



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

School of Religion, Theology, and
Peace Studies
Trinity College Dublin, at Belfast

Guide for International Students

2026-27



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Introduction

Welcome to the guide for international students at the School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies, Trinity College Dublin at Belfast.

If you are planning to study in Belfast, the information you will need as an international student is different from if you were going to the main Trinity campus in Dublin, as you will be studying in the UK.

This guide covers visas, healthcare, accommodation, working and more. There are contact details for the office in Belfast at the end of the document. Please get in touch if you have any questions!

Immigration

UK student visas

Most international students, including EU residents, will need a [UK student visa](#) to study in Northern Ireland. British or Irish passport holders or those with EU settled or pre-settled status can study in the UK without a visa. It is the student's own responsibility to ensure the correct visa is in place if required before travelling.

To begin your visa application, you will need a CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance provided by the School when you have accepted a firm offer), a valid passport, and you will need to be able to meet the financial requirements.

The earliest you can apply for your student visa is 6 months before the course starts if you are outside the UK, or 3 months if you are applying from inside the UK. For full information on the application process and costs, see our Immigration FAQ [here](#).

Arrival via Dublin and Irish visas

If you plan to fly into Dublin Airport, ensure that you have a valid Irish visa if you are a visa-required for Ireland. To check if you need are visa-required, see the official [Visit Ireland](#) website. See also Trinity's [Arriving in Ireland](#) page. After arriving in Dublin, you can travel to

Belfast without any checks at the border with Northern Ireland. However, be prepared to present valid documents for entering the UK if requested at the airport.

If you arrive via the UK but wish to travel to Dublin during the course, check if you need a short visitor visa to visit the Republic of Ireland at [Visit Ireland](#). The application is online and, once completed, you will need to post your supporting documents including your passport, so do take any travel plans into account. The CRR office can provide a letter to confirm your student status. It is recommended to start your application 3 months before you plan to travel. If, for example, you wish to start a Dublin module in January or attend the one-day Dublin field trip in March/April, bear this in mind when making your application. For more information see [Irish Immigration Service](#).

Don't forget, you can complete your studies in Belfast without going to Dublin! It is also worth knowing that normally one module from the School's Dublin-based MPhil courses will be made available online for CRR students.

[Download our Immigration FAQ at this link for further details.](#)

Start of Term Dates and Orientation

The first event of the new academic year is CRR Orientation Day, usually held early to mid-September. This takes place at the School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies in Belfast where the course is taught. Incoming students will be informed of the date and other key dates as soon as they are available. The day includes sessions on practical information and course content. Lunch is provided and is followed by a walking tour of the Queen's Quarter area to familiarise new students with the location of the Queen's University library and sports centre, where memberships are available.

Our School on the main campus in Dublin also holds a postgraduate orientation day in September. CRR students are welcome to attend. It is a good way to meet other students and staff in the wider School and an opportunity to see the historic campus and collect your TCard (student ID card) from Academic Registry. Arrangements can also be made to have TCards posted to the CRR office in Belfast.

There is also a packed programme of events during postgraduate orientation week across the campus in Dublin. Attendance is completely optional at any Dublin-based events; there is normally plenty to join in online!

When should you plan to arrive?

For those travelling on a UK student visa, you must travel on or after the start date on your visa for it to be activated. The start date on the visa will usually be a few weeks before the course begins. If you arrive before the start date on your student visa, you will need to leave and re-enter in the correct period. It's not possible to switch into the student route if you enter as a tourist.

If you need to find a place to live, you may like to arrive a week or two before classes start. A popular option for many students is to book a place in advance at one of the many new student accommodation blocks - there is a wide choice available in Belfast. See the accommodation section below for more information.

Travel to Belfast

You are likely to travel to Northern Ireland by one of three routes: a flight directly to Belfast International Airport or Dublin airport; a flight into another part of the UK (e.g. London Heathrow) then a connecting flight to Belfast International airport, Belfast City airport, or Dublin airport. Onward travel is available by bus from all airports to Belfast city centre.

The UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) is an organisation that provides information and guidance for international students in the UK. They have lots of useful advice on arriving in the UK in their [visas and immigration](#) section. See also [UK Border Force 10 tips for student arrivals](#) as well as our Immigration FAQ at this [link](#).

Do carry a printed copy of your CAS along with your travel documents.

Our location

The School is located at Edgehill House, 9 Lennoxvale, Belfast, BT9 5BY, [click here for a map](#).

Past students tell us that if you come by taxi for your first visit, it is best to give the driver this address, as it's unlikely they will be familiar with Trinity College Dublin in Belfast!

Edgehill House is a shared building with the Methodist Church so you will see signs for both at the entrance. It's around a 10-minute taxi ride from Grand Central Station, Belfast's main transport hub. From city centre take the 8B or 8C bus from beside the City Hall. Hop off two stops past Queen's University and you will find Edgehill House at the end of a side road called Lennoxvale. There are also regular UniLink buses between the Ulster University campus in town where many students opt to live and Queen's. To walk from the city centre takes around 30 minutes.

Student Support Services

Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation is the only Trinity course based in Belfast. Living and studying in a divided society affords valuable opportunities for students, but the student experience here is different from attending a large campus university, or Trinity in Dublin. The department in Belfast has its own excellent specialist library and small dedicated staff team. Study space, sports facilities and clubs and societies are available through Queen's University Belfast (QUB). Further details of these arrangements are provided below. Most [Trinity student support services](#) can be accessed remotely **but be aware that students must travel to Dublin if they wish to access the full range of services in person**. An online session will take place early in the term to connect students with some of the main support services.

Use of Queen's University facilities

The School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies is located a few minutes' walk from Queen's University, also known as QUB. Students can use the sports centre, library, and clubs & societies at Queen's; the arrangements for accessing each are explained below.

Trinity Sport covers the cost of membership at [Queen's Sport](#) for students studying on Belfast courses. Orientation day in September includes a tour of facilities and membership set-up.

With respect to library facilities, the school has a small specialist library on site with a librarian in attendance. In addition to this, study space is provided through access to the excellent state-of-the-art facilities at Queen's University library. Students take out an [associate membership](#) and pay the fee (£140 for the year at the time writing) and the amount is refunded by the School. Find out more about QUB library facilities [here](#). Further information on getting set up will be provided at orientation.

Queen's Students Union [clubs & societies](#) are open to any students living in the area. Over the years many Trinity Belfast students have enjoyed hiking in the Mourne, sports clubs, events, and gigs etc. so you are encouraged to join in and can find out more at freshers fairs.

Accommodation

It is a student's own responsibility to find accommodation for the year. To help you, in this section we provide information on student housing options, which areas of the city are best to live in and useful links to help you with your search.

Student Accommodation Blocks

There are several student accommodation blocks in Belfast. They can fill up quickly so the earlier you can explore options the better. Facilities are usually well-equipped and up to date. There are two main areas to choose from: south Belfast near Queen's University with its sports centre and library and within walking distance of the School, or city centre near Ulster University. The latter is a longer journey to class but has become increasingly popular in recent years as the city centre becomes more student friendly.

TIP: depending on your preferences, you might like to think about questions to ask before you book, for example, can you have visitors, what's the age group like (mostly undergraduate / postgraduate), can you share a flat with others or are only single studios available.

[Stran Halls](#) – leafy south Belfast campus on Stranmillis Road near the river Lagan, for teacher training. Accommodation is open to students at any university.

[Botanic Studios](#) – Dublin Road, south Belfast.

[Queen’s University Accommodation](#) – south Belfast; includes some postgraduate housing at Willow Park. Priority is given to Queen’s students however there may be availability for non-Queen’s students, based on date of application. As Trinity at Belfast isn’t listed on the drop-down menu on their website, please contact allocations@qub.ac.uk or accommodation@qub.ac.uk if you would like to apply.

[Bradbury Place](#) – Shaftesbury, south Belfast.

[Student Roost](#) – five city centre locations to choose from including Nelson Place, newly opened near Ulster University and a popular choice with past students.

[LIV Belfast](#) – York Street, city centre, near Ulster University.

[Vita Student](#) - Bruce Street, city centre, walking distance from South Belfast. (Only single rooms, mostly postgraduate).

[The Edge](#) – 3 properties, 1 near Ulster University, 2 in South Belfast (Aster and Ryan buildings).

Renting a room in a private house

A room in a shared house in a private rental can work well too and should be less expensive than a student accommodation block. Here are some points to bear in mind if renting privately:

A house which has 3 or more occupants who aren’t from the same family needs to have a Homes of Multiple Occupancy (HMO) certificate. This ensures that the property meets regulations. If you will be living in an HMO you can [check if the property has a licence](#). Make sure you read the contract carefully before you sign, as you will be liable for the rent for the whole period once you sign. Is it the right length of time for your stay, and is it affordable?

You should get a copy of the tenancy agreement, rent book, summary of tenancy terms and the landlord’s name, address and contact details, and keep receipts for all payments made.

It is the law that your deposit (which you get back at the end of your tenancy if you have paid the rent and looked after the property) is protected under a deposit protection scheme. The NIDirect government website has more useful information in their [student housing section](#).

If you are looking for a room in a shared house, search for somewhere suitable for postgrads or professionals. Generally, rooms start to become available from June. Here are some websites you can search:

- [Spare Room Flat Share](#)
- [Property Pal](#)
- [Gumtree](#)
- [Property News](#)

In addition, we can provide contact details of a landlady recommended by past students – please contact us at sradmblfst@tcd.ie.

Interested in sharing with others on the course?

Once you have accepted an offer, you can request to join the [CRR Facebook group](#), and you can also download the ‘Goin to Trinity’ app. Both will allow you to connect to other classmates so you can arrange to meet up when you arrive in town, and chat about sharing accommodation if you would like to do so.

Choosing which area to live in

Plenty of private student rentals are available in south Belfast within walking distance of where you will be studying. These are Lisburn Road (also known as Windsor), Ormeau, Malone, Stranmillis, and Botanic. If you have seen a property online and want to know what the area is like, please get in touch and we’ll be happy to tell you more about the location.

Safety

Belfast is a relatively safe city. There have been some incidents of racism and hate crimes, however there are plenty of areas where anyone will feel safe and welcome. Contact us if you need any advice.

Luggage

If you need somewhere to leave your luggage for a few days when you arrive, please contact us and we will do our best to help.

Important Information on Access to Money

Please ensure you have access to enough money to see you through the first few weeks of term in the unlikely event there is any delay in processing student loans.

Working

A UK student visa normally includes the right to work, unless stated otherwise. Certain kinds of work are not permitted such as self-employment, setting up a business or taking up a permanent post. If your visa application is successful, you will be told what kind of work you can and can't do. Part-time work up to 20 hours a week is permitted during term time and full-time work during the holidays.

Term time includes the summer dissertation writing period after classes have ended. After dissertation submission, you can work full-time and may wish to consider switching to the Graduate Route before your student visa expires.

If you want to get a job, you will need to get a [National Insurance Number](#). You can search for jobs through sites such as [nijobfinder](#). Local bars, cafés and shops will often post vacancies in their window, so you can drop in your CV. Bear in mind that if you take the Community Learning module you will also have an internship to factor into your time. As we are a small department, unfortunately we cannot offer employment opportunities to students. [UKCISA](#) has lots of helpful tips on working as a student in the UK.

Healthcare

A UK student visa entitles you to use of the National Health Service (NHS). You are encouraged to register with a doctor at the start of term in case you need medical care during your stay. Find out more on our healthcare factsheet [here](#).

Living Costs

The cost of living for students outside London is estimated at £1171 per month at the time of writing although you should find Belfast a little cheaper compared to the rest of the UK.

Currency

The currency used in Northern Ireland is pounds sterling. The Republic of Ireland uses euros. Trinity fees are always in euros.

Opening a Bank Account

If you want to open a bank account, you will need your passport, visa share code if applicable, and a letter from us to confirm your student status (once you are registered) as well as evidence of your term time address such as a lease or rental agreement. It is also worth exploring digital bank accounts such as Revolut. For those who wish to open an account at a physical branch, UK and International banks seem to offer a smoother process for international students, e.g. Santander, Nationwide, HSBC etc. For more information on opening a UK bank account, see UKCISA advice on [student finances](#).

The Weather!

Northern Ireland has a mild, temperate climate. It is rare to get extremes of hot or cold, especially hot.... Do bring warm clothing, and a waterproof coat and shoes. Layers are best, as the weather is always changeable.

Transport

[Translink](#) is the main public transport company in Northern Ireland, making it easy to find information. The bus service in the city is called Metro. Various discount cards are available: [24+Travelcard](#) and [YLink Smartcard](#) for up to 23 years. There are hourly trains to Dublin. The bus is cheaper but there are webfares available for the train if you book a few days in advance. Other Belfast to Dublin bus services are available through [Aircoach](#). A new service, [Dublin Express](#), drops off at Trinity. All leave from Belfast Grand Central Station.

International students are advised to carry ID documents when travelling between Belfast and Dublin as identity checks are sometimes carried out on public transport when crossing the border. See above section on Irish visas to determine whether you need a visa to travel to the Republic of Ireland.

Shops for setting up home

- Ikea – Holywood Exchange, served by various Metro buses from city centre
- B & M Store – Rosemary Street, city centre, also on Boucher Road, south Belfast
- Dunnes – off Cornmarket, city centre
- B & M Homestore, Home Bargains, the Range – Boucher Road, south Belfast
- Primark – city centre
- Charity shops – a great place to find second-hand homeware and save a few pounds.

Living in Dublin

The Trinity [Global Room](#) provides information for international students living in Dublin - [reach out to our Student Ambassadors](#) before you arrive for insights from other international students. Please review the information on travel and Irish visas above, while further information is available on the [Arriving in Ireland](#) page.

Further Resources

[Students Studying in Belfast](#)

[UK Council for International Student Affairs \(UKCISA\)](#)

[British Council](#)

[UK Visas and Immigration](#)

Contact Us

Zoom calls are available – please email the member of staff to arrange this.

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Monday – Friday, 9.00am – 1.00pm

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