



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

2024-25



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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 than 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 and more. There are contact details for the CRR office at the end of the document. Please get in touch with any questions!

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.

For the visa application you will need a CAS (confirmation of acceptance) number, which we provide once you have accepted a firm offer. The earliest you can apply for a visa is 6 months before the course start date.

As well as having a valid passport, for your application you may need to show evidence of enough money to cover your first year of course fees and 9 months of living expenses, currently estimated at £1023 per month. Confirmation of a student loan is accepted as evidence.

Immigration healthcare surcharge

An [Immigration Healthcare Surcharge](#) is payable as part of the visa application. From January 2024 this will be £776 for each 12 month period. The fee is designed to cover use of public health services for the duration of your studies. You will still need to take the step of registering with a doctor's practice on arrival, in order to access the health service.

NB: PhD students are required to pay a surcharge which covers their full period of study in advance. Any dependents (spouse and/or children) are also required to pay the surcharge as part of their separate visa application.

Bringing dependents

From January 2024 only students coming for doctoral research or those on a government scholarship can bring dependents when coming to study in the UK.

Your visa documentation

If your visa application is successful you will either receive a visa in digital form or will need to collect a physical Biometric Resident Permit (BRP) card once you arrive in Belfast. In the meantime you will receive a temporary vignette in your passport to allow you to enter the UK as a student.

BRP cards are collected from the main Post Office in Belfast city centre. See the Maps section at the end of this document for the location.

Further information: the [UK Council for International Student Affairs \(UKCISA\)](#) has lots of helpful advice on the UK student visa system.

Records we are required to keep for students on a UK visa

- Evidence of date of arrival in UK
- Copy of BRP (card, or digital status verified by a code)
- Copy of photograph page of passport and entry stamp
- Term time address and contact phone number
- Attendance record

We will contact you to gather the required documentation before and after arrival in Belfast. Records are kept according to College [Data Protection Policy](#).

Graduate Visa

Students who successfully complete an MPhil or PhD are eligible to apply for a [graduate visa](#) for 2 or 3 years respectively. This may be subject to change in future years as the government is currently reviewing the graduate visa scheme.

Irish visas

If you have a UK visa and, during your studies, wish to travel to Dublin/the Republic of Ireland, some nationalities will need a short Irish visitor visa. Such students are also likely to need their UK student visa to allow them to leave and re-enter the UK. You can apply online after arrival in Belfast and once you are a fully registered student. We can provide a

supporting letter to confirm your student status. For more information on how to apply for an Irish visitor visa please see the [Irish Embassy](#) or the [Irish Immigration Service](#) websites.

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

Start of term dates and orientation

Orientation is held in Belfast during the first or second week of September with classes starting the following week; incoming students will be informed of the date as soon as it is available. The day includes a course information session, a tour of Queen's University Sports Centre (PEC) where you can become a member, and information on how student support services work for Belfast students.

You can also attend orientation events in Dublin to familiarise yourself with facilities on the main campus, although all Dublin events are completely optional. [TCD Students Union](#) organises Postgraduate Orientation week and you will hear lots about what's happening in Dublin through your Trinity student portal. See also [Trinity Global Room](#).

Our School on the main campus in Dublin also holds an orientation event in the first week of September. This can be a good way to meet other students and staff in the wider School.

When should you plan to arrive?

It is worth arriving a couple of weeks before the start of term particularly if you need to find a place to live. Booking a room in advance in one of the many student accommodation blocks is a popular option however - see the accommodation section 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; a flight into another part of the UK (e.g. London Heathrow) and a connecting flight to Belfast International or Belfast City Airport, or a direct flight to Dublin.

Bus services run from all airports into Belfast city centre. If entering through a UK airport an immigration officer may ask you to show evidence of your reasons for coming to

the UK. This could include your CAS document, acceptance letter, travel tickets, passport with vignette sticker or digital visa, and evidence of funding.

If you travel via Dublin

If you plan to fly into Dublin you should keep your travel documents as proof of your journey - as you will not be arriving at a UK airport, your passport will not be stamped. You will be arriving into the Common Travel Area (CTA) and can make your way up to Belfast with no further immigration checks after the airport. You can get a stamp in your passport later by leaving the CTA and coming back into a UK airport, for example if you take a trip to Europe. UKCISA has more [advice](#) for students arriving via Dublin whose place of study is in the UK.

Find us

Our address is Edgehill House, 9 Lennoxvale, Belfast, BT9 5BY. [Click here for a map](#). Past students tell us that if coming by taxi for your first visit its best to give the driver this address, as it's unlikely they will have heard of Trinity College Dublin at Belfast! Edgehill House is a shared building with the Methodist Church. We are a short taxi ride from the main bus and train stations in the city centre. To reach us by bus, take the 8B or 8C from the City Hall. Hop off two stops past Queen's University and you will find our building at no. 9, Lennoxvale.

Travel between Belfast and Dublin

International students are advised to carry ID documents when travelling between Belfast and Dublin as there are sometimes identity checks on public transport. Check in advance to see if you will need a visa to travel to Ireland even on a short visit. If you are visa-required for Northern Ireland, you may also be visa-required if you plan to travel to Republic of Ireland. Check the [Irish Immigration Service website](#) for information.

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 to attending a large campus university, or Trinity in Dublin. The department in Belfast has its own excellent specialist library and small core staff. Study

space, sports facilities and clubs and societies are available through Queen's University Belfast (QUB) which is close by – see the following section to learn more about these arrangements. 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 you with some of the main student support services.

Use of Queen's Sports Centre and Library

Trinity Sport covers the cost of Queen's University's sports centre ([PEC](#)) membership for Belfast-based Trinity students. Orientation day in September usually includes a tour of PEC. Membership will be set up on orientation day for new students.

The nearby Queen's University library offers ample study space. Students can take out an Associate membership and the cost will be refunded by the School. You can find out more about QUB library facilities [here](#). Further information will be provided at orientation.

Lastly, [clubs and societies](#) at QUB are open to any students so you are welcome to join in!

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 in your search.

Student Accommodation Blocks

There are several student housing blocks in Belfast. They do fill up quickly so the earlier you can explore options the better. Facilities are good and many are new builds.

[Stran Halls](#) – a short walk away with lots of places to pick up coffee on the way to class!

Leafy setting near the river and worth considering if you would like a campus feel.

[Botanic Studios](#) – Dublin Road, 15 minutes' walk from Edgehill House.

[Queen's University Accommodation](#) – Malone Road, 5 minutes' walk away (including some postgrad) & city centre. There may be some 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 if you would like to apply.

[Student Roost](#) – five city centre locations.

[LIV Belfast](#) – near the new Ulster University campus in the city centre.

[Novel Student](#) – Botanic, South Belfast and city centre locations.

[Amber Place](#) – Bradbury Place, South Belfast

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 pointers 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](#). In the website listings below you will see NISTudent Pad. This is a good option as it is the Northern Ireland Housing Executive student accommodation search engine. 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 for example 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. Within 28 days of paying your deposit you should receive a document called 'Prescribed Information' with a unique reference number. You should follow this up if it doesn't appear within that time. 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. You could try the following websites:

- [StudentpadNI](#) (N Ireland housing executive student housing lists)
- [Spare Room Flat Share](#)
- [Property Pal](#)
- [Gumtree](#)
- [Property News](#)

In addition we have contact details of a landlady recommended by past students – please contact the CRR office at sradmbfst@tcd.ie for details.

Interested in sharing with others on the course?

Once you have accepted an offer you can request to join the [CRR student Facebook group](#) and you can also join the ‘Goin to Trinity’ app. Both will allow you to connect to other classmates so you could arrange to meet up when you arrive in town, or 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, Ravenhill and Botanic. If you have seen a property online and want advice about what the area is like please contact the School office in Belfast and we’ll be happy to advise you. ***The area behind Queen’s University known as ‘the Holylands’ is popular with undergrads and can be quite rowdy; for a quieter life you might prefer to avoid that area!***

Whether you decide on a student accommodation block or private rental, you have two main options in terms of area: south Belfast near Queen’s University with its gym and library and within walking distance of our building, 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.

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. Please contact us if you would like advice about a particular area.

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 entitles you to work part-time alongside your studies, unless your BRP states otherwise. (If your BRP says you can't work and you think this is a mistake you must get it corrected before starting a job). You can work 20 hours a week during term time and full-time during the holidays. Term time includes your dissertation-writing period after classes have ended. Once you have submitted your dissertation you are free to work full-time if you wish until your visa expires.

If you want to get a job, you will need to obtain a [National Insurance Number](#). You can search for jobs through the local press or online. 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 should need medical care during your stay. Find out more on our healthcare factsheet available to download on the [School website](#). Covid restrictions have come to an end in Northern Ireland, however should you need information, this is available at [nidirect](#) and the [Public Health Agency](#).

Living Costs

The cost of living for students outside London is estimated at £1023 per month at the time

of writing (Jan 2024), although you should find Belfast a little cheaper compared to the rest of the UK. UKCISA has a helpful section on [student finances](#).

Currency

The currency used in Northern Ireland is pounds sterling. The Republic of Ireland uses euros. You can use both sterling and euros on the train to Dublin. Trinity fees are always in euros.

Opening a Bank Account

If you wish to open a UK bank account at a local branch you will need your passport, BRP 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 knowing that a current account with a digital bank such as Revolut is accepted by Trinity for making student funding payments.

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](#) operate all public bus and train services in Northern Ireland, making it easy to find information. The bus service in the city is called Metro. Various discount cards are available to help you save money. Regular buses and trains run between Belfast and 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. See maps at the back of this booklet for stations and pick up points.

International students are advised to carry ID documents when travelling between Belfast and Dublin as identity checks are sometimes carried out on public transport crossing the border. See above section on immigration to determine whether you will require a [visa](#) to travel to Republic of Ireland.

Shops

Here are some suggestions of shops where you can buy homeware:

Ikea – Hollywood Exchange served by various Metro buses from city centre

B & M Bargains – 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

Further Information on Living in Belfast

More information about student life in Belfast is available on the School [website](#).

Further Information on studying in the UK

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

[British Council](#)

[UK Visas and Immigration](#)

Living in Dublin

The Trinity [Global Engagement Office](#) provides information for International students living in Dublin. Information on travel and Irish visas is available [here](#).

The [Trinity Welcome Guide](#) is also a useful resource.

Contact Us

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

Caroline Clarke, Senior Executive Officer, CRR office, Belfast

Tel: +44(0)28 9077 0087 (9.00 am – 1.00 pm, Monday - Friday)

Email: sradmbfst@tcd.ie

Dr David Mitchell, Assistant Professor and Course Coordinator

Tel: +44(0)28 9037 3989

Email: damitche@tcd.ie

Dr Brendan Browne, Assistant Professor

Tel: +44(0)28 9037 3988

Email: brbrowne@tcd.ie

Ms Bríd O’Brien, Assistant Librarian

Tel: +44 (0)28 9077 3980 (9.00am – 4.30pm Tuesday – Thursday)

Email: srlibbfst@tcd.ie

[RTPS location in Belfast](#)

[RTPS on the main Dublin campus](#)

[Twitter](#)

[RTPS Facebook](#)

[CRR Facebook](#)

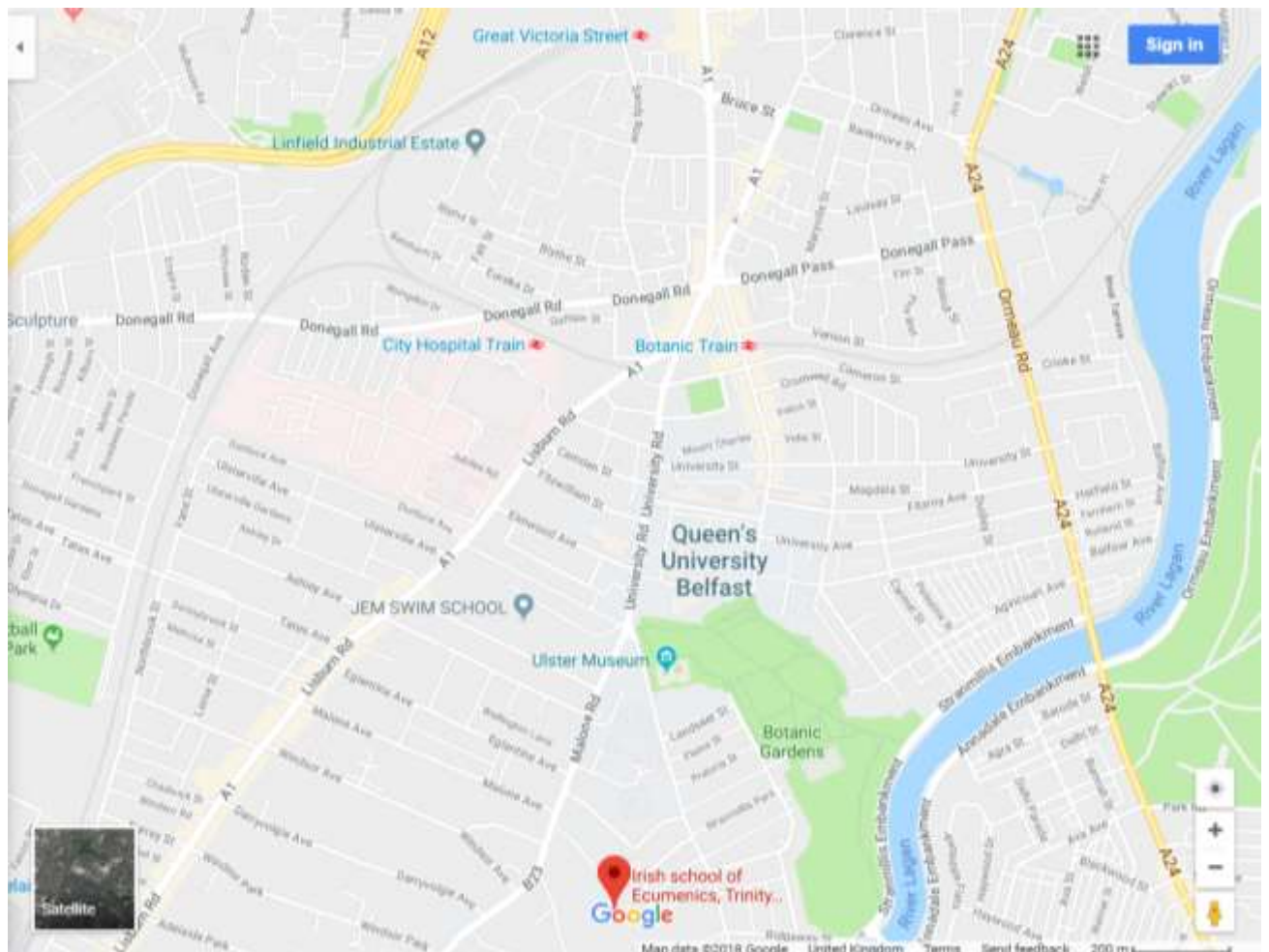
Maps

School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies

Trinity College Dublin at Belfast:

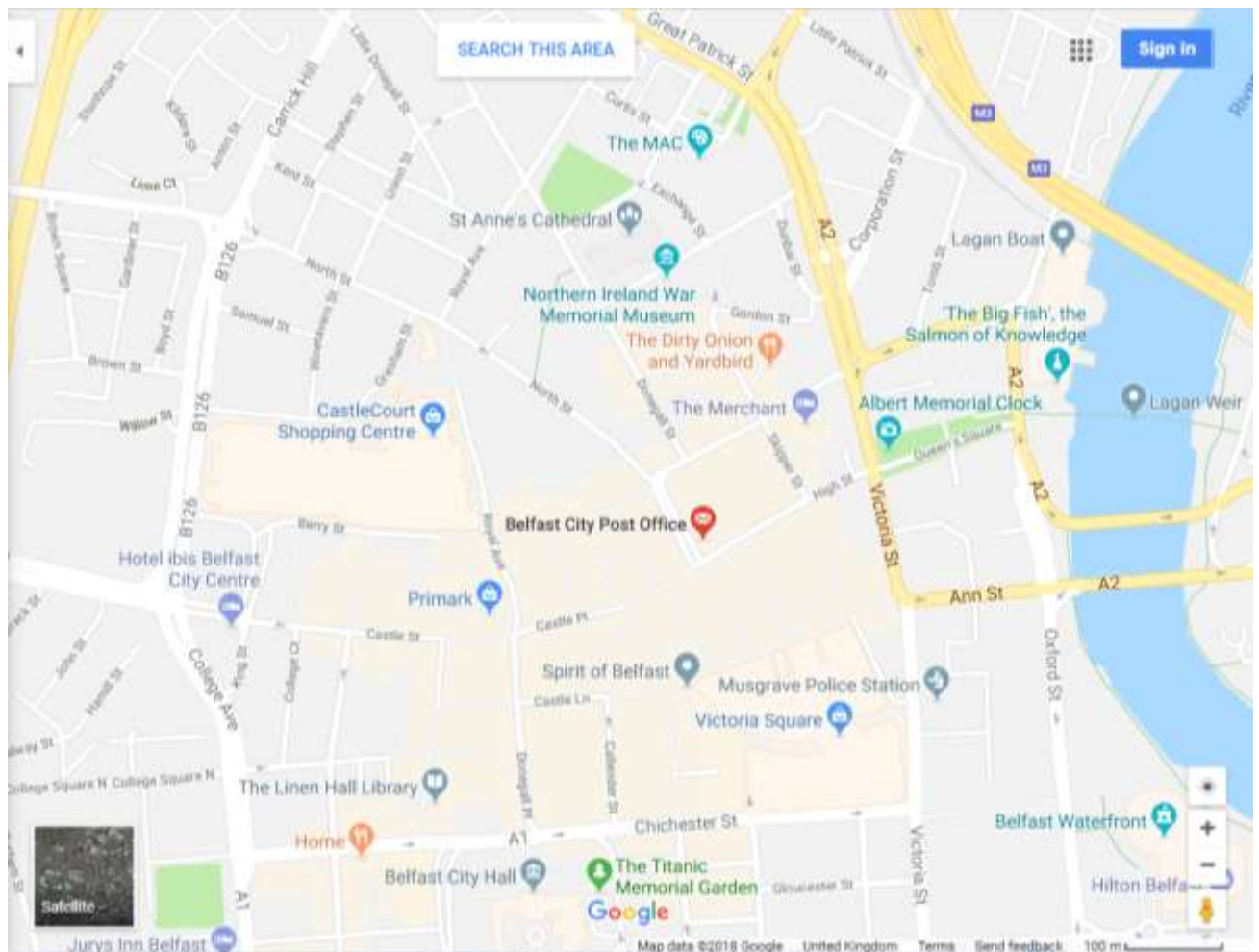
Edgehill House, 9 Lennoxvale, Belfast, BT9 5BY

From city centre take the 8B or 8C bus from the City Hall near the Ulster Bank. Hop off after you see Fisherwick Presbyterian church on the left just past Queen's university. We are in Edgehill House, the last building in the Lennoxvale cul de sac.



Post Office in High Street, city centre – collection point for BRP

Walk down Donegall Place, the main street opposite the front of the City Hall, and turn right at McDonalds. The Post office is at the junction a short distance along on the left.



Main transport links departure points

Translink coaches to Dublin Busaras (main bus station), Dublin airport, Belfast International airport and Belfast City airport - Europa Bus Centre

AirCoach and Dublin Express - Glengall Street, beside Europa Bus Centre

Trains to Dublin – Lanyon Place (formerly Central Station)

