



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin



STUDY ABROAD PRE-ARRIVAL GUIDE

WELCOME

We are thrilled that you have chosen Trinity College Dublin for your study abroad destination. As you prepare for your semester or year abroad, we wanted to send on information, as we know you have many questions. Don't hesitate to contact the Study Abroad Team in Global Relations at study.abroad@tcd.ie with any questions before you arrive, we'll be happy to help however we can!

This Study Abroad Pre-Arrival Guide is specifically designed for incoming study abroad students to Trinity. The Welcome to Trinity Guide we have attached alongside this document is a general one for all incoming international students to Trinity. This Guide highlights all relevant information in the companion.

The Study Abroad experience will be different this year, and it is important to remember that Trinity's key priority is the health and wellbeing of our College community. As a result, Trinity is working to ensure that all college activities can take place with the required social distancing while at the same time ensuring that students have an optimum experience. Semester 1 will follow a hybrid model which combines online and face to face elements such as offering online lectures for larger class groupings and face-to-face seminars, tutorials and laboratory classes for smaller groups. As much face-to-face teaching and learning as possible will be provided under prevailing health and safety requirements. A decision on the second semester will be taken closer to the time. For the most up to date information on Trinity's response to COVID-19, please visit: www.tcd.ie/about/coronavirus.

Hannah Kilgore
CASA-Trinity & Study Abroad Manager'

**International Partnerships
and Study Abroad Team**
Office of the Vice Provost
for Global Relations
Trinity College Dublin

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CALENDAR

Autumn Semester 2020 (Michaelmas Term)

Arrival Date for all Students Living in Trinity-approved Accommodation	Monday 7 September*
Freshers' Week and Study Abroad Orientation Week	Monday 21 September – Friday 25 September
First date of Teaching Term	Monday 28 September
Reading Week	Monday 9 November – Friday 13 November
Last date of Teaching Term	Friday 18 December
Holiday Break	Saturday 19 December – Sunday 3 January
Revision Week	Monday 4 January – Friday 8 January 2021
Assessment Weeks (online)	Monday 11 January – Friday 22 January

**Please note that this arrival date is set because Trinity is coordinating phased arrivals for its students, and study abroad students staying in Trinity-approved accommodation should therefore plan to arrive on/by 7 September. It is also in place because the Irish authorities currently require anyone coming into Ireland to provide the address where they will be staying and to restrict their movements for 14 days (this means staying at your accommodation and only going out for essential supplies and for exercise.) If you are planning to stay in Trinity or Trinity-approved accommodation, more information about quarantine support will be sent closer to the date of arrivals. This information is correct as of 17 July 2020, but for the most up to date information and FAQs, visit: www.tcd.ie/about/coronavirus.*

Spring Semester 2021 (Hilary Term)

Arrival Date for Semester Start-Up Programme (SSP)	Sunday 24 January
First date of Teaching Term	Monday 1 February
Reading Week	Monday 15 – Friday 19 March
Last date of Teaching Term	Friday 23 April
Trinity Week	Monday 26 – Friday 30 April <i>(Note: some assessments may be due during Trinity week)</i>
Revision Week	Monday 3 – Friday 7 May
Assessment Week	Monday 10 May – Friday 28 May

*Students are free to depart from Sunday 30 May
Note: Examinations Schedule announced in March*

Departure Dates

Please note that move in and move out dates will be provided by your Accommodation location after you finalise your housing lease/contract, and that the above dates are programme dates, not move in dates.

PREPARE

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Trinity Registration

MyTCD

Make sure you've logged in to my.tcd.ie with your Trinity Student ID and the password outlined in your offer letter.

Fees

Make sure you've paid your fees, paid any study abroad fees to your home institution (if applicable), or paid your home institution's fees if they will pay Trinity directly. If you are coming on exchange, you will not be charged tuition fees, but you will be responsible for student services and accommodation fees. If paying fees directly to Trinity and not to your home university, please see the information listed on Page 6 of the Welcome Guide for more information, and contact academic.registry@tcd.ie with any questions.

Registration

An invitation to formally register online will be sent to you by email shortly before your arrival. This will activate your registration as a Trinity student, and does not refer to signing up for classes, which is a separate process that will occur after your arrival at Trinity. You will need to register as a Trinity student in order to get your ID, gain access to the library, college wifi and computer access, and the sports centre. www.tcd.ie/academicregistry/registration/how-to-register/

Signing Up for Classes

The process for signing up for classes is called Module Enrollment at Trinity. Module Enrolment has historically occurred on arrival at Trinity, but will now take place online in advance of your arrival. More information will be sent to you by the study abroad team and the Academic Registry.

Home Institution Registration

Check in with your home institution to make sure you have completed all necessary information in order to study abroad (e.g. course pre-approvals, health and safety requirements, orientations, etc.)

Visas and Immigration

For detailed instruction about Visas and Immigration, view Page 3 of the Welcome to Trinity Guide. Make sure you have a copy of your offer letter to show at the airport, and to keep for your records.

If you do not, email study.abroad@tcd.ie to request the letter, and we will ask Academic Registry to create and send it.

Health Insurance

All non-EU students must have health insurance to cover any major medical care necessary during your stay in Ireland, and will be required to show proof of coverage and plan information during their INIS Registration. You should check with your home institution to see whether they require or recommend specific plans for their students studying abroad. If not, check to see whether your current health insurance will cover you when you are abroad for the duration of your stay. If you wish to instead obtain insurance from one of the health insurance providers in Ireland, please visit www.tcd.ie/study/international/trinity-life/arrival/#healthinsurance.

Please note that, while all study abroad students will have access to use the College Health Service and Student Counselling Services during their study at Trinity, access to the Services does not replace health insurance, which students must have in order to cover any major medical care that may be needed during your stay. The Health Centre is located on campus in House 47 and offers primary health and psychiatric care, including physician consultations and emergency clinics. Most services are free, although some services can incur a small fee. For more information about Health and Insurance, view Page 9 of the International Welcome Guide.

Documents

Prior to your departure, make sure to make copies of all important documents to bring with you: Offer Letter, Health Insurance information, Cover Page of Passport in case of loss, etc.

Suitemates

Unfortunately, due to privacy laws, we cannot release suitemate names or information in advance of your arrival. Apologies!

Semester Start-Up Programme

If you have any questions about the Semester Start-Up Programme, reach out to Programme Coordinator Dr. Patricia Stapleton at pstaple@tcd.ie.

Disability Service

The Disability Service at Trinity is an excellent resource for students. If you have any questions or need any resources while you are at Trinity, please reach out to them to let them know what resources you will need to access while you are here.

Please Note: University policies vary country to country, so while we work with every student to accommodate them as best we can, we may not be able to provide exactly the same accommodations as at your home university (i.e. Irish vs US laws on extended time for student exams). To find out more, contact the Disability Office here: www.tcd.ie/disability/ and make sure to register prior to your arrival at this link: <http://tcd.ie/disability/current/registration.php>



Packing

There are many helpful study abroad packing lists online, so definitely do a bit of research and check them out! Make sure to also research average weather information to get an idea of what clothes to pack: www.met.ie/climate/monthly-weather-reports.asp.

Remember to Pack:

Important documents, some Euros for getting to your accommodation from the airport, medications (see page 3), glasses/contacts, laptop and charger, mobile phone and charger, adaptors,* etc.

Items Best Left at Home:

Bedding and towels** (they take up a lot of space and can be purchased inexpensively here), hairdryers and straighteners/curlers (they will be the wrong voltage, anyway!), toiletries (they take up space and can be purchased here!)

*The voltage in Ireland is 220v, so remember to get an adaptor for your laptop charger, phone charger, etc. If you plan to travel, a universal adaptor will come in handy!

**On-campus accommodation offers bedding packs – ask the Accommodation Office for more information.

For information on where to shop for necessities, books, stationery, and pharmacies, see page 16 of the International Welcome Guide.

ARRIVING --- IN DUBLIN

Arriving at the Airport

Make sure you have a copy of your offer letter to show at the Airport, and to keep for your records. For full information about Immigration Control at Dublin Airport, signing up for the Airport Meet and Greet Service, Arriving in Dublin and getting to the city centre, see Pages 4 and 10 of the Welcome to Trinity Guide.



GETTING --- **STARTED AT TRINITY**

Orientation

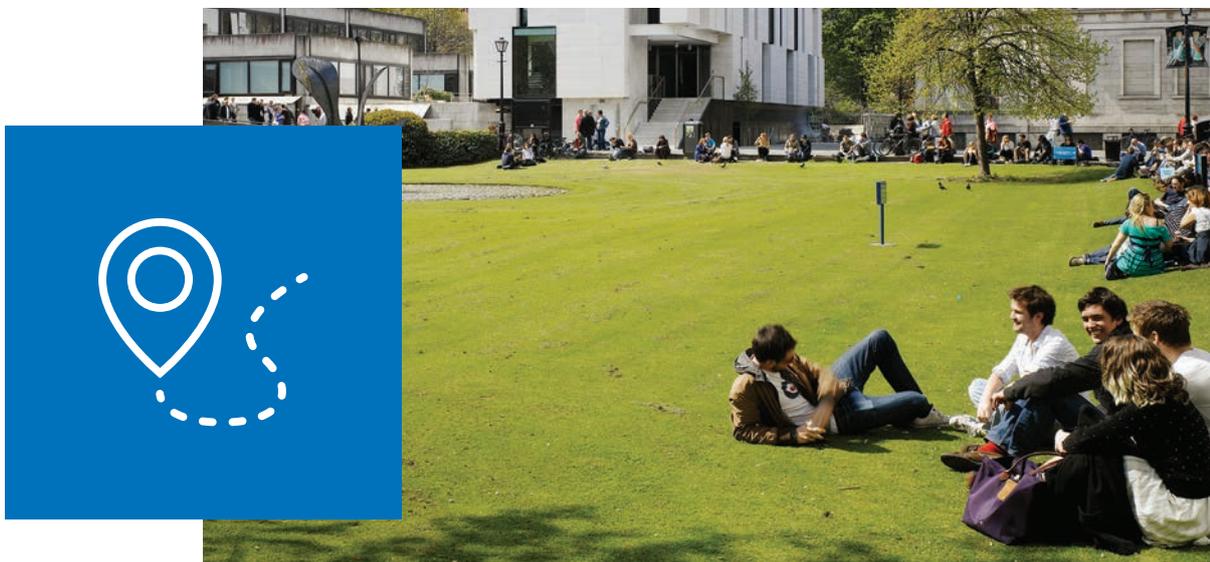
Trinity runs an Orientation for its study abroad students every term to introduce students to life at Trinity. The orientation schedule includes everything from information about academic course registration to tours of campus, film nights in the Global Room, sessions on life in Dublin, opportunities to meet your new classmates and much more! It also offers introductions to the important details about arriving in Ireland, including Immigration Registration and Module Enrollment. View the Orientation website for the most up to date orientation information: www.tcd.ie/students/orientation. Make sure to arrive in time for Orientation, as it is mandatory. Complete Orientation schedules will be sent as soon as they are available. (Please note that Orientation is likely to look quite different this year!)

Campus Tours

Campus Tours are usually offered during Orientation to introduce you to Trinity's beautiful campus. They are likely to look a bit different this year! More information will be sent with your Orientation schedule. In the meantime, please see our [Welcome to Campus by our Vice President for Global Relations](#) and our [Student Ambassador-led Campus tour](#).

Getting your ID

During Orientation, there will be set times available for you to get your Trinity ID. Consult your Orientation schedules for details.



Library Facilities

The Library is the largest in Ireland, and has been a Legal Deposit library since 1801, and receives a copy of every book published in Ireland and the United Kingdom. There are librarians who can assist you with research questions in every subject taught at the university. The Library has two on-campus locations, the Berkeley-Lecky-Ussher (Arts, Humanities and the Social Sciences) and the Hamilton (STEM). During Orientation week, tours of libraries are offered, as well as introductions to the facilities and resources offered.

Computer Facilities and Printing

To set up your Trinity WiFi, see: www.tcd.ie/itservices/network/tcdconnect.php. Trinity has computer and printing facilities all across campus. To set up your TCD computer account, see: www.tcd.ie/itservices/accounts/index.php. To see a list of all of the Computer Rooms where you can use computers on campus with your TCD ID, see: www.tcd.ie/Maps/facilities.php. To sign up for TCD Printing (via a service called Datapac) and to see prices, instructions and locations of printing facilities on campus, see: www.tcdprint.ie. There is also a printer at the Binary Hub.

Bank Accounts

Single-semester and academic year study abroad students are not required to open an Irish bank account, but some students opt to do so. See Page 6 of the Welcome to Trinity Guide for more information on Opening a Bank Account, Currency and Bringing Money to Ireland.

Setting up your Phone

View Page 16 of the Welcome Guide for Information about setting up a Mobile Phone. If possible, we recommend getting an Irish SIM for your current phone (check with your provider first if they are able to unlock your phone to accommodate this) or a cheap Irish phone for while you are abroad, as it is important for you to be reachable in case of emergency.

Emergency Assistance

Although emergencies are rare, it is crucial that you are prepared in case of an emergency abroad. Make sure to complete any emergency information needed by your home institution abroad, and take note of Trinity's emergency assistance information in the Welcome Guide. Make sure to also register with your home country's embassy in Ireland, always have your health insurance information handy in case of emergency, and make sure to have an ICE (In Case of Emergency) contact number saved in your mobile phone – and it is best to have one here in Dublin and one back home!

GETTING --- **STARTED IN DUBLIN**

Public Transport in Dublin

For information about student travel cards, types of transportation throughout the city, and nationwide public transport, view Page 17 of the Welcome Guide.

City Smarts

Dublin is one of the safest study abroad city destinations in the world. However, it is important to be careful in any city. Practice basic safety precautions: familiarise yourself with the city, research how you will get somewhere before you go so you know the area, look out for you friends and make sure to not walk around late at night in unsafe areas. Be careful with your personal belongings, and don't leave your bags unattended in public areas, leave your phone in a back pocket, leave your laptop unattended, etc. Remember to avoid risky behaviours which interfere with student safety, like excessive alcohol consumption, illegal drug use, or walking alone late at night. Taxis are widely available at night. Overall, trust your gut, and reach out to the Study Abroad Team (study.abroad@tcd.ie) right away with any issues or concerns!

Where to Eat

You may be coming from a country where you lived at home while attending university, or from a university with a meal plan and dining halls. All accommodation options for Trinity students are self-catered, which means you will be preparing your own meals in your kitchen. There is no shortage of options to eat on campus, though, and just outside Trinity's gates are innumerable places to grab inexpensive food on the go, like filling and cheap burritos and noodle boxes, vegetarian options, sushi, sandwiches and more. Peruse page 16 of the Guide for more information about buying groceries in Dublin and all of the on-campus options. All catering outlets on campus also accept payment by TCard: <https://tcard.tcd.ie/>. View page 16 of the Guide for information about Dining and Groceries, and remember to show your Student ID for discounts!

What's Happening in Dublin

From the best places to eat, to cultural events and upcoming activities: check out these Dublin-focused social and entertainment sites: Lovin Dublin, Eventbrite, Dublin Town, What's On, Totally Dublin and Visit Dublin. There are no shortage of cultural and fun events on in Dublin!

Travelling in Ireland and Europe

Many of our study abroad students use their time studying abroad to travel around Ireland and Europe on long weekends, during Reading Week and after term finishes. Irish Rail and Bus Eireann are great for getting around Ireland, as are lots of private coach companies that offer trips to destinations all over the country. Ryanair and AerLingus offer cheap flights to destinations all over Europe. If you are travelling outside the city, make sure you've given your itinerary to your friends or family, and alerted someone that you will be away in case of emergency! If your home institution has an emergency travel database, make sure to enter your trip information prior to departure.

Working in Ireland

Single-semester study abroad students from non-EU countries are not allowed to earn income in Ireland, but full-year study abroad students are eligible to work up to a maximum of 20 hours per week during term and up to 40 hours per week during University holidays.

Full-year students who wish to work will need to get a Personal Public Service (PPS) number for tax purposes. Students can acquire a PPS number from the Dublin Social Welfare Office: www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/Personal-Public-Service-Number-How-to-Apply.aspx. You will need to bring your Passport, your TCD ID card, your INIS ID card, proof of address and letter from TCD stating that you are a full year study abroad student (you can acquire this letter from the Academic Registry.) You will also need to complete a Form 12A and submit it to the Revenue Office in order to be taxed the correct amount and avoid receiving the Emergency Tax: www.revenue.ie/en/personal/index.html. You can find more information here on Page 15 of the Welcome to Trinity Guide.



ACADEMIC --- ADJUSTMENT

Teaching Style and Assessment

Trinity has a strong reputation for its approachable lecturers who are leaders in their fields. Our undergraduate teaching has a strong emphasis on working in small groups and offer regular tutorials, seminars and labs. For many students, Trinity will have fewer teaching hours than what you are used to, with less of an emphasis on continuous assessment, often with one essay, project or exam determining your mark for the Module. Because of these differences, Trinity often requires more independent reading and learning than you might be used to.

Academic Support

Trinity provides all undergraduate students with a Personal Tutor: a blend of mentor and advisor, who provides personal and academic advice and support throughout a student's time in the University. Tutors assist students with any difficulties they may experience, listen to their concerns and help them to get the most out of their time at Trinity. All study abroad students are assigned to the Senior Tutor, who will be your point of contact for any academic cases. The Student Learning & Development Office is also available to help students adjust to Trinity academics and assessment.

Credit

Trinity uses the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) is a student-centred system based on student workload. Unlike what you may be used to at your home institution, student workload is determined based on the number of credits you take, rather than number of modules. Credit values for modules at Trinity will vary, but usually will have a 5, 10 or 15 ECTS value depending on the workload required. One semester students are expected to take 20-30 ECTS. 20 is the minimum number of ECTS in order to be a full-time registered student at Trinity and have access to campus resources, as well as to be considered a full time student for visa and immigration purposes. All full year Erasmus/Visiting students are required to take a minimum of 45 ECTS. View the Module Directory for available modules and their ECTS values.

Please note that you must check in with your home university about the number of credits you enrol in at Trinity. Many universities have strict credit transfer policies, so you need to ensure that you follow them carefully in order to receive the full transfer credit for your term abroad.

Grading

The below marking scheme applies in Trinity College Dublin. Make sure to discuss grade and credit transfer with your home institution prior to studying abroad. Please note that marks can vary among Faculties at Trinity, and it is important to recognise that the grades may be very different from those at your home institution.

Marking Scheme

Degree Classification	Grade	Percentage Range
First Class Honours	I	70-100%
Second Class Honours, First Division	II.1	60-69%
Second Class Honours, Second Division	II.2	50-59%
Third Class Honours	III	40-49%
Fail	F1	30-39%
	F2	Below 29%



CULTURAL --- ADJUSTMENT

Culture Shock

Studying abroad is a rewarding and fun experience that pushes you out of your comfort zone, but adapting to your new surroundings can be challenging, too. Study abroad helps you to develop flexibility when adjusting to new and different surroundings, cultures, customs, classes, and friends. You may experience a phrase we call in the field of Study Abroad “culture shock”, which can be accompanied by homesickness, anxiety, sadness, and more. Everyone experiences culture shock differently, and to different degrees. It can even present as re-entry culture shock when you return home! If you’re feeling down or overwhelmed, there are many resources available to you on campus. And as always, reach out to the Study Abroad Team. We are here to help!

Careers

Ultimately, the experience of studying abroad is one that many students find has a formative influence on their lives. Furthermore, studying abroad has been demonstrated to improve career prospects, as employers value the very attributes honed by studying abroad: resiliency, international experience and cultural understanding, working with people from other cultures, dealing with ambiguity and adapting to the unexpected. Plus, once you complete your time abroad at Trinity, you will be part of Trinity’s worldwide network of alumni. Getting involved in Trinity’s alumni network through its clubs and events is a great way to make friends and professional contacts, as well as keep in touch with Trinity and Ireland while you are back home.



Language Benefits

Studying abroad also provides language benefits, especially if you are immersed in a culture with a different language from your own. The Centre for English Language Learning and Teaching offer resources: www.tcd.ie/slscs/english/, and so does Student Learning Development: <http://student-learning.tcd.ie/>.

Regardless of whether English is your mother tongue, you will still have to learn a new vocabulary, whether in Trinity, Dublin, or Ireland as a whole:

Trinity offers a Jargon Buster, to help new and international students learn and decode Trinity lingo: www.tcd.ie/orientation/jargon/.



A few slang words in Ireland...

Craic (Fun)

Grand (Good, fine, ok, alright)

Deadly (Fantastic)

Wee (Little, small)

Gas (Funny)

Class (Great)

Banjaxed (Broken)

Savage (Can be very good or bad)

Lift (Elevator)

Chips (American Fries are Chips in Ireland, and American Chips are Crisps)



STUDENT --- PERSPECTIVE

Don't take our word for it! Peruse our Study Abroad Blog to read Study Abroad student perspectives about everything from favourite modules at Trinity to Dublin on a Budget, the best events in town, favourite weekend trips, a tour of favourite Dublin desserts, and much more! <https://tcdglobal.wordpress.com>.

TRINITY --- RESOURCES

Inclusion and Diversity on Campus

Trinity's excellence relies on its commitment to equality and diversity. Trinity is proud of its inclusive, diverse and pluralist college community. It is a positive environment in which all can participate, diversity is promoted and celebrated, and all are recognized fully for their contributions. For more information, view the Trinity Strategy for Diversity and Inclusion:

www.tcd.ie/diversity-inclusion/assets/pdfs/strategyfordiversityandinclusion.pdf.

Resources for LGBTQ+ Students

Trinity is proud of its LGBTQ+ inclusive culture, and all students can expect a warm welcome and equal treatment on campus. You can find out more about resources, events, champions and groups available on campus here:

www.tcd.ie/equality/themes/sexual-orientation/.

Modern Ireland is also very inclusive and diverse. In 2015 Ireland was the first country in the world to introduce equal marriage by binding popular referendum. This diversity and sense of social inclusion is reflected at the highest levels of public life. For example, the current Taoiseach (Prime Minister) is both gay, and a Trinity graduate.

Fun at Trinity

For information about the Students' Union, Clubs and Societies, the Sports Centre and more, view Pages 13-14 of the Welcome to Trinity Guide. See Page 1 of the Guide for information about the Global Room, a wonderful student and event space on campus designed for the international student community.

Advisors at Trinity



Global Room:

For questions about life as an international student in Dublin, for information about international events, the yearly Thanksgiving celebration and more, contact the Global Room!



Student2Student :

Is a student-led initiative designed to ensure any student in Trinity can get information and support from another student, find a friendly face to have a chat, talk things through or just ask a few questions. You will meet your Mentor after your Orientation session, when they will take you on a tour of campus. <https://student2student.tcd.ie/>



Academic Registry:

For information about admissions, registration and record management, offer letters, student finance and fees, examinations, and more, contact the Academic Registry: www.tcd.ie/academicregistry/service-desk/.



Personal Tutor:

A member of the academic staff appointed to look after your general welfare and development, and a source of advice on academic issues. Your tutor, in conjunction with the Study Abroad Team, is a crucial contact for issues such as: exam results, leaving before the end of term due to personal issues, bereavement, financial difficulties, etc.



Study Abroad Team:

The Study Abroad Team is here help you with any situation that may arise when you are abroad, and liaise with the necessary contacts throughout the university. We are also excellent contacts to help you get to the right place if you don't know where to direct a question. See the next section to find out more about us!

MEET --- **THE TEAM**

We look forward to welcoming you to campus and meeting you at orientation! In the meantime, here is more information about the Team so you can get to know us:

Niamh Burke, **Associate Director – Partnerships**

Niamh manages the International Partnerships Team at Trinity, which oversees study abroad programmes and activity both inbound and outbound from Trinity, as well as Trinity’s international collaborations and partnerships all over the world.

Hannah Kilgore, **CASA-Trinity & Study Abroad Manager**

Hannah manages study abroad programming at Trinity, including working with our semester and year study abroad students and running our CASA programme. She will be your main point of contact for student queries during the year, and will run study abroad events during the term, so make sure to reach out to her with any questions and come to the events.

Elina Mats, **Student Mobility Officer**

Elina is responsible for Trinity’s exchanges and students studying abroad from Trinity. You’ll quite often run into her at the Global Room at student events!



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

Any Questions?

Contact us at
study.abroad@tcd.ie

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