you have settled into university life, there's a fresher's week held in the month of September. Held on the main campus, you will have the opportunity to have a look at what options are available to further your existing interests or explore new ones. The club membership fee is quite minimal too. If you're a master's student with a very hectic schedule, try and join a couple and make time to remain consistent with them. It's a fun way to meet new people and discover new experiences.

5. Food and Other Necessities

Securing a home with essential furnishings in Ireland isn't always guaranteed. Yet, a single trip to your local supermarket can provide everything you need. For furniture and affordable clothing items such as raincoats, duvets, and pillows, Dunnes is the

ideal choice. For everyday grocery, Tesco, Lidl and Dunnes are good options to explore. These stores have deals nearly everyday or on a weekly basis, shop around a bit to find out what works best for you or which quality you prefer the most. Often, it's a mix of all that ends up most suitable.

6. Travel

Luas (tram), Dart, and the Dublin Bus Service are the public transport options available in Ireland. As a student, commuting to the university is a regular occurrence, and purchasing tickets daily may not be effective cost or time wise. Leap card, a renewable travel smart card that can be loaded with funds, is a must! You are eligible for subsidised travel fares, so applying for a Student Leap card upon your arrival in Ireland is advisable. You can apply online [here](#), provide your details, and make a payment for the same. While waiting for your Student Leap Card, consider getting a visitor Leap Card and load it with a small amount.

How do you use a Leap Card? You're supposed to swipe at the reader before taking the Luas, and swipe again when you get off. Similar rules apply to the Dart which is the rail service, however, this is usually at the entrance of the train station before you walk onto the platform and when you exit it. If you are travelling by the bus, you will have to swipe only once at the entrance. If it's a short travel distance, let the driver know which stop you want to get off on just so that you aren't charged the fixed base price.

7. Student Partner Programme

And finally, a look at the Student Partner Programme, an initiative of the Trinity Inclusive Curriculum Project, which works to embed the principles of diversity, equality and inclusion across all teaching and learning at Trinity College Dublin. There is an ongoing year-round engagement with students, who share their experiences of inclusion and exclusion within the curriculum in Trinity to help foster accessibility, inclusion, and amplify the voices of the diverse student body. It also aims to empower students to develop their skills and harness their life experiences to create a community where everyone feels as though they belong and can strive towards their full potential. Check out the [website](#) to discover more.