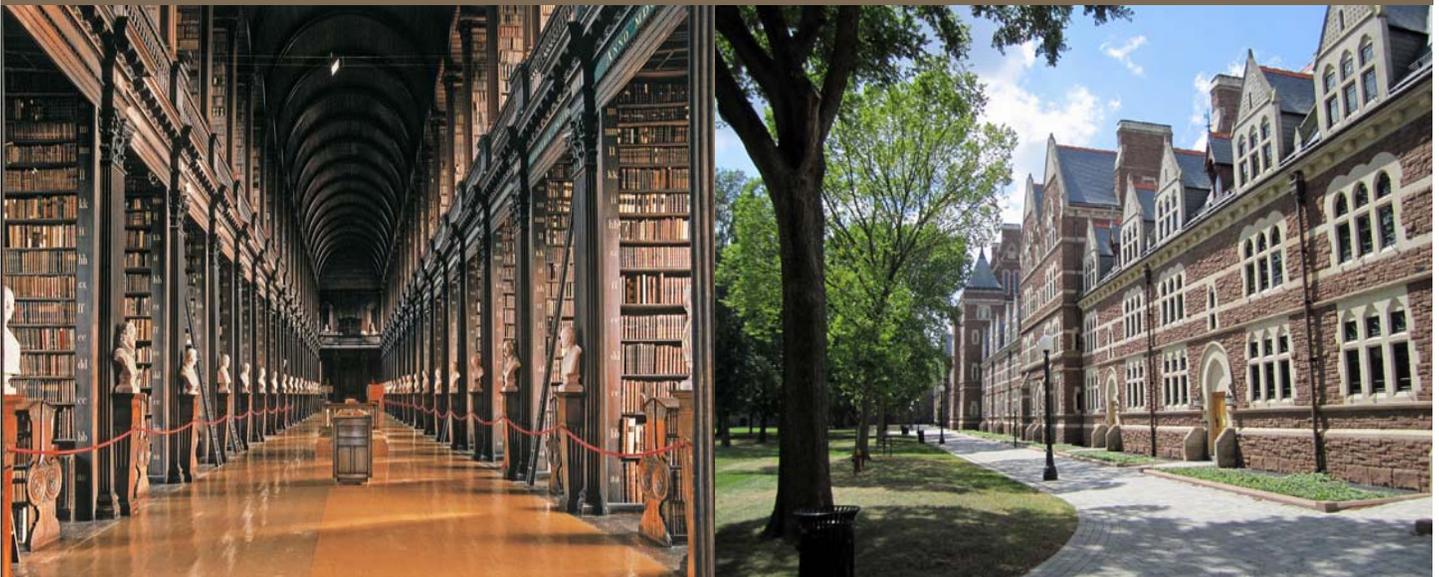


# Go Global with Fisher

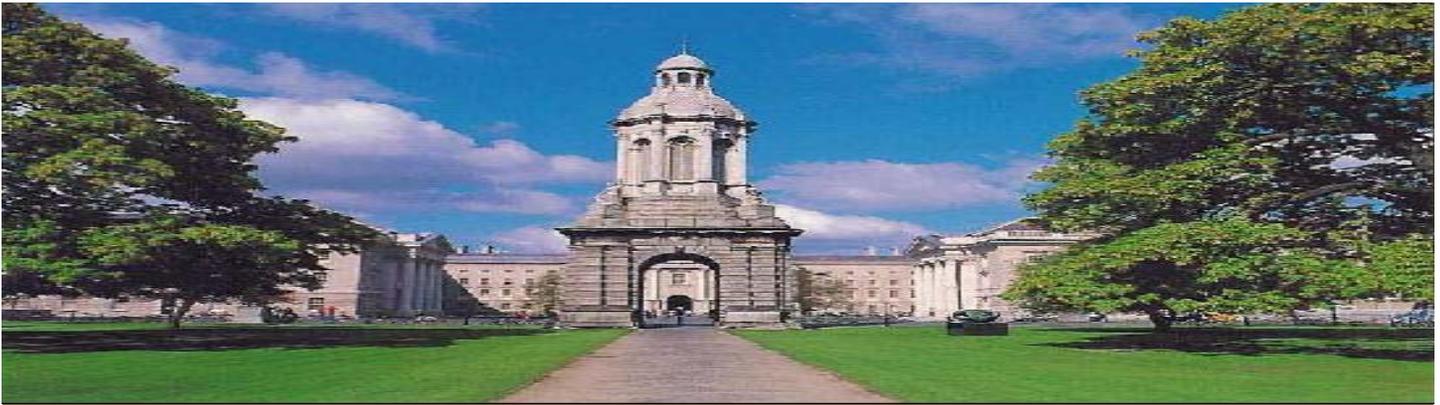
Trinity College - Dublin, Ireland: From a Student's Perspective



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## Trinity College - Dublin, Ireland: From a Student's Perspective

This booklet is designed by past Student Exchange participants in order to share their experience and knowledge with students participating in the Fisher International Student Exchange. Items in this booklet are not endorsed by the Office of Global Business at Fisher College and information contained in this booklet is subject to change.

### ACCOMMODATIONS

#### Campus Accommodation

- Campus accommodation through Trinity is available for application in early July. However, this is very difficult to get, especially for students that only plan to stay for one semester. Check out the Trinity website for more details.
- Although it is uncommon, some students have had luck with getting housing on campus in the campus dorms. This seems to be the best option, however many different people at the university have different answers for if this is a viable option. Keep asking different people until someone allows you to live on campus. (2012)
- Past students have recommended Goldsman Hall when applying for dorms. This facility gives you your own single room which is furnished and has a shared kitchen. (2013)
- If students attend the Semester Start Up in the Spring term, it gives you a better chance to get into the on campus dorms. (2013)
- It was somewhat unorganized when getting into the dorms so be prepared. (2013)

#### Where to look

- Dublin is split up into areas labeled D1-D17. Those areas demarcated by even numbers are generally offer nicer and safer places to live.
- Trinity College is located in D2. Students are encouraged to live in either D2 or D4.
- The Liffey River splits the city. The South side of the river is considered safer than the North.
- With accommodations, search and reserve as soon as possible. This is easier done with sites like Chubb and the apartment sharing system. However, if you chose not to use these, do not overly stress if you do not have housing even up to the month before you leave. Most tenants are slower about their property rentals and will not give you confirmation until a month or so prior to arrival.
- Alternatively, students have opted to arrive a few weeks before term starts in order to look for accommodations. During this time, you can stay at a hostel or a hotel. This arrangement has never posed a problem in the past.
- Certain trusted real estate websites in Ireland can be helpful in finding accommodation. One such example is [www.daft.ie](http://www.daft.ie). Check out [www.ChubbProperties.com](http://www.ChubbProperties.com) to find nice, dorm style apartments. These tend to be more expensive but they are safe, connected to the internet and you can easily pay utilities through them.
- There is an office for student accommodations at Trinity. Make sure to check in (at the front desk) to see if there are other students who are looking for housing and/or roommates. The college may be able to help.
- Facebook Marketplace can be a great way to find a sublease for the semester. Just as Fisher students are travelling

abroad during the fall, so too are students from Trinity.

- Listings are constantly being updated sometimes making it difficult to find a place in June or July. Students may have to wait until the last minute to secure housing.
- "Chubb Properties" has given small and dated apartments to students in the past, costing \$3,000 for the duration of stay with faulty internet access. Keep this in mind when doing your search.

### How to validate housing opportunities

- This can be quite tricky. Asking university administrators about rental agreements can be beneficial. Sticking to an agency that has been used in the past may be a good bet. Beware of Craigslist. There are a number of scams out there and it has happened to Fisher students in the past. If you are unsure, ask for help from the Fisher International Programs Office staff.

## DOCUMENTS

### Passport

- Passports should be secured as soon as possible. They are required not only for travel overseas, but also for application to Trinity College among other things.
- Check the expiration date. In the past students have failed to realize that their passports expire during their trip which can cause serious issues with reentry to the United States.
- It is a good idea to keep several copies of all relevant documents on you at all times: licenses, residency cards, passports, visas, enrollment verifications, whatever has been issued to you. This is not required but you may find yourself in a situation in which these things would be extremely helpful to have and save time.

### Student Visa

- The rules on student visas can change, so students are advised to check with the Irish Embassy and/or Trinity to ensure understanding. As of June 2013, U.S. citizens do not need to apply for a student visa before going to Ireland. Instead, they will register with the Garda National Immigration Bureau within a month or so after they arrive. More information about the rules can be found on Trinity's International Office webpage: <http://www.tcd.ie/international/pre-arrival/visas-and-immigration/>
- You will have to present your passport, Trinity's acceptance letter, and a letter from Trinity confirming a tuition waiver for your education in Ireland at customs when entering the country (2013)
- If students have any questions about obtaining a visa, Travel Solutions can help. Found here: <http://controller.osu.edu/travel/travel-agencies.shtm>. Or call Travel Solutions by phone at 877-678-8785 or 614-750-4020, ask for a Visa Expert.
- Double check with the host university and Embassy webpage whether you will need a visa or not, under your travel term and nationality.
- Students are required to register with the government in person at the embassy after arrival in Ireland. The length of time you have to register will be given to you by the customs officer in Ireland, and Trinity college coordinates student trips to the embassy for this registration.
- In some instances, customs officers have scheduled appointments for the student after their departure date from Ireland in December, in which case you won't need to register with the government.

### Proof of Enrollment

- This documentation will be necessary in situations such as in-country banking and should be provided by Trinity College. If an official document is not provided, sometimes a letter of acceptance is sufficient.
- Be sure to bring your Trinity ID everywhere you go. You may be able to get discounts at some places.

## Health Insurance

- Ohio State requires that outgoing students purchase the HTH Supplemental Insurance, this will cover the student's time while studying. However, if a student decided to travel before or after specific program dates, the HTH supplemental insurance will not cover any illness or injury. It is recommended that students contact their health insurance providers before traveling. In the case that a student requires medical attention out of the HTH time period, it is important to know how to deal with copayments, insurance, etc. Specific questions about health insurance can be directed to OIA (Office of International Affairs).

## FOOD AND DRINK

### Grocery Stores

- Lidl – this German-owned supermarket chain is EXTREMELY cheap and convenient. The products are not the best, but this shopping trip won't hurt your wallet.
- Tesco – a little more expensive, but offers a wider selection and better products.
- Dunnes – again more expensive, but also offers a wider selection and better products

### Dining

- Restaurants are expensive, so be sure to check websites or a Lonely Planet guide for more details.
- Temple Bar is a historic area of Dublin, home to a number of bars and restaurants offering live music as well as traditional Irish food. Try the bangers and mash!
- The tap water in Dublin is totally safe and drinkable.
- Tipping – It is not common to tip at bars or restaurants unless the total amount is quite high.

## MONEY

### Using an ATM

- Students have found that their US banks charge a percentage of the amount that is withdrawn internationally. Some charge a flat fee when using an ATM and this usually proves to be a better option. Talk to your bank about the different options they offer for international travel.
- Capital One offers credit cards that do not charge international fees. This can save a significant amount over the duration of travel. Look into all options to see what will work best for your circumstance.
- ATM's are available all over the city.
- While cash is the only form of payment taken at many places, be smart about the amount that you carry at any given time. Carrying an excessive amount of money makes you more vulnerable in certain situations. The stores that have high price tags will most likely take credit cards.

### Establishing a bank account in your host country

- Trinity College requires students to open a bank account in



### Dublin.

- Past students have encouraged using Bank of Ireland (BOI). BOI is located across the street from Trinity as well as offering an office inside the College.
- Students can open an account and transfer money from home, and then use a BOI debit card to be used for cash withdrawal and purchasing. This will eliminate any fees you may have associated with your American credit card.
- Another option is to only use money in the account for rent and utilities.



### Credit and Bank Cards

- Students can then use a US debit card to withdraw money from ATMs. Students are encouraged not to use debit or credit cards from home to pay for items such as food, clothing, gifts etc. as this can result in fees.
- Also, some students have found it beneficial to withdrawal larger amounts of money at a time rather than smaller increments because of the likeliness of the hefty fees it can accrue.
- Again, make sure you check bank fees. If students choose to use their card for minor purchases the fees can accrue quickly. It is a better idea to carry some cash around with you for this reason.
- Students are encouraged to write down the customer service numbers on all credit cards and keep the numbers with them in case cards are stolen and cancellation is necessary.

### Travelers Checks

- Though travelers' checks may have once been the safest way to manage money while traveling, they may not be the best option. Traveler's checks are only good once converted. Therefore, if a student plans to use traveler's checks, it is recommended that this be only part of the whole money management scheme.

### Other

- Past students have recommended having backup solutions to problems you might face in advance. For example losing your credit card. Come up with a backup plan to what you would do if this were to happen because it takes a while to get a new credit card to be sent overseas. (i.e.: have a second credit card stored in a different place, pay for the entire group dinner when going out and then have everyone pay back in cash, etc.) (2013)
- Past students have recommended making a rough budget for your expenses abroad to avoid missing out in activities at the end of the semester. For example, one student limited her expenses to \$2000 a month while abroad. (2013)

For more information about using credit cards and ATMs abroad and the related fees, visit [http://www.flyerguide.com/wiki/index.php/Credit/Debit/ATM\\_Cards\\_and\\_Foreign\\_Exchange](http://www.flyerguide.com/wiki/index.php/Credit/Debit/ATM_Cards_and_Foreign_Exchange)

### PHONE AND INTERNET

#### Using a phone from home

- If planning to use a phone from home, do homework with respect to cost. In the past students have realized that using devices such as smartphones with international capabilities can be much more expensive than planned.
- An international SIM card will be necessary, and can be purchased at a phone outlet upon arriving.
- Some iPhones can be unlocked for use abroad, in which case an international SIM card may be inserted. Check with your mobile carrier before attempting this.
- Some phone providers have international calling to emergency numbers only, or they charge you an insane fee when used. Some students have suggested bringing your phone from home if you have this option; it gives a sense of security when first arriving at the airport.

#### Buying an international phone

- Students can go to any of the phone providers in Ireland to purchase a prepaid phone with top up credit (call minutes). After the initial purchase students can buy top up credit at grocery or convenient stores around the city.
- Phones and plans can be as cheap or expensive as the student makes them. An unlocked phone can be purchased anywhere from 20 euro, and top up can cost anywhere from 20 to 50 euro per month depending on usage.
- There are numerous phone companies in Ireland. Students are encouraged to look into which will be the most appropriate to cater to his or her needs.

#### Internet

- Wireless internet is available on Trinity campus, but not all areas of campus have reliable internet. Some cafes offer free wifi as long as you are a paying customer.
- If a student's apartment or dorm does not have wireless, there is an option called broadband. This device plugs into the computer's USB port and connects to the internet. Students can top up broadband as they would a cell phone. A broadband device can be purchased at cell phone retailers. With broadband, students can get wireless internet wherever there is cell phone coverage.



#### International Communication

- When calling home, Skype video use is free with wifi access! This is a great option for keeping in touch with friends and family from home as well as those met while traveling.
  - o Help parents and friends set up and learn how to use Skype before traveling.
  - o Purchasing Skype credit allows students to call a landline or a cell phone back home at a lower rate. When internet is available this can reduce the hassle involved with international calling cards. Users can also pay \$6-

\$10 for a month of unlimited calls to any landline or cell phone in the U.S. from their computers.

- G-chat is also a favorite channel of communication for students. It has a G-Video option as well. It can be more convenient than Skype because it is more user-friendly. Which mode of communication you choose ultimately depends on your preferences. It is recommended to explore both programs before departure so you can inform family members which you will be using.
- If you want friends to be able to call you, leave voicemails, or leave text messages like a regular cell phone, you can sign up for Google voice. You will need to use a VPN (virtual private network) but students have said that it is well worth it. With Google voice, you receive a US telephone number that works like a landline. If you have to make business calls while abroad, this can be a great tool! For more information go to: <http://www.google.com/googlevoice/about.html>.

### SAFETY TIPS

- Dublin is fairly safe, but like any other large city, students are advised to walk in groups at night.
- Be aware of all surroundings and keep your items close to you at all times. If staying in hostels it is advised to bring a lock to protect your valuables. Avoid bringing anything of extreme sentimental value.
- Keep emergency numbers specific to your host country with you at all times.
- As noted above, the South is considered safer than the North and D2 is safer than D1.

### TRANSPORTATION AND TRAVEL

#### Walking

- Dublin is relatively small, allowing students to walk virtually everywhere.
- Trinity College is located in the middle of the city which makes it easily accessible and close to shopping, restaurants, and nightlife.

#### Public Transportation

- The bus system in Dublin is called Dublin Bus, it is very easy to use. It is easiest to have exact change for the ride but you will receive a receipt to receive your change elsewhere if not. Students can purchase bus passes at Swar and Centra. However, some have found that depending on where they are living they may not need a bus pass. Buy individual rides for the first couple of times to see if it is worth the money.
- Take the earlier bus ride if possible, they tend to be late.
- The LUAS is the light rail system that services the city of Dublin. This is a good way to get from one side of the city to the other quickly. For more information visit: [www.luas.ie](http://www.luas.ie).
- Trains are available for travel around the country. For more information visit: [www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)

#### Biking

- Riding a bike in Dublin can get pretty crazy. Most bicyclists ride in the street with heavy traffic and wild drivers. Also, the change in traffic direction from the US makes things confusing. It is not recommended.

#### International Travel

- For the flight over to your destination and back, utilize StudentUniverse.com. Students have had great luck with affordable prices. Other recommended websites include [kayak.com](http://kayak.com) and [aerlingus.com](http://aerlingus.com). 7



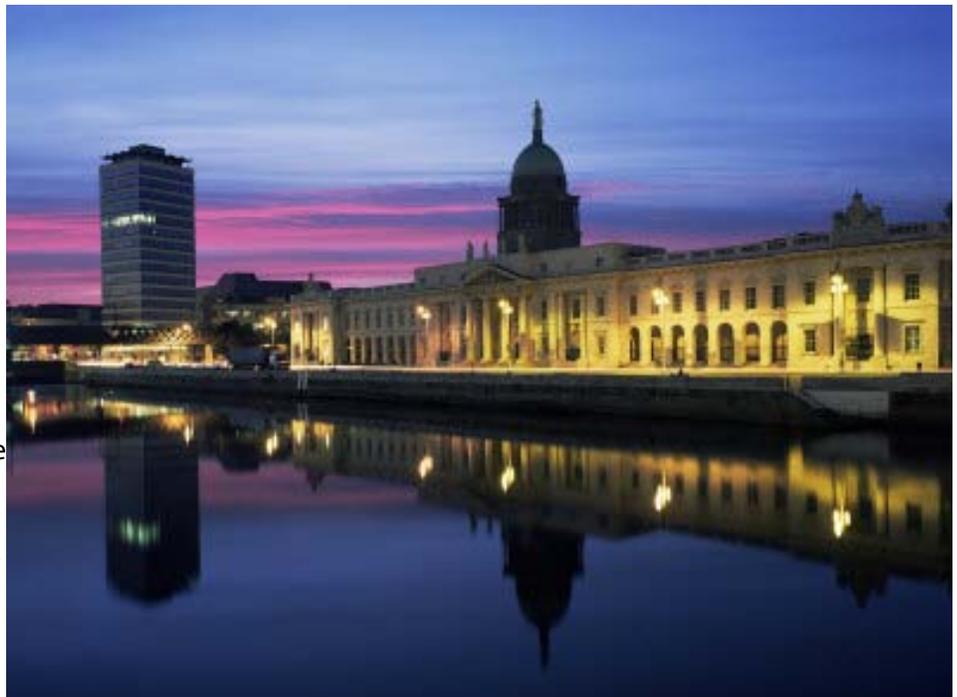
- Recommended airlines for travel around Europe are Ryanair.com, Easyjet.com, and BMIBaby.com. When flying Ryanair, be sure to be aware of all regulations and rules. They are quick to charge you in any way possible, especially with oversized luggage.
- With affordability comes the possibility of delays and cancellations with these airlines. They will rebook you if it may just take time. Take situations in stride.
- Students have recommended avoiding AirBerlin if possible, due to their frequent delays and cancellations.
- If possible print out any boarding passes prior to arriving at the airport or you may have to pay an additional fee. Also, double and triple check your bag measurements. These airlines are very adamant on their luggage regulations and will impose hefty fees for any passengers that bags do not apply.
- After landing at the airport there is a bus called Air Coach that can take students directly to the city center. Air Coach is cheap, convenient and quick. Buses are located right outside baggage claim. For more information visit: [www.aircoach.ie](http://www.aircoach.ie)

### Air Travel

- Recommended airlines for travel around Europe are Ryanair.com, Easyjet.com, and BMIBaby.com. When flying Ryanair, be sure to be aware of all regulations and rules. They are quick to charge you in any way possible, especially with oversized luggage.
- For booking tickets to and from home, recommended websites include [kayak.com](http://kayak.com) and [aerlingus.com](http://aerlingus.com).

### Places to Visit

- A number of bus companies offer tours of the countryside. These can be a fun way to experience both the natural beauty and rich history of Ireland.
- When traveling to Northern Ireland, remember that Northern Ireland is part of the UK and uses pounds. It might be wise to change some currency before leaving.
- Two highly recommended places to visit are Howth, a short train ride from Dublin that is quaint and on the sea. Glendalough is about 30 minutes from Dublin and doing a bus-tour is the easiest way to get there and have a complete experience.
- Belfast and Giant's Causway, Dublin Zoo, Galway, Cork, Dublin castle, Book of Kells, The Pav (2013)
- Joining the DUIS (Dublin University International Student Society) has proved to be a great way for students to travel around Ireland cheaply. The society sets up weekend and day long trips throughout the semester around Ireland for a fair price. (2012)



### Hostels

- Hostels offer a great way to sleep for cheap while traveling. Staying in a hostel can be a great and exciting way to meet people.
- Most hostels provide lots of information about what to do in the city. Check them out!
- Many cities offer free walking tours and cheap pub crawls that often meet outside a given hostel. These are both great ways to learn about different cities and meet people from all over the world. Be warned that the guides for the free walking tours are paid by way of donations, and expect gratuities at the end of the tour.
- For a great listing of hostels all over the world visit: [www.hostelworld.com](http://www.hostelworld.com)

### UNIVERSITY TIPS

#### Courses

- At Trinity the style of learning differs in a number of ways from Ohio State. In a classroom, it is unusual for someone to speak up and ask the professor questions as few courses involve participation points. Also, some classes are graded entirely on a single exam or paper. Be advised that it is extremely rare for professors to give A's. If you receive an A it implies that your knowledge of the subject is equal to that of the professor. There are Trinity to OSU grade conversions that account for this.
- It is a very laid back institution. They rarely get stressed out about anything. The faculty and administration work very slowly, and the work ethic that we are used to at Fisher seems strange and overwhelming to them.
- Registering for classes is not done online.
- Professors are not as supportive and the classes are very hands off. They typically include less group work and more of a lecture focus. (2013)
- Going abroad in spring was a bit challenging since you jump into the middle of the class. All courses at Trinity are usually a one year class. (2013)

#### Dress

- People dress up for class. Unlike Ohio State, it is not generally acceptable to walk around in sweatpants and a hat.

#### Facilities

- Trinity College offers a number of facilities including a new gym with a swimming pool and rock climbing station, a student union with food and meeting rooms, and an extensive library which includes the Book of Kells (not to be missed). All is located on campus.

#### Other

- Trinity offers student Buddies to help internationals get settled. This is a great way to meet Irish students as well as other internationals, along with learning about Dublin and Trinity College. Additionally, many of these students will be studying business or economics which can be helpful in getting adjusted to classes.
- Orientation is a great way to get familiar with the University and to better understand the academic system. Also, be sure to check out the involvement fair which takes place in the Trinity entrance.. There are a lot of great student organizations to join.
- One of the student organizations that past students recommend is the International Student Society. They have found the group being a great way to socialize and network. (2013)
- The website can be very helpful as well: <http://web.trinity.edu/>
- It is advised that you be very open minded and patient when you are on exchange. Not everything is going to go your way while abroad and you will hit major road blocks that you've never encountered before, but its best to just keep an opened mind and don't let things get you down. The times that don't go exactly as planned are going

to be the biggest learning experiences. (2013)

If there are further questions or concerns, different resources are available that students can utilize. The Office of Global Business will be a resource throughout the entire trip. Past students have also volunteered to be a contact if additional questions would arise.

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