



ACADEMIC
STUDIES ABROAD

Site-Specific Guide – Dublin Semester at Maynooth University

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Please see our [Pre-Departure Guide for All Programs](#) for additional important pre-departure information!

PRE-DEPARTURE

Important Phone Numbers

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

<p><u>ASA Office in Boston, MA</u> 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: info@academicstudies.com</p> <p>Lee Frankel, Director lee@academicstudies.com Chelsea Kaloupek, Assistant Director chelsea@academicstudies.com Cayleigh McCarthy, Programs Advisor cayleigh@academicstudies.com</p> <p><u>ASA Site Director in Dublin</u> Olwyn Mannix olwynmannix@gmail.com Cell phone: 011 353 83 834 7279 (from the U.S.) 0 83 834 7279 (in Ireland)</p> <p><u>U.S. Embassy in Dublin</u> 42 Elgin Road Ballsbridge Dublin 4 https://ie.usembassy.gov/ For emergencies involving American citizens, call: 01 668 8777 (in Ireland) / 011 353 1 668 8777 (from the U.S.)</p>	<p><u>Maynooth University</u> Maynooth, Co. Kildare IRELAND Tel: (+353) (1) 708 6000</p> <p><u>International Office Contacts</u> (Local telephone numbers, as dialed in Ireland)* General queries: international.office@nuim.ie Jenny Coonan – International Officer for Incoming Study Abroad jenny.coonan@mu.ie Office: 01 708 3379 / 01 708 3868</p> <p>FB: www.facebook.com/MaynoothUniversityInternational</p> <p>Campus Emergency Number: 01 708 3929 / 01 628 5222</p> <p><u>International Office location:</u> Top Floor, Humanity House, South Campus</p> <p>* See international dialing instructions below.</p> <p><u>Police/Fire/Ambulance</u> (Local numbers, as dialed in Ireland) Campus Security: 01 708 3929 University Medical Centre: 01 708 3878 Dial 999 or 112 (dial 112 from a cell phone) <u>Police Station in Maynooth:</u> 01 629 1444</p> <p><u>Closest Hospital</u> James Connolly Memorial Hospital Mill Road, Dublin 1 (Blanchardstown)</p>
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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.

SEMESTER / ACADEMIC YEAR STUDENTS: You will need a Student Visa.

In order to study in Ireland for one semester, 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) **Acceptance Letter from Maynooth University.** ASA will email this to you shortly before departure. Academic Year students, your invitation letter must state that you are staying for 2 semesters!
- 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 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 your term of study is greater than 90 days, you must also apply for a visa extension (called a "Permission to Remain") after you arrive in Dublin, which costs €300.00. The Maynooth University staff will assist you in the process of obtaining your visa. 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 (semester/academic year students only)
Cost: **€300** (issued after you arrive in Dublin).
2. Meals & Laundry*
Meals are not provided. Each apartment has a fully equipped kitchen, and coin-op laundry facilities are available as well.
3. Books and materials for your classes
Budget **US\$500 per semester**.
4. Local transportation*
Budget **US\$300 for this per semester**. 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.**

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. If you are going for a semester or academic year, you'll also present your 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 sign with your name on it.** The driver will transport you to campus, where you will complete housing check-in and receive an orientation schedule.
- ▶ **A representative from Maynooth University or your ASA Site Director, Olwyn, will be waiting for you in the airport lobby.** NOTE: They **cannot** meet you in baggage claim!
- ▶ **Address for delivery of delayed baggage (also address for mail delivery – but for mail delivery you must add "Ireland" to the end of the address)**
Name
Room Number and Hall (Ex: 10A Dodder Hall)
Apartment Complex (River Apartments / Rye Hall / Village Apartments – whichever you've been assigned to)
Maynooth University
Maynooth
Co. Kildare

Postcode (You can look up the postcode of your apartment on the [eircode website](#).)

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 & CAMPUS FACILITIES

Maynooth University

Maynooth University traces its origins back to 1795. Building on a tradition of scholarship and excellence in all aspects of its teaching and research, Maynooth University is committed to being a first class research-led centre of learning and academic discovery, while still retaining a uniquely friendly and personal atmosphere.

Maynooth University is the fastest growing university in Ireland, with over 8,400 students from over 50 countries in Europe, North America, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. Maynooth is located 15 miles or 25km west of Dublin (20 minutes by train) and is Ireland's only university town, which combines the historical legacy of its medieval origins with a present-day location on the fringes of Dublin, Ireland's capital. Students enjoy the safety, charm and peace of the local area, with easy and frequent access to Dublin city centre.

The University's Campus Development Plan continues to expand facilities for students. September 2010 saw the opening of the €15 million Interdisciplinary Research Building. This new building boasts a state-of-the-art 350-seat lecture theatre as well as additional social space for students. It also houses space for 200 academic staff and research from three of the university's world renowned research institutes: NCG (National Center for Geocomputation), NIRSA (National Institute for Research and Spatial Analysis), and An Foras Feasa, the Institute for Research in Irish Historical and Cultural Traditions. A new university restaurant recently opened on the North Campus with seating for 650 and the new library extension will double the size of the existing building.

Student life at Maynooth is also very active, with over 100 clubs and societies, catering to all interests. Joining a club or society is a FANTASTIC way to meet new people and make Irish friends! The university also has excellent sports facilities, including an on-campus swimming pool and fitness center.

Accommodation for international students is guaranteed in one of the 890 beds on campus, operated by the university Residence Office.

Maynooth Town

Maynooth town traces its historical significance back to the 12th century when the Fitzgerald family established a stronghold, in the form of a castle which can still be seen at the gates of the University. The local area surrounding Maynooth is rich with historical significance,

through Carton House and Demesne, Castletown House and Leixlip Castle, home to the Guinness family. There are several historical monuments dating from the time of the Great Famine of Ireland in the local area.

Today, Maynooth is a charming and busy town with many shops, cafes, public transport options and general services, and home to a vibrant local community that offers students abundant opportunities to enjoy an active social life.

Maynooth's location is also adjacent to the Irish 'silicon valley', home to the European and International headquarters of many multi-national companies, such as Intel, HP, Facebook, Microsoft and Google. The university has strong connections with several multinational companies, providing opportunities for guest speakers, seminars and work placements for Maynooth University students.

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>
Semester 1	→	Fall semester	Abbreviated Sem. 1
Semester 2	→	Spring semester	Abbreviated Sem. 2
Course	→	Degree program	Bachelor's in Information Systems
Module	→	Course	Macroeconomics; Creative Writing

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 the Medical Centre. 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 university 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 Maynooth University 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.

Examinations – Fall students

In Europe, the Fall semester goes until the end of January and exams take place in January, after winter break. Because American students are unable to stay on campus until January, students attending the Fall semester only must complete exam requirements before leaving for winter break. Some professors may substitute the exam with an alternative but equivalent assignment (coursework, paper), which must be completed by a specific date *before* you leave for winter break. **It is your responsibility to make the necessary arrangements with each of your professors IN NOVEMBER to complete the examination requirements for each of your modules before leaving campus. Any exam or additional coursework assigned to you must be completed by the date given in order to receive credit.**

Examinations – Spring students

About three to four weeks before the commencement of formal exams, students receive by post to their current address, an examination permit. The examination permit lists all modules that the student is registered to take examinations. There is also information on the location, time and dates of each exam. It is the responsibility of the student to check their examination card to ensure they are registered for all necessary examinations and that all personal details are correct. Any errors must be reported immediately! Repeat exams for those who do not pass (or cannot attend for severe illness or a serious reason) are held on campus in August.

Any student registered for a full degree at Maynooth University will follow the same assessment procedures as any Irish student – i.e. exams are held in January and May. Students who fail to sit an exam (or provide proof that they could not physically attend), will not be able to sit repeat exams and forfeit the credit.

The Campuses

Maynooth University has North and South Campuses, separated by Kilcock Road.

Campus Map: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/campus-life/campus-map>

North Campus

North Campus is home to Student Residences, the majority of academic departments, and popular spots for students, such as the Sports Complex, Student Centre, Student Services, and Student Restaurant.

Picture tour of North Campus:

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/campus-life/campus-photo-tour/north-campus>

- Sports Complex
- Student Restaurant
- Student Residences
 - Village Apartments
 - River Apartments
 - Rye Hall
- Student Centre
 - Students' Union Offices
 - Photocopying
 - Speakeasy Café
 - The Phoenix café
- Student Services Centre
 - Chaplaincy
 - Residence Office
 - Medical Centre
 - Counseling
- St. Anne's
 - Anthropology
 - Applied Sciences
 - Sociology
- John Hume Building
 - Psychology
 - AIB Bank
 - University Bookshop
 - Café
 - Post Office (postroom)
- Science Building
 - Chemistry
 - Experimental Physics
- Arts Building
 - Language Labs
 - Theatres 1 & 2
 - Classhalls A to H

- Arts Reading Room
- Callan Building
 - Biology
 - Computer Science
 - Science Lecture Theatre
- St. Catherine's
- Bioscience & Engineering Building

South Campus

South Campus is home to the majority of university administration offices, as well as the Library, Computer Centre, International Office, and some academic departments.

Picture tour of South Campus:

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/campus-life/campus-photo-tour>

- Library
- Aula Maxima
- St. Joseph's Square
- College Chapel
- Computer Centre
- Campus Security
- Registrar
- International Office (top floor, Humanity House)
- Gardens
- Swimming Pool
- Music Practice rooms
- Deans' Offices
- Examinations Office
- Health & Safety Office
- Museum
- Accounts Office
- Rhetoric House
 - Economics
 - History
 - Geography
- Logic House
 - Mathematics
 - Mathematical Physics
 - Music

The Students' Union

The Students' Union is an organization is run by students, for students and is **the center of campus life**. You are strongly encouraged to join! It's also a great resource for academic support, counseling and other resources. The Students' Union has full-time officers who are elected by their fellow students every year.

The Students' Union is home to over 100 active student clubs and societies. **Joining a club of society is the BEST way to meet new people and make Irish friends!** Some of these include Amnesty International, Drama, Dance, Gospel Choir, Christian Union, Yoga, Tea Society, and loads of sports clubs, such as: Archery, American Football, Kickboxing, Hurling, Soccer, Billiards, Fencing and many more.

List of Sports Clubs & Societies! <https://msulife.ie/>

Clubs & Societies sign-up takes place shortly after Orientation – watch for signs on campus!

Student Buddy Network

The Student Buddy Network, run jointly by the International Office and the Career Development Centre, is a voluntary scheme where returning students become a 'buddy' to first year or international students staying for a semester or academic year. A 'buddy' provides guidance, advice and help to new students. As the transition to university can be challenging, the buddy will use their skills, knowledge and experience of third level study to help first year undergraduates adjust to life at university. The Student Buddy Network is a great way to get involved in activities and add to your experience at Maynooth University. We have a Facebook group for Buddies which all interested students can join in order to contact each other, share photos and information and organise events. If you are, or will be, a new student at Maynooth and would like to be a part of the Buddy Network, join the Facebook group or email international.office@nuim.ie for more information. Link: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/international/pre-arrival-information/student-buddy-network>

Computer Facilities

All ASA students are encouraged to bring laptop computers. However, there are also many computer facilities available for students on campus. Computers for students' use can be found at the following locations:

North Campus

- Rye Hall computer room
- Callan foyer
- Arts Building

South Campus

- Computer Centre
- Long Corridor at the back of Stoyte House

If you need any assistance, you are invited to stop by the Computer Centre on the South Campus (just beyond the entrance gate, on the right) to meet with our Student Liaison Officer. Here you will receive help and advice on a wide range of topics relating to the Computer Centre.

Meals, Dining & Shopping

A brand new state-of-the-art canteen, called 'The Phoenix' opened in April 2011. It is located beside the Student Union and has a seating capacity for approximately 500 people over two floors and includes a large paved plaza between the sports hall and the common room.

The Student Common Room, located behind the Arts block, caters for students to eat their own lunches, have group meetings, watch the news on the plasma screens or use their laptops. It is a space designed solely for students to have their own place to relax.

Food is also served at @Your Clubhouse and Chill Cafe in the Student Union, and O'Brien's in the John Hume building. There is also a Londis shop located in the John Hume Building, where you can buy some groceries, snack foods and convenience items.

At this link, you can find more information about on-campus dining options!

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/campus-life/campus-facilities/cafes-restaurants>

Maynooth town also has a number of restaurants and pubs that are just a few minutes' walk from campus!

Meals are NOT included in your program fees. Grocery and other stores where you can stock up on food and other necessities are located a 5-minute walk from campus. Manor Mills is a shopping centre located just off the main street and has a Dunnes Stores (large grocery & department store), butcher, hairdresser, chemist (pharmacy), bookstore, optician, dry cleaners, sporting goods, and more.

List of Grocery Stores

Dunnes Stores – sells groceries, clothes, shoes, housewares, etc. Good prices, conveniently located and long opening hours.

Tesco – Located at the end of town on the Dublin Road, it's similar to Dunnes but a lot larger and open 24 hours. It's a huge store with almost anything you could need at good prices.

Supervalu – Located beside the Glenroyal Hotel in the Glenroyal Centre on the Straffan Road, it's a smaller supermarket.

Aldi – Located on the Kilcock Road behind Minor Mills and directly across the road from the North Campus. It's typically the cheapest grocery store and is great for bread, juices, sweets, and frozen food.

Lidl – Located on the Straffan Road but quite far from the main street, it is similar to Aldi and is also very inexpensive.

Aldi & Lidl are the cheapest supermarkets for every day basics, but for brand names and wider selection, Tesco and Dunnes Stores are better.

You can also go to Liffey Valley Shopping Centre, which is about 35 minutes away from campus by bus. Both the 66 and 67 buses will take you there. In Liffey Valley you can find clothing store, bookstores, numerous fast food restaurants, a large chemist (pharmacy), shoes, music, and nearly everything else you might need. Liffey Valley also has a large cinema, called Vue – this is the closest cinema to Maynooth.

Sports Facilities

Our state-of-the-art campus facilities mean that you can enjoy all aspects of sports, whether you are seeking fitness, fun or friendship. Thanks to a €6.4 million development, Maynooth University boasts two indoor sports halls, a swimming pool, a magnificent sports centre, a weights room, changing rooms, three natural turf playing fields and an all-weather playing pitch with floodlights.

The sports hall and fully equipped gymnasium facilitate sports including badminton, basketball, fencing, karate and racquet-ball. Weekly aerobics and circuit training sessions also take place in the sports halls which are organized by the Sports Officer, while outdoor playing fields cater for Gaelic football, hurling, soccer, camogie and rugby.

The nearby River Liffey plays host to the canoe and kayak club, while you can also avail of walking, golf or horse riding at Carton Estate. Student-run clubs form the back-bone of the sports and recreation programme at the NUI, Maynooth. With thirty-two active university clubs, an exceptional and time-honoured structure is in place for student sport.

Medical Centre

A student medical centre is available free of charge to students on campus and usual opening hours are 10am-12 noon and 2pm–5pm Monday to Friday. A walk-in service is available between 9.30am and 10.30am Monday to Friday during term time. However, students are advised to check surgery notices for any change. There is a doctor and two nurses present on a daily basis and students with existing medical conditions should indicate these at the time of application for an appointment. The contact number for the Medical Centre is 01 708 3878.

In case of medical emergency, the nearest hospital is:

James Connolly Memorial Hospital - Blanchardstown
Mill Road, Dublin 1 (Blanchardstown)
Tel: 353 1 821 3844
Fax: 353 1 820 3565

Counseling

The University provides a free and confidential counseling service to enable students to deal with personal problems which may be impeding their academic progress. Students may avail of a drop in service without appointment or set up an appointment by contacting the Counselling service in the Student Services Centre by telephoning 01 708 3554.

Disability Office

The Disability Office has responsibility for promoting university access for people with disabilities. Each student is aware of their particular needs, and the Disability Office endeavors to provide the support identified. The University provides wide range of supports to students with disabilities, including a number of supports and services that are available to all students of the university and are free of charge. See this link for a full list of free supports & services: <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/access-office>

Please note that any requirements for support outside those on this list may incur an additional charge, which the student is liable for. **International applicants are encouraged to disclose at the point of application if they have a disability and/or specific learning**

disability. Please note that disclosure will not adversely affect your application in any way.

Does the university need to know I have a disability?

That's up to you. However, the University can support you more effectively if you tell us that you have a disability, a health condition, mental health issue or specific learning difficulty that affects your studies. Disclosing is a really positive step because it allows you to give us information about your disability/specific learning difficulty and it lets us know that you may need support. Even if you did not indicate that you had a disability through your application form remember that you can register with the Disability Office at any time, even after you have started your course. It is a good idea to register as early as possible as you will need to have evidence of your disability to register with the Disability Office and sometimes supports can take some time to organize.

Where can I find more information about support for students with disabilities?

You should visit <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/access-office> or telephone 01 708 6025. The Disability Office is located in the Student Services Centre (behind the John Hume Building) on the North Campus.

Campus Life FAQs

Q: Where can I buy books for class?

A: Don't purchase any books before you get to Dublin and have confirmed your class schedule. Once you begin your classes, you will find out which books you need. You can purchase them at the University bookshop, located on the North Campus in the John Hume building. There is also a second-hand bookshop in the Student Union on the North Campus.

Q: Where can I print my assignments?

A: In the library, using your Student ID card (MyCard). There are also a number of computer rooms on both the North and South Campuses that have printing facilities, and there's a printer in the Arts Block of the Student Union as well.

Q: Where can I go if I'm having difficulty with my classes?

A: You should contact your lecturer or tutor directly and explain what you're having trouble with. If you feel that hasn't helped, you can also contact the Academic Advisory Office (tel # on next page), or the International Office (tel # on next page).

Q: Where can I find computer access/use the Internet?

A: Wireless Internet is available throughout campus. If you don't bring a laptop with you, there are computer centres that students can use in the Long Corridor (South Campus), Computer Centre (South Campus), Rye Hall (North Campus), and the Callan Building (North Campus). The library also lends laptops out to students for the duration of a few hours, but these cannot be taken outside of the library.

Q: Can I get a locker for my books?

A: Yes, students can rent a locker for the academic year by registering at the Campus Services Office (Riverstown House, South Campus). The cost is €15 for the academic year,

plus a refundable deposit of €5. The deposit is refunded at the end of the academic year as long as students empty their locker and return the padlock with at least 2 keys to the Campus Services Office.

Q: Where do I go if I lose something on campus?

A: There is a lost and found area at the entrance to the Arts building.

Q: Where do I go if I'm sick?

A: The Medical Centre on campus is available to all students, free of charge. You may also visit Dr. Gaffney's at the Glenroyal shopping centre.

Q: Where can I go between lectures?

A: Students tend to congregate between lectures (classes) in the student common room, behind the Arts building. This is a space where students can bring their own lunches, have group meetings, watch the news on the plasma screens or use their laptops. It is a space designed solely for students to have their own place to relax. Another option is the canteen, called 'The Phoenix'. It is located beside the Student Union and has a seating capacity for approximately 500 people over two floors and includes a large paved plaza between the sports hall and the common room.

Useful Contacts!

	<u>Location</u>	<u>Tel.</u>
Academic Advisory Office	<i>Student Services Centre</i>	01 708 3368
Access Office (Disabilities Office)	<i>Student Services Centre</i>	01 708 4519
Admissions Office	<i>Humanity House</i>	01 708 3822
Chaplaincy	<i>Student Services Centre</i>	01 708 3827
Counselling	<i>Student Services Centre</i>	01 708 3554
Examinations Office	<i>Humanity House</i>	01 708 3571
Emergency Number	<i>On Campus</i>	01 708 3929 / 01 628 5222
Health & Safety Office	<i>Humanity House</i>	01 708 4270
International Office	<i>Humanity House</i>	01 708 3868
Medical Centre	<i>Student Services Centre</i>	01 708 3878
Police Station	<i>Maynooth town</i>	01 629 1444
Registrar	<i>Humanity House</i>	01 708 3813
Residence Office	<i>Student Services Centre</i>	01 708 3826 / 01 708 3827
Security	<i>North Campus</i>	01 708 3929
Sports Officer	<i>Sports Complex, North Campus</i>	01 708 3824
Student Services	<i>Student Services Centre</i>	01 708 3825
Students' Union	<i>Students' Social Centre</i>	01 708 3669

Orientation & Registration

Orientation week takes place the week before lectures commence and provides vital information, as well as various activities designed to not only acclimate to your new university environment, but interact with other students. ASA will have its own orientation activities/meetings, and you will also have a number of activities run by the university.

Orientation is a weeklong event that welcomes all students to the University and includes welcome talks, campus tours and introductions to the academic departments, student services, and clubs and societies. **It is compulsory that all students attend orientation** as they will gain vital information about the University and be introduced to a new situation and environment. **Failure to attend will likely have a serious negative effect not only in your studies, but on your overall student experience.**

Registration is the process by which you officially become an enrolled student. All International students must complete Registration; it usually happens within your first few days on campus. During orientation week you'll find out exactly when and where to register.

At Registration you will be issued your student card. This is an important document! It proves that you are registered at the University and permits you to enter University buildings and borrow books from the University library. **An orange sheet will also be given to you that details your student number and your username and password, which are required to access the University computer network.** *Students are advised to memorize the student number, as it is used as a student reference all around the University.* Your student number, username and password are also necessary to access on-campus computers and University web services such as webmail, Moodle, and exam results.

You will be assigned a day and time to register. Be sure you bring with you the required documentation!

Checklist for Registration:

1. Passport/National Identity Card
2. Letter of acceptance from Maynooth University

Changing Modules:

You will have a period of **two weeks** after registration to add, change, or drop modules. In this time, it is advisable that students attend several different lectures to decide if they have made the right choices. This time allows students to sit in on a variety of lectures and not miss out on important notes. Students wishing to change modules should then return to the Records Office in Humanity House with the new list of complete modules. **It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that his/her modules are recorded correctly AND that they will be accepted for credit at his/her home institution.**

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.

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 11th 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: “*Fír*” = *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 apartments on Maynooth University campus. Housing is provided for the duration of the program, but not between semesters.

All of the university's student residences are on North Campus: Village Apartments, River Apartments, and Rye Hall. Rooms on campus are allocated according to availability. *Neither ASA nor Maynooth University can guarantee placement in any particular hall or flat.*

River Apartments

Apartments in River are entirely en-suite, which means each bedroom it has its own bathroom. A typical apartment has five, en-suite bedrooms and a large kitchen, dining and lounge area. The majority of bedrooms are single; there are a limited number of twin (double) rooms also available which also have en-suite bathrooms. High speed Internet access is available in each bedroom. In twin rooms, both residents have Internet access.

Rye Hall

All bedrooms in Rye Hall are single, and most are non en-suite (meaning bathrooms are shared). Rye has a range of three-bed, four-bed and seven-bed apartments. Each apartment has at least two bathrooms and a kitchen, dining and lounge area. A select number of bedrooms in Rye Hall are en-suite. High speed Internet access is available in each bedroom.

Village Apartments

All students in the Village Apartments have single rooms, all non en-suite (meaning bathrooms are shared). Each five-bedroom apartment has two bathrooms and a kitchen, dining and lounge area. The Village Apartments also have wireless Internet.

Do I need to bring bedding and towels?

Yes, you will. Bedding and towels are not provided. We do recommend bringing them with you as opposed to buying them on arrival because it will save you money. Because of the exchange rate, bedding is quite a bit more expensive in Ireland than you're accustomed to. We recommend you bring your bedding and one towel, and preferably ones you won't mind leaving behind when you leave (to save room in your suitcase). Re: kitchen items – each apartment has an inventory for you and all your housemates to sign upon move-in. Each apartment has pots and pans, plates and dishes, cups & glasses, cutlery and microwave.

When will my other housemates arrive?

As orientation takes place on different days, your housemates may not arrive the same day as you.. You may be the first to move into your apartment; your housemates may not arrive for a day or two.

Welcome Receptions

During arrivals week, there will be a Welcome Reception each evening at 7:30pm, which is a chance to meet the other students in your hall. Welcome Receptions are hosted by the campus social and cultural club. If you have arrived to campus and the other people in your apartment haven't arrived, don't worry as at 7.30pm each evening we will be meeting in the River Apartments to introduce ourselves and it will be a good opportunity to meet other new campus residents.

Damages

Please be aware that you are responsible for any damages to your living space, and for items noted as missing on the apartment inventory. 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.

It is important that you approach your living situation with an open mind. The University enrolls an international student body. You will be sharing an apartment 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 apartment has a vacancy, the Residence Office reserves the right to fill any vacant beds as they see fit.

Housing FAQ's

Q: Whom will I be sharing my apartment with?

A: Your roommates could be from the U.S., from Ireland, or any other country in the world!

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

A: You must apply to have overnight guests

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 apartment be cleaned for me?

A: No. All apartments 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 apartment, 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: What are the other rules of the Residences?

A: Rules and policies for living in Student Residences will be given out during orientation.

Q: What will my address be?

A: You will find out what your address is after you arrive in Dublin. All mail or packages must arrive to Maynooth AFTER you have arrived. Incorrect postal addresses will delay or prevent the delivery of your mail, so we strongly recommend you wait until you move in, confirm your address and then have any packages or mail sent.

Local Transportation

Transportation between Maynooth & Dublin

Maynooth is well served by bus and rail. Bus stops in Maynooth are located in the main street, across from the Glenroyal Hotel. Both the number 66 & 67 buses run to/from Maynooth and Dublin City Centre on a daily basis. There are buses every half hour on both these routes, with the last bus leaving Maynooth/Dublin around 11-11:30pm. The bus to Dublin City Centre costs €2.30 each way and takes about 45-70 minutes each way, depending on traffic. Sundays and bank holidays have restricted bus services throughout the day, starting at the later time of 9:30am-11:30pm.

On Friday & Saturday nights, there is also the Nitelink bus 67N, which runs from midnight until about 4am, with buses leaving Westmoreland Street roughly every half hour to Maynooth. The Nitelink costs €5. Bus schedules can be found at www.dublinbus.ie.

Maynooth train station is located just off the main street and is well served by frequent train service to Dublin, with 2-3 trains per hour and a journey time of 25-35 minutes each way. Return (round trip) train fares to Dublin cost approximately €6. The last train leaves Maynooth/Dublin around 11pm. Train schedules can be found at www.irishrail.ie, or you can pick one up at the train station.

Weekly and monthly passes for the bus and train can be purchased from a number of ticket agents in Maynooth town. Details can be found on the Dublin Bus & Irish Rail websites.

A taxi (one-way) from Maynooth/Dublin costs about €40-50.

Getting around in Dublin

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. 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.

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.

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

<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 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 completed Registration, you can complete an application form, available on the Dublin Bus website 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 or 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
Beggars 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

All ASA students are encouraged to bring laptop computers, WiFi is available throughout campus. There are also many computer facilities available for students to use on campus. Computers for students' use can be found at the following locations:

North Campus

- Rye Hall computer room
- Callan foyer
- Arts Building

South Campus

- Computer Centre
- Long Corridor at the back of Stoyte House

If you need any assistance, you are invited to stop by the Computer Centre on the South Campus (just beyond the entrance gate, on the right) to meet with our Student Liaison Officer. Here you will receive help and advice on a wide range of topics relating to the Computer Centre.

► 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 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 19th 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 f̄ar)	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 h̄itch) hard hr sound – back of your throat	Hello (greeting)
“ <i>Dias mhaire dhuit</i> ”	(Jeeas mwideh h̄itch)	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!