



ACADEMIC  
STUDIES ABROAD

## **Site-Specific Guide – Dublin Semester at Griffith College**

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## PRE-DEPARTURE

### Important Phone Numbers

**\*\* PROGRAM THESE EMERGENCY NUMBERS INTO YOUR CELL PHONE \*\***

<p><b><u>ASA Office in Boston, MA</u></b> Academic Studies Abroad 16 Cohasset St. Roslindale, MA 02131-3013 Tel: 617-327-9388 Lee Frankel Emergency Cell: 413-221-4559 Fax: 617-327-9390 E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@academicstudies.com">info@academicstudies.com</a></p> <p>Lee Frankel, Director <a href="mailto:lee@academicstudies.com">lee@academicstudies.com</a> Chelsea Kaloupek, Assistant Director <a href="mailto:chelsea@academicstudies.com">chelsea@academicstudies.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>Griffith College Dublin (GCD)</u></b> International Office South Circular Road Dublin 8 Ireland Tel: (+353) 1 415 0400</p> <p><b><u>ASA Site Director in Dublin</u></b> Olwyn Mannix <a href="mailto:olwynmannix@gmail.com">olwynmannix@gmail.com</a> Mobile: 011 353 83 834 7279 (from the U.S.) 0 83 834 7279 (in Ireland)</p> <p><b><u>GCD International Office Contact</u></b> <i>(Local telephone numbers, as dialed in Ireland)*</i> Treza Zulkeffly <a href="mailto:treza.zulkeffly@griffith.ie">treza.zulkeffly@griffith.ie</a> 011 353 1 416 3342 (from the U.S.) 01 416 3342 (in Ireland)</p> <p><i>* See international dialing instructions below.</i></p>
<p><b><u>U.S. Embassy in Dublin</u></b> 42 Elgin Road Ballsbridge Dublin 4 <a href="https://ie.usembassy.gov/">https://ie.usembassy.gov/</a> For emergencies involving American citizens, call: 01 668 8777 (in Ireland) / 011 353 1 668 8777 (from the U.S.)</p>	<p><b><u>Police/Fire/Ambulance</u></b> <i>(Local numbers, as dialed in Ireland)</i></p> <p>Dial <b>999</b> or <b>112</b> (dial 112 from a cell phone)</p>

**In an emergency, please contact your ASA Site Director or the ASA office immediately.** It is of utmost importance that you notify your Site Director of **any** problems, issues, or concerns that you encounter while you're abroad.

### International Dialing Instructions

011 = INTERNATIONAL DIALING CODE      353 = COUNTRY CODE (IRELAND)

--To call Ireland from the U.S., dial 011 353 and the local number, omitting the first zero of the local number. For example, to call (+353) (0) 1 415 0420 from the U.S. you would dial 011 353 1 415 0420.

--Within Ireland, the number (+353) (0) 1 415 0420 would be dialed as 01 415 0420.

--To call the U.S. from Ireland, dial 001 + area code and phone number.

## Passport and Visa

**All students must have a passport that is valid for at least 6 months beyond the day you plan to return to the U.S.**

**You must have your passport stamped upon your first entry into Ireland!** This will document your entry into the country; failing to get your passport stamped could cause problems with your visa.

### **Student Visa**

In order to study in Ireland for a semester or summer program, you must present the following documents when you pass through Immigration upon your first entry into Ireland. You will be given a 90-day stamp in your passport. *Pack these documents in your carry-on.*

- 1) **Valid U.S. passport** that does not expire for at least 6 months after your proposed return date from Ireland. Check your passport's expiration date!
- 2) **Invitation to Register from Griffith College Dublin.** ASA will email and/or mail this to you shortly before departure.
- 3) **Evidence of Finances: A bank statement from an account IN YOUR NAME showing that you have enough money to live on while you're in Ireland – minimum €2500 for a semester program or €500 for a summer program. You cannot use your parents' bank statement for this. Please check the current Euro to US Dollar exchange rate prior to your departure at: [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com) to ensure you have the correct amount of funds in your account.**
- 4) **Proof of your ASA medical insurance coverage** in the form of your insurance card (emailed to you prior to departure).
- 5) **Your round trip plane ticket.** You will not be allowed to enter Ireland on a one-way ticket.

**Because a semester is greater than 90 days, semester students must also apply for a visa extension (called a "Permission to Remain"), which costs €300.00. Instructions on how to schedule your visa appointment will be sent to you by your ASA Program Manager prior to your departure from the U.S. **Upon arrival in Dublin keep track of the following documents** – you will need to bring the following documentation for the visa extension:**

1. Completed **Alien Registration Form** (provided to you by Griffith College following your arrival).
2. Your **Passport**
3. **Evidence of Finances (2 statements):** This includes the **original bank statement you used when you entered Ireland (so don't lose it!) AND an additional statement, printed within 1 month of your appointment** – showing that you still have at least €500 per month of stay LEFT IN YOUR TRIP in your account. (For example, if your appointment is in April – you'll need to show that you have access to at least €1300 in your account, to cover two months of living expenses plus the €300 Permission to Remain fee)

4. **Medical Insurance Certificate:** You'll receive this from Griffith College following arrival.
5. **Payment of €300.00:** This can be made by debit or credit card ONLY.

### **What to do if you lose your passport:**

Contact the local police, the U.S. Embassy, and your Site Director immediately. Having a photocopy of your passport on hand will make it MUCH easier to have it replaced.

-U.S. Embassy in Dublin: <https://ie.usembassy.gov/>

### **Budgeting for your Trip**

The **EURO (€)** became the official currency of the **Republic of Ireland, which includes Dublin**, on January 1, 1999. (*Northern Ireland still uses the pound sterling £.*) Bills come in denominations of €5, €10, €20, €50, €100, €200 and €500. Coins come in denominations of €2, €1, 50 cents, 20 cents, 10 cents, 5 cents, 2 cents and 1 cent. **The exchange rate of the Euro fluctuates all the time, so go to <http://www.XE.com> for the current rate.**

### **How much money should I bring?**

Recommended amount: **US\$250-300** PER WEEK OF YOUR STAY

*Please note that these are general guidelines based on what past students have reported spending. Some students spend less and others more. The above figures do not allow for traveling every weekend, eating out a lot, or shopping every day.*

### **What expenses should I budget for?**

**\*\* Housing, medical insurance, and all other ASA services are not included during the break between semesters or terms.**

*\*Accounted for in weekly money recommendation above.*

1. Student Visa extension (not required for summer sessions)  
Cost: **€300** (issued after you arrive in Dublin).
2. Meals & Laundry\*  
Each flat has a fully equipped kitchen, and the residence hall has coin-op laundry facilities.
3. Books and materials for your classes  
Budget **US\$500 per semester / \$100 per summer session.**
4. Local transportation\*  
Budget **US\$250 for this per semester / \$50 per summer session.** Local transportation includes getting around town during your free time, getting to and from where your group is meeting to depart for an excursion and getting home after an

excursion, etc. This will include paying for bus and taxi fares. (You will be able to walk to class since you live on campus.)

5. Phone usage (calls and text messages)  
Budget **US\$400 per semester / \$75 per summer session.**
6. Spending money / Personal expenses\*  
Entertainment, shopping, souvenirs, dining out, travel, haircuts, toothpaste, etc. This is accounted for in our weekly money recommendation (see previous page).
7. Meals on excursions\*
8. Transportation back to the airport at the end of the program  
Budget **\$40**

## ARRIVAL

### Airport Pick-up

#### What should I do when I get off the plane at Dublin airport?

▶ After you de-plane, you will go through Passport Control (also called Immigration) where you will present your passport and visa documents. (See “Passport and Visa” section for the required documents.)

▶ **You must get your passport stamped in order to document your first entry into Ireland.** Not getting your passport stamped could cause problems with your visa! *You may not automatically receive a stamp, so you may have to ASK to have your passport stamped.*

▶ After Passport Control and Customs, follow signs to baggage claim. Delayed baggage must be reported to your airline’s lost luggage counter before exiting the baggage claim area. **After claiming your bags, exit into the airport lobby and look for a Griffith College sign.** The driver will transport you to campus, where you will complete housing check-in and receive an orientation schedule.

▶ **A Griffith College staff member OR one of their drivers will be waiting for you in the airport lobby.** NOTE: They cannot meet you in baggage claim!

▶ **Address for delivery of delayed baggage:**

Griffith College Dublin  
Accommodation Office  
Griffith Halls of Residence  
ATTN: YOUR NAME (RESIDENT)  
South Circular Road  
Dublin 8

### **If my flight is delayed, will you still pick me up at the airport?**

If you will not be arriving as scheduled, it is YOUR responsibility to notify the emergency contact person indicated on your **Last-Minute Checklist**. They will let you know if you will still be picked up at the airport. We will make every effort to pick you up.

## **ACADEMICS**

### **Griffith College Dublin**

Griffith College Dublin is Ireland’s premier (and largest) private college, offering undergraduate and graduate-level courses (degrees). Established in 1974 (originally as a business and accounting training college to bring a higher standard to independent business colleges), it now enrolls a student population of over 5,000 from more than 50 countries. The College offers academic programs through its Faculties of Business and Finance, Law, Computing Science, Journalism and Media Communications, and Design.

The College is housed in a series of renovated historic buildings on a 7-acre campus, a 15-minute walk to the Dublin city center. The college is known for its small class sizes, high academic standards, and lecturers known for their approachability. The school enjoys a strong national and a growing international reputation.

### **Academic Terminology**

Certain terms in the Irish academic system have a different meaning than in the USA. We recommend that you become familiar with the term below before leaving for Ireland.

<u>IRELAND</u>		<u>USA</u>	<u>EXAMPLE</u>
Course	→	Degree program	Bachelor’s in Information Systems
Module	→	Course	Macroeconomics; Creative Writing

### **The Campus**

The historic GCD campus buildings (now renovated) are located on Dublin’s South Circular Road, approximately one mile from St. Stephen’s Green in the heart of the city. This ideal location affords an excellent opportunity to immerse in the local culture and easy access to all its amenities.

The campus covers 7 acres and has a large array of facilities, including the Griff Bar and Restaurant, Common Room, and Fitness Room (where athletic classes are offered, including yoga and tae kwon do). A comprehensive array of sports is offered to suit the needs and interests of the student body, and there are 15 sports clubs. Students are encouraged to assimilate into Irish society and become part of everyday life. The International Office at GCD organizes cultural and social events during the term to help students adjust to living in Dublin.

The campus also has 300 fully networked workstations offering industry-standard software, in the College's 9 computer labs. The Students' Union and the GCD international office also organize a range of events throughout the year for all students.

### **Grading & Attendance Policy**

Students will be graded based on their performance in class and their ability to complete all the required coursework on time. If a student has to miss large portions of class, due to illness or other problems, they may receive an incomplete grade for the course.

Regular attendance of classes is expected of every student, and students are responsible for all work missed during an absence. In fact, all non-EU students are required to attend a minimum of 85% of classes by Irish law, to satisfy the conditions of their study visas.

You are also expected to arrive on time for all classes. If you are late for a class and your attendance is not recorded, it will count as an unexcused absence and will affect your overall attendance record.

If you have a valid reason for non-attendance, you are required to provide an explanation along with any relevant documentation to your professor and a copy to the International Office. If your non-attendance is for medical reasons, you must submit a Medical Certificate from a doctor who is on the College's recommended list of approved doctors and registered by the Irish Medical Council. Certified or documented absences will not affect your attendance record. If you are unable to attend a class for cultural or religious reasons (i.e. religious holiday), please contact your professor ahead of time.

Poor attendance will result in the College sending a formal written warning, and persistent unsatisfactory attendance may lead to expulsion and being reported to the Irish Naturalisation Immigration Service (INIS).

### **Teaching Style**

All your courses will be taught by GCD faculty. However, the teaching style in Ireland often differs from that used in the USA. Many Irish professors utilize lecture with a limited amount of discussion. The style of testing may also very well be different than what you are accustomed to in the U.S.: Irish professors may test students orally (as opposed to passing out written exams); students from the same class may be asked different questions on their exams; and, Irish professors usually give fewer tests over the course of a semester than what might be considered "normal" at home.

In addition, you may be surprised to know that you may not be able to have an idea of how you're doing in your classes, grades-wise, until you get your final grade! This is because some professors may not give quizzes or tests until the very end. Or, even if they do give a test or assign a paper, you may not find out how you did on it until the end of the semester. Moreover, some professors may not give a specific breakdown of what your grade is based on, so if you're unsure, ask your professor for more details.

## **The Students' Union**

The GCD Students' Union is the representative body for all students within the College and the **center of campus life**. The Students' Union has 3 full-time officers who are elected by their fellow students every year. There is a Student Union President, a Welfare Officer and a Sports & Societies Officer. **Joining the Students' Union is an excellent way to meet new people!**

## **Sports**

The College currently has numerous active sports clubs including athletics, basketball, boxing, cricket, rugby, soccer, tennis, swimming, Tae Kwon-Do, table tennis, water sports and weight training.

## **Fitness Room**

The College has a Fitness Room available to all students. It is equipped with treadmills, bikes, weights, etc. There are male and female changing rooms available, each with heated showers and storage lockers. The fitness room is unsupervised, so students are expected to take responsibility for their own safety.

## **Clubs & Societies**

There is a wide range of active clubs and societies on campus. Clubs are diverse as Debating Society and the Visual & Performing Arts Society, amongst others, are currently in operation. International students are encouraged to approach the Sports & Societies Officer with any ideas for new clubs and societies.

## **Counseling**

A professional counselor is available on campus for students experiencing personal difficulties. You can make an appointment to see the College Counselor, by contacting Griffith College Student Counsellor Support at: [counselling@griffith.ie](mailto:counselling@griffith.ie) or by calling or texting 085 1521511.

Follow this link for Griffith College's Student Counselling Services webpage:

<https://www.griffith.ie/campus-life/campus-facilities/student-services/student-counsellor-support>

Or, feel free to ask ASA's Site Director, Olwyn Mannix for help or recommendations.

## **Academic Calendar**

**Please note:** Calendar is subject to change. Excursion dates and locations will be announced by **email** shortly prior to departure. **All Orientation meetings are mandatory.**

At the following link, you can see the Academic Calendar for your program:

<https://www.academicstudies.com/dublin-ireland-program-calendars/>

## **EVERYDAY LIFE**

## **Ireland's History, Culture and Language**

Dublin, located in northeast Ireland, is a beautiful and cosmopolitan capital city. With a population of over 1.5 million (almost one-third of Ireland's inhabitants live here), it has all the amenities of a large metropolitan area, yet retains its friendly, small town atmosphere. Dublin is rich with culture and entertainment: museums, theater, shops, clubs, cinemas, restaurants, art galleries, historic sites, sporting venues, and gardens.

Dublin is a university town with a proud tradition of learning and scholarship. Student life adds to the city's legendary ambience and the city attracts young people from all over the world who come to sample its unique atmosphere. As a student at Griffith College Dublin, all this excitement is literally on your doorstep.

### **Geography and History**

Ireland is situated in the Atlantic Ocean and separated from Great Britain by the Irish Sea. Ireland resembles a basin, with a central plain rimmed with mountains (except in the Dublin area). The mountains are low, with the highest peak, Carrantuohill in County Kerry, rising to 3,415 feet. The principal river in Ireland is the Shannon, which begins in the north-central area, flows south and southwest for about 240 miles, until it reaches the Atlantic. It is slightly larger than the state of West Virginia.

The Republic of Ireland makes up five-sixths of the island, with Northern Ireland occupying the remaining 6 counties (the northeast part of the island). The Republic of Ireland, a democracy, received its independence from the UK on December 6, 1921, and is headed today by a President and a Prime Minister. Dublin is Ireland's capital city, with a population of .5 million.

Ireland's major industries are computer software, information technology, brewing, textiles/clothing, food products, pharmaceuticals, and tourism. The country has become a global center for the banking, telecommunications, pharmaceutical, and software industries. Ireland presently has the highest economic growth rate in the EU and much of the success can be attributed to the country's fine educational system.

In the Stone and Bronze Ages, Ireland was inhabited by Picts in the north and a people called the Erainn in the south. Around the 4th century B.C., the Celts arrived from Gaul or Galicia. They subdued and assimilated the inhabitants and established a Gaelic civilization. By the beginning of the Christian Era, Ireland was divided into five kingdoms—Ulster, Connacht, Leinster, Meath, and Munster. Christianity was introduced in 432, and the country developed into a center of Gaelic and Latin learning. Irish monasteries (the equivalent of universities) attracted intellectuals.

Uneasily ruled by England for nearly 800 years, the Republic gained independence in 1922, after a long and violent struggle. The Republic of Ireland is often called the Emerald Isle because of the vast greenness of its countryside. Over 3.8 million people live in Ireland today, and 1.1 million of them (nearly 30% of the population of the entire country), live in Dublin.

## **Irish People and Culture**

The “Pub culture,” as it is called, is a key aspect of Irish social life. The Irish love to talk and chat as a way to connect with one another. While American bars are associated primarily with drinking alcohol, this is not necessarily the case in the U.K. (England, Ireland, Wales, and Northern Ireland) and Ireland. Pubs are places you go to meet your friends and family, where you swap stories and gossip, watch sports on television, and where you do business or unwind with a newspaper. While most people in Ireland “go for a pint” in their local pub, many pubs serve food until the early evenings, and most close early compared to American standards. Most pubs close their doors at 11:30 pm-12:30 am – only those that offer entertainment and have a special license remain open until 1:00 am. There are, of course, restaurants and bars more familiar in style to those found in America.

Typical Irish meals are usually based around meat, especially beef, lamb, and pork chops, as well as bacon. Irish breads (and scones) are also wonderful. The largest meal of the day is usually lunch.

The stereotype of the Irish is they are born with the gift of the gab, though surely there are as many people shy and reluctant to speak as there are those willing to tell any interested ear their life story. However, “craic,” pronounced like crack, is an Irish expression for good, fun conversation amongst equals – a lot of humor and spirited communication. Craic is a key characteristic of Irish social life. It may take some time to get used to how the Irish speak in conversation; a simple affirmative “yes” or “no” is rarely heard.

The Irish are generally known for their friendly hospitality and interest in newcomers. However, a degree of humility as an American abroad is always a good idea to avoid confrontations and decrease your own level of culture shock. It is likely that the Irish you meet will be curious about America, and may wish to discuss politics and current events. As a helpful hint, while most Irish will be empathetic about the September 11<sup>th</sup> tragedy, until recently, terrorism was a way of life for those living in the Republic of Ireland and the U.K. In addition, the Irish may be bewildered by the way Americans describe their heritage as “I’m Irish” or “I’m German and French.” However, you should be prepared for good-humored conversation, and witty repartee. Humility and an open-mind will serve you well in any country.

## **Tipping**

In general, tipping is expected. A 10-15% service charge is usually added to your bill. Additional tipping for exceptional service is your choice. Usually a 10% tip will suffice for acceptable service at restaurant where gratuity has not already been added to the bill. Tipping is not usual in pubs, except when you are served at your table. Taxi drivers are generally tipped around 10% (at the very least, round up the fare).

## **Smoking**

Until somewhat recently, Ireland – like much of the rest of the world – was very lax about smoking. However, Ireland outlawed smoking in all enclosed workplaces, including pubs, in March 2004. Please be respectful of local social norms when it comes to smoking.

## **Water**

It is safe to drink the water, but you will find that in most European countries, it is more common for people to use bottled mineral or still water to drink rather than tap water.

## **Language**

There are two official languages in Ireland:

- English, which is the language of the majority of the population
- Irish (Gaelic or Gaeilge), which is the national language. Many public toilets in pubs and restaurants are marked in Irish: “*Fir*” = *men* and “*Mná*” = *women*.

Irish is a Celtic language, the oldest vernacular written language in Western Europe, closely related to Scottish Gaelic, Welsh, and Breton. It was the language of the vast majority of the population until the early 19th century. The shift to English happened quickly and by 1891 it was being spoken by over 85% of the population. SEE THE LAST PAGE OF THIS GUIDE FOR A LIST OF IRISH WORDS AND PHRASES!

## **Weather**

It can be rainy and chilly in the Dublin region during the summer and quite cold in the winter. For all seasons, make sure to always bring a good waterproof jacket, comfortable waterproof shoes/boots, and clothing you can layer. In winter, you’ll need a very warm and durable winter coat, a hat, scarf and gloves, in addition to the aforementioned items.

Average temperatures in Dublin are as follows:

January/February	7 °C	45 °F
March/April	11 °C	51 °F
May/June	16 °C	61 °F
July/August	19 °C	66 °F
September/October	15 °C	59 °F
November/December	8 °C	46 °F

## **Housing**

ASA students live in furnished flats (apartments) in the **Griffith Halls of Residence**, conveniently located on the Griffith College campus. Housing is provided for the duration of the program, but not between semesters.

The Griffith Halls of Residence, as well as the college campus, is centrally located, just a 15-minute walk from Dublin city center. The residence hall consists of 183 flats (apartments) with 24-hour security. Each flat houses 4 people and consists of a living area, 2 double bedrooms, and a kitchenette. Bedrooms are shared (double occupancy.) You will have 3 flatmates, one of whom will be your roommate. Each flat has 2 bathrooms, with one en-suite, meaning it is inside one of the 2 bedrooms in the flat, and the other is adjacent to the living

room and kitchen. *ASA cannot guarantee that you will live in one of the en-suite bedrooms.* Each bedroom is equipped with 2 single beds, 2 bedside lockers, 2 wardrobes, 2 desks, 2 chairs, and a waste paper bin. The bedrooms are fully carpeted.

There are both males and females living in the halls, but individual flats are single sex. So, while you won't have students of the opposite sex living in your flat, you may have students of the opposite sex on the same floor as you.

Kitchens are equipped with a stovetop range, microwave, fridge, storage cupboards, electric kettle, vacuum cleaner, toaster, pots, pans, plates, utensils, etc. The Living Area has a couch, coffee table, and satellite TV. Each flat will have a floor area of about 60 square meters, be tastefully decorated, and have controllable heating. Bring your laptop if you have one, because there is free Internet access in the flats. For security reasons, access to certain websites is prohibited. (Internet access is limited to Internet browsing only. You will not be permitted to use file sharing programs or any other programs except browsers.)

**Upon housing check-out, ALL of the items present upon move-in must be present. You will be billed in full for any damages or missing items.**

*Note: Griffith College Dublin reserves the right to change housing as needed without warning. If it becomes necessary to change your housing, due to unforeseen repairs, natural disasters and other reasons, we will inform you as soon as possible.*

**It is important that you approach your living situation with an open mind. The University enrolls an international student body. You will be sharing a flat with another person who may be from Ireland, the USA, or from other countries.** Your flatmates and floor-mates will likely have distinct personalities, interests, needs and habits. While meeting new people is exciting, and we hope it is one of the reasons you chose to study abroad, you will need to adjust to group living. Also, students should be aware that if your flat has a vacancy, the Griffith College Accommodation Office reserves the right to fill any vacant beds as they see fit.

**Griffith Residence Halls have the following features:**

- Landscaped courtyards and canal walkways.
- Bike storage and mailbox.
- Laundry facilities. (Students must pay for their own laundry.)
- Telephones (using phone cards) on every floor.
- Unlimited free Internet connection in each flat.
- 24-hour security and CCTV.
- On-site manager.
- On-campus shop.
- Certain flats reserved for students with special needs.
- Four elevators per block.
- Security access to the building, and to each flat and each bedroom using a 'key fob'.  
NOTE: lock-outs are not high priority for Security, so don't lose your key fob!
- On-site restaurant/bar.

## **Meals & Dining**

The College has a restaurant that provides breakfast and lunch service, as well as tea/coffee throughout the day. A multitude of eateries, grocery stores, and markets can be found throughout the city. Meals are NOT included in your program fees. Most students find it easy to buy groceries and prepare meals in their kitchens.

## **Housing FAQ's**

Q: Whom will I be sharing my flat with?

A: Your roommates could be from the U.S., from Ireland, or from any other country in the world! GHR does not tell us ahead of time who will be living with whom. Everyone will meet their roommates/flatmates upon arrival. (Flats are single sex, but as the halls are coed, there could be students of the opposite sex living on the same floor as you.)

Q: Will I be allowed to have guests or friends stay over?

A: NO, under the terms of the License Agreement (lease) you will sign upon arrival, you will not be allowed to have guests or friends stay over. All visitors must leave the Halls by 10pm, as there is a "no noise" policy between 10pm and 7am every day.

Q: I have a medical condition and therefore require special on campus accommodation. Do I get preferential treatment?

A: A number of rooms are designed for wheelchair users, and these students do get a preference in the allocation of rooms. However, you must specify your needs when applying to ASA, and then Griffith will require a doctor's note to confirm your needs.

Q: If I arrive in Dublin before the program starts, can I move into my room?

A: No, unfortunately early check-in and late check-out cannot be accommodated.

Q: Will my room and flat be cleaned on a weekly or monthly basis?

A: NO. All flats are self-catering, and therefore you and your fellow residents are responsible for the cleaning of your bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchen, and living room.

Q: Where can I do my laundry?

A: You won't have a washer in your flat, but you will find coin-op laundry facilities on campus.

Q: What should I NOT bring?

A: Don't bring pets, large bulky items, bean bags, floor cushions, deep fryers, illegal substances, and candles.

Q: Can I smoke in the Halls of Residence?

A: NO. Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the Griffith Halls of Residence.

Q: Do the rooms have telephones and computer network points?

A: Yes, free Internet connectivity is available in each bedroom of the Halls. (Internet access is limited to Internet browsing only. You will not be permitted to use file sharing programs or

any other programs except browsers such as Internet Explorer, Firefox, Opera or Safari.) There are no landline phones in the rooms, but there are pay phones in the lobby of each block.

Q: What are the rules of the Residences?

A: When you first arrive on campus, you'll be required to sign an Occupancy License which details the terms and conditions of living in the Halls of Residence.

Q: What will my address be?

A: The following is an example of how your mail should be addressed:

Mr/Ms Joe Bloggs  
Flat Number XX  
Block X (1 or 2)  
Griffith Halls of Residence  
Griffith College Dublin  
South Circular Road  
Dublin 8  
IRELAND

You will find out what your address is after you arrive in Dublin. All mail or packages must arrive at Griffith College AFTER you have arrived. Incorrect postal addresses will delay or prevent the delivery of your mail.

Q: When is the Accommodations Office open?

A: The Griffith College Accommodations Office is open Mon-Fri, 8am – 6:30pm. Outside these hours and on weekends, security is available in the event of an emergency.

Q: What is the role of Security?

A: Security carries out regular external patrols of the Residences outside of office hours. Residents are responsible for their own security, that of their flat and their possessions. Neither ASA nor Griffith College Accommodation provides insurance for your belongings. Residents should ensure that they have their key fobs and ID cards on their person at all times. Giving access to residents that are locked out is NOT a priority for Security, and may mean that you will have to wait for them to help you. So, don't forget your key fob!

## **Local Amenities**

### **Grocery Stores**

There are three main supermarkets in Dublin: Dunnes Stores, Tesco and Superquinn (their prices are more or less the same). The closest supermarket to campus is Dunnes Stores in

the Stephen's Green Shopping Centre, approx. a 15-minute walk from campus. There are branches of these supermarkets all over Dublin. Their opening hours generally are from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. with late night shopping on Thursdays and Fridays, when the stores remain open until 9:00 p.m. (opening hours vary by store).

Dunnes Stores: [www.dunnesstores.ie](http://www.dunnesstores.ie)  
Tesco: [www.tesco.ie](http://www.tesco.ie)  
Superquinn: [www.superquinn.ie](http://www.superquinn.ie)

In the last couple of years, because of Ireland's rapid growth, we have seen the arrival of some European discount supermarkets, most notably ALDI and LIDL. These supermarkets are much cheaper than those mentioned above and are regularly frequented by students. ALDI is on Parnell Street, which is off O'Connell Street on the north side of the city.

Smaller stores and "corner shops" such as SPAR and Centra are open late with closing times depending on the area - on average they are open until 10/11pm. These stores are perfect when you run out of milk or coffee late at night, but items will be more expensive here than at supermarkets. The selection is limited and they have only a small supply fresh food.

If you are looking for fresh fruit and vegetables, visit Mary Street, off O'Connell Street. There you will find many stalls and you will be served by some "real" Dublin characters whose families have been working these stalls for years, before the introduction of supermarkets. Another market, nearer the College, is on Camden Street.

In an attempt for Ireland to improve its care for the environment, the Irish Government recently placed a tax on plastic bags. All shops in Ireland charge €0.22 for a regular plastic bag. This is a good incentive to bring your own reusable bags when you grocery shop!

## Hospitals

You can visit <http://www.imd.ie> for a listing of all the hospitals in Dublin and throughout Ireland. **The main Dublin hospitals are:**

**\*\*Closest to GCD\*\***  
**St. James' Hospital**  
James' Street,  
Dublin 1  
Tel: 453 7941

**Tallaght Hospital**  
Tallaght  
Dublin 24  
Tel: 414 2000

**Beaumont Hospital**  
Beaumont Road  
Dublin 9  
Tel: 837 7755

**Mater Hospital**  
Eccles Street  
Dublin 7  
Tel: 834 4444

**St. Vincent's Hospital**  
Elm Park  
Dublin 4  
Tel: 269 4533

## Chemists (Pharmacies)

Chemists (what we call Pharmacies in the United States) are generally open from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday to Saturday. Some have late-night hours and are also open on Sundays and these are usually located in the city center or in busy districts such as

Rathmines and Harold's Cross. Chemists/ Pharmacies stock a wide range of prescription and non-prescription medicines, and the staff can advise you as to which is the most suitable for your complaint, or whether you should consult a doctor. In addition, most chemists sell first aid, sun and skin care products, as well as dental, toiletry items and contraceptives.

### **Late night Chemists (Pharmacies) in the vicinity of the College:**

#### **\*\*Closest to GCD\*\***

Leonard's Corner Pharmacy  
106 South Circular Road  
Dublin 8  
Tel: 453 4282

#### **Brady's Pharmacy**

12 Upper Camden Street  
Dublin 2  
Tel: 475 1531

#### **St. James' Late-Night Pharmacy**

St. James's Hospital  
St. James's Street  
Dublin 1  
Tel: 473 4022

#### **Unicare Pharmacy**

282 Lower Rathmines Road  
Rathmines  
Dublin 6  
Tel: 497 0750

#### **Hamilton Long**

5 Upper O'Connell Street  
Dublin 1  
Tel: 874 8456

### **Local Transportation**

Getting around the Dublin region is easy and inexpensive using the Dublin Bus, Luas, DART (Dublin Area Rapid Transport), hired car or taxi. The city is also easily traversed by bicycle for those who enjoy a more energetic approach to transport.

#### **Dublin Bus**

Bus services in Dublin city and county are provided by Dublin Bus. They operate from approx. 7:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Mon-Sat with a more limited service on Sundays. There is also a late night bus service called Nitelink that runs from 12:30am-2am, Mon-Wed, and 12:30am-4:30am, Thurs-Sat. A NiteLink ticket costs €4 or €6 depending on the distance. NiteLink is the better, noisier and cheaper option for getting home late, especially on weekends, as taxis do not always meet the demands of the weekend partygoers! Timetables for buses including details of various money-saving commuter and tourist tickets are sold in retail shops and other stores throughout the Dublin region. Sundays and bank holidays have restricted bus services throughout the day, starting at the later time of 9:30am-11:30pm.

The Dublin Bus Information Office is located at 59 Upper O'Connell Street and there is also a Dublin Bus desk in the Dublin Tourism Centre, Suffolk Street, Dublin 2. Tel: +353 1 8734222  
Timetables can be found at: <http://www.dublinbus.ie>

You can get bus timetable information on your mobile phone by texting BUS followed by the bus route number (i.e. BUS 10) to 53503 and then pressing send. You will receive a response containing times for the next 3 buses in each direction. The charge for this service is approx. 30c. You can pre-plan a journey, i.e. BUS 10 1800, for the times of the 10 route from 6pm onwards. Plan tomorrow's journey, i.e. BUS 10 0930 TOMORROW, for the times of the 10 route from 9:30am onwards tomorrow.

Bus fares range from €1.00 to €2.10 and are based on how far you have to travel. The average bus fare is between €1.30 and €1.50 and is valid for one way (not round trip journey). The price of a NiteLink ticket is €4. This is cheaper than a taxi.

The main buses servicing GCD are the 19 and the 122. Both buses stop directly outside the entrance to GCD. Other buses that pass nearby campus are the 16, 16A, 19A, 49 and 54A. These buses stop at Leonard's Corner. The 121 bus stops on the corner of South Circular Road and Donore Avenue. All of these buses can be taken on Dame Street for €1.30.

Please note that Dublin Bus operates on an Autofare System. This means that you must give the exact fare to the driver. If you give more than the actual fare, the driver does not give change, but instead issues a passenger refund ticket. This ticket can only be exchanged for the money owed, at the Dublin Bus office on O'Connell Street.

### **Aircoach**

Aircoach is a private operator that runs its distinctive blue air-conditioned luxury coaches between Dublin Airport and the center and south of the city, servicing many of the hotels and B&Bs. The service runs 24 hours a day.

Tel: +353 1 8447118

[aircoach@iol.ie](mailto:aircoach@iol.ie)

<http://www.aircoach.ie>

### **LUAS**

The Luas is a tram service that operates from St. Stephen's Green to Sandyford (Green Line) and from Connolly Station to Tallaght (Red Line). Luas is the newest form of public transport in Dublin city. The average price for a journey on the Luas is €1.30. Over the coming years, another 6 Luas lines will be added to the 2 lines currently in operation. Visit [www.luas.ie](http://www.luas.ie) for information about service and fares.

### **DART (Dublin Area Rapid Transport)**

The DART suburban rail service operates along the coast between Howth in the North of Dublin to Bray in the South. The times of the DARTs vary between every 5 minutes during rush hour, to every half hour on Sundays. The main DART stations servicing Dublin city centre are Pearse Street Station, Tara Street Station and Connolly Station. For more information on the various destinations and the variety of travel ticket options available, contact the DART office at Tel: +353 1 7033504 or visit their website: <http://www.dart.ie>.

### **Trains**

Trains serving all parts of Ireland are run by the State transport company, CIE. There are two main train stations in the city, Connolly and Heuston. Visitors travelling from the South and West will arrive at Heuston Station, a short distance from the center by bus or taxi. Those arriving from the North, North West and the South East arrive at Connolly Station, which is a short walk from O'Connell Street.

Tel: +353 1 8366222

<http://www.irishrail.ie>

## **Taxis**

Taxis can be hailed in Dublin on the street, at hotels, outside rail or bus stations or at taxi ranks, which are clearly marked. Taxis are run by meters, so always ensure that the meter is turned on before your journey starts. For safety, always ensure that any taxi you get into has the driver's taxi license, including their photo, clearly displayed in the vehicle. Taxis are generally expensive and can be difficult to get, especially on weekend nights just after the pubs and nightclubs close, as supply does not meet the city's demands. Three of the main taxi ranks in the city center are located on O'Connell Street, Dame Street and St. Stephen's Green.

Local taxi firms:

Cabline: Tel 01 454 1541

SCR Cabs: Tel 01 473 1166

Dolphin Cabs: Tel 01 454 1875

## **Student TravelCard**

You can get substantial discounts on Dublin Bus, DART, Luas, Bus Éireann and Irish Rail by applying for a Student TravelCard. This card is recommended to all students, especially those who intend to travel around Ireland.

Once you have registered with GCD, you can complete an application form, available on the Dublin Bus website [www.dublinbus.ie](http://www.dublinbus.ie). Attach 2 passport photos and send the completed form, with photos and payment (postal order) to the address indicated on the form. Your personal Student TravelCard will then be mailed to you.

## **Iarnród Éireann- Irish Rail**

Trains serving all parts of Ireland are run by the state rail company Iarnród Éireann/Irish Rail. There are two train stations in Dublin city from which you can travel outside of Dublin- Connolly Station and Heuston Station.

Trains going to the South or West of Ireland depart from Heuston, which is a short distance from the city center by bus or taxi. Trains going to the North and Northeast of Ireland depart from Connolly Station, which is in the city center. Please note that you need a visa to travel to Northern Ireland, as it is part of the United Kingdom.

Train fares tend to be expensive, so if you intend to travel by rail often, you are advised to get a national Student TravelCard. For more information on fares and destinations, contact 836 6222 or visit the Irish Rail website: <http://www.irishrail.ie>.

## **Bus Éireann- Irish Bus**

Bus Éireann is the Republic's national bus line and operates bus services from Dublin to the rest of Ireland. Their fares are significantly cheaper than regular train fares, but the journey tends to take longer.

The bus depot is in Busáras on the North side of the city, on Amiens Street near Connolly Station. You can get student discounts if you have a USIT card. For more information on destinations and fares, please contact 836 6111 or visit <http://www.buseireann.ie>

### Places of Interest in Dublin

Dublin is one of the most popular tourist cities in Europe, so while you are here, you should explore the many attractions that Dublin has to offer. Dublin is full of museums and galleries. Below is a listing of Dublin’s top visitor attractions. For further information, visit the Dublin Tourism website: <http://www.visitdublin.com>, [www.eventguide.ie](http://www.eventguide.ie) or [www.entertainmentireland.ie](http://www.entertainmentireland.ie).

The Chester Beatty Library  
 Clock Tower Building  
 Dublin Castle  
 Dublin 1  
 TEL: 407 0750

The National Museum  
 Collins Barracks, Benburb Street  
 Dublin 7  
 TEL: 677 7444

Kilmainham Museum  
 Kilmainham Jail  
 Dublin 8  
 TEL: 453 5984

The National Gallery of Ireland  
 Merrion Square West  
 Beggar’s Bush  
 Dublin 2  
 TEL: 661 5133

The National Print Museum  
 Haddington Road  
 Dublin 4  
 TEL: 660 3770

Trinity College Dublin  
 College Street  
 Dublin 2  
 TEL: 679 2941

The Irish Museum of Modern Art  
 The Royal Hospital  
 Kilmainham, Dublin 8  
 TEL: 612 9900

The Dublin Writers’ Museum  
 18 Parnell North  
 Dublin 1  
 TEL: 872 2077

St. Patrick Cathedral  
 Patrick’s Street,  
 Dublin 8  
 TEL: 475 4817

James Joyce Cultural Centre  
 35 North Great George’s Street  
 Dublin 1  
 TEL: 878 8547

Joyce Tower Museum  
 Joyce Tower, Sandycove, Co.  
 Dublin  
 TEL: 280 9265

Dublin Castle  
 Dame Street, Dublin 2  
 TEL: 677 7129

Guinness Storehouse  
 St. James’s Gate, Dublin 8  
 TEL: 453 8364

## STAYING IN TOUCH

► For information about cell phones abroad, please see the [ASA PRE-DEPARTURE GUIDE FOR ALL PROGRAMS](#)

### Time Difference

What is the time difference between Ireland and where my parents live?  
 The following times are the number of hours BEHIND Ireland each region is:

Pacific                  Central                  Eastern

8 hours      6 hours      5 hours

So, if it is 6pm in Ireland, then it is 1 pm Eastern, 12pm Central, and 10am Pacific.

### **Computers & Internet**

**There is free, unlimited Internet access in the residence hall, so BRING YOUR LAPTOP.**  
*(Internet access is limited to Internet browsing only. You will not be permitted to use file sharing programs or any other programs except browsers such as Internet Explorer, Firefox, Opera or Safari.)*

In addition, there are 7 open computer labs on campus. Students have access from 9:30 am to 9:00 pm, Monday to Friday during the academic year.

► **For information about using a plug adapter with your laptop, SEE [PRE-DEPARTURE GUIDE FOR ALL PROGRAMS](#)**

## **HELPFUL INFO**

### **Public Holidays**

The following are the public holidays in the Republic of Ireland. Most companies and shops are closed on these days:

January 1:	New Year's Day
March 17:	St. Patrick's Day
Friday before Easter:	Good Friday
Monday after Easter:	Easter Monday
First Monday in May:	May Day Holiday
First Monday in June:	June Holiday
First Monday in August:	August Holiday
Last Monday in October:	October Holiday
December 25:	Christmas Holiday
December 26:	St. Stephen's Day

### **Irish Words & Phrases**

First, here are a few n in Ireland that you will likely hear:

"That's gas" = That's hilarious

"What's the story?" = A common greeting (like How's it going, What's going on)

"What's the craic?" = What's the gossip/news

"Where's the craic?" = Where's the party, what's going on tonight

"Great craic" = Lots of fun

"I'm knackered" = I'm tired

“Deadly” = Wonderful, delightful

**Link: 19 Words that have a totally different meaning in Ireland!**

<http://www.buzzfeed.com/aibhemalone/give-her-a-lash-jack>

English is the common language spoken in Ireland, although under the Irish Constitution the **Irish language** is the first official language of Ireland. The Irish language (*Gaeilge*) is a Celtic language which was spoken countrywide until the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Today, Irish is only widely spoken in the *Gaeltacht* (Irish-speaking) areas, such as in towns like Galway. It is not widely spoken in Dublin anymore, though many Irish people are now interested in their heritage and have begun to learn Gaelic again. Most street signs are in Irish as well as English and many public toilets in pubs, cafés and restaurants are marked in Irish: ‘*Fir*’ = men and ‘*Mná*’ = women.

**Useful words to learn:**

“ <i>Fáilte</i> ”	(Faw-che)	Welcome
“ <i>Slán</i> ”	(Slawn)	Goodbye
“ <i>Maith an fhear</i> ”	(Mah un far)	Good man
“ <i>Sláinte</i> ”	(Slawncheh)	To your good health, like ‘cheers’ when having a drink
“ <i>Go raibh maith agat</i> ”	(Guh ruv ma ugut)	Thank you
“ <i>Má is é do thol é</i> ”	(Maws ay duh heel ay)	Please
“ <i>Dia dhuit</i> ”	(Jeea <u>h</u> itch) hard hr sound – back of your throat	Hello (greeting)
“ <i>Dias mhaire dhuit</i> ”	(Jeeas mwidheh <u>h</u> itch)	Hello (response)
“ <i>Go minic</i> ”	(Guh mi-nik)	Often
“ <i>Go maith</i> ”	(Guh mah)	Good/great/well
“ <i>Tá mé go maith</i> ”	(Taw may guh mah)	I am well
“ <i>Conás a tá tú?</i> ”	(Conus uh taw too?)	How are you?

\*\*Accents differ from one county to another, and even from one area of Dublin to the next. Don’t be afraid to ask people to repeat themselves if you can’t understand them!