

Student Life in Belfast



Tips from past students

The Belfast department of Trinity's School of Religion, Theology and Peace Studies is in the south of the city, a student-friendly area, with plenty of opportunities for social and intellectual action! Over the years past students have added their feedback and helped put together these tips to make the most of living in Belfast. We hope you find them useful. If you're a current student feel free to send us your suggestions! There is lots more in our Guide for International Students.

Safety

The Troubles gave Belfast a very bad image but the city is generally very safe with a low crime rate. Basically it's like any city, use your common sense and you will be fine. For advice on which areas are best to live, see the Guide for International Students.

Volunteering

The Community Learning module which forms part of the Master's teaching provides an opportunity to get involved in community life in Belfast. In addition there are lots of volunteering opportunities available locally. See [Volunteer Now](#) for full listings. You may also be interested in College's [resources on civic engagement](#).

Places of Worship

For those who wish to attend religious services while in Belfast, here are some suggestions:

- Windsor Baptist, Malone Avenue
- Fitzroy Presbyterian Church, University Street
- Fisherwick Presbyterian Church, Malone Road
- Lisburn Road Methodist Church
- All Saints Church of Ireland, University Street
- Belfast Jewish Community, Somerton Road
- Belfast Islamic Centre, Wellington Park
- Quakers, Marlborough Park North, off Lisburn Road
- Clonard Monastery, Falls Road

Tourist Information

Tourist Information for visitors can be found on the [Belfast Welcome Centre](#) website. There is a drop in centre opposite the City Hall.

Entertainment

Belfast Giants Ice Hockey team play regularly at the Odyssey. The players are all Canadian....

Located on University Square, Queen's Film Theatre known as QFT, plays host to a variety of independent, foreign and arthouse films, has its own bar/cafe, offers student discounts and is a favourite place for our students.

Just down the road from Queen's University, The Crescent Arts Centre runs classes on everything creative you can think of and has a programme of events throughout the year.

The Black Box in the Cathedral Quarter is a great venue for live music, film, readings, and comedy. Leans toward the indie side of things. The Empire on Botanic Avenue is good for cover bands and comedy.

Theatres

- [Grand Opera House](#)
- [Waterfront Hall](#)
- [Lyric](#)
- [Crescent Arts Centre](#)
- [The MAC](#)

Festivals

- [Belfast International Arts Festival](#)
- [West Belfast Festival](#)
- [Open House Festival](#)
- [Out to Lunch Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival](#)
- [Imagine Ideas and Politics Festival](#)
- [Four Corners Festival](#)

Markets

[St George's Market](#) is a popular meeting place and features crafts, local produce, artisan stalls, food and music. It's located near the waterfront and Lanyon Place train station, a few minutes' walk from the City Hall. It's one of the best covered markets in the UK and Ireland. In May and December a continental market sets up in the grounds of the City Hall. C.S. Lewis Square in the east of the city often hosts an urban market – you don't want to miss checking out this area which has a greenway, coffee shops, festivals and lots going on.

Pubs

Belfast has some great pubs. Please note, it's best to not wear any sports jerseys into any pub.

- John Hewitt & Duke of York, Cathedral Quarter, Donegall Street.
- McHugh's, Custom House Square.
- The Spaniard, Cathedral Quarter, just off Waring Street by the Merchant Hotel. Tiny, but class!
- Madden's & Kelly's, behind Castle Court shopping centre. Great places for live, traditional Irish Music.
- The House & Cutters Wharf: Stranmillis area.

Visiting Dublin

GSU provides a list of [postgraduate spaces](#) on campus, handy if you want somewhere to make a cuppa or just chill for a while. You can also use the postgraduate reading room at the Irish School of Ecumenics/Loyola Institute building (dependent on any restrictions in place at the time). For tourist information see Trinity's [Guide to Dublin](#). Regular buses and trains run between Belfast and Dublin – check out the Guide for International Students for more information.

Shipping

[NI Parcels](#)

[Postage Supermarket](#)

[Parcel Monkey](#)

[Seven Seas](#)

Yoga Classes

Namaste Yoga Studio on the Ormeau Road provides classes in yoga, well-being and meditation. Try also Abhyasa and Hot Yoga on the Lisburn Road.

Broadband & TV

[Virgin Media](#), [BT](#), and some other tech companies offer rolling or 9 month contracts, which is great if you don't want to take out a full year's contract. In a shared house you will probably split the cost between you, making it relatively cheap. If you opt for one of the new student accommodation blocks in Belfast it will be included in your package. (See Guide for International Students).

Mobiles

Tesco and Giffgaff are two examples of inexpensive mobile phone providers in the UK. You can get lots more tips by checking out online comparison sites e.g. [SavetheStudent](#).

Money Saving Tips and Deals

[Money Saving Expert](#) is an excellent website for finding the best deals on a whole range of UK products, services and utilities. Don't forget that student deals and software downloads are available through Trinity's IT Services.

TV Licence

For information on the TV Licence as it applies to students, visit [TV Licensing](#).