

Guide for International Students



University College Cork, Ireland

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh



A degree from University College Cork ensures our international graduates are 'World Ready and Work Ready'. We are unrivalled in the quality of our academic programmes and research, the beauty of our campus and its vibrant student life. We have a student body of over 20,000 and 3,000 are international students. Each year UCC welcomes students from over 104 countries, so whatever you choose to study, you'll soon make many friends from across the world.

Why Study at University College Cork



- UCC has been named Sunday Times Irish University of the Year for a record breaking fifth time
- UCC is the world's first Green Flag Campus. It pioneers sustainable practices and provides a safe and friendly environment.
- UCC is ranked in the 2% of universities worldwide according to the major World University Rankings Services,
- UCC Voted the safest campus in Ireland and one of safest in the world
- UCC international students are amongst happiest in Ireland
- UCC ranked 1st in Ireland for Sports Facilities

Before you arrive

Do I need a VISA?

- EU citizens do not require a visa to travel to Ireland. Visiting Students from the US do not require a student visa. They are however, required to register with Immigration in Cork. Check if you need a visa here. Please note first time visa applicants are issued with single entry visas only. Multiple entry visas are only issued after registration with the University and after registration for long term residency in Ireland is granted.
- If you require a visa please apply as soon as possible as processing times can be lengthy, typically 6-8 weeks, however may be longer depending on country of origin, peak season or other circumstances.
- All non-EU citizens must register with Immigration for long term residency, even if you do not require a visa to travel to Ireland.

Entering Ireland

- Everyone must clear through Immigration controls, at the port of entry/airport, to enter Ireland.
- The Immigration Officer decides who is permitted to enter the country.
- S/he will stamp your passport with short term permission to stay, normally for one month but up to 90 days. Please ensure your student status is recorded on entry as it is not possible to change status, for example from visitor to student, without exiting and re-entering the country.
- Long term permission to reside in Ireland is obtained by registering with the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) within the time limit stamped on the passport (please see the registering with Immigration to stay in Ireland section below for more information).
- We recommend that you have the following documents ready to show the Immigration Officer:
 - Your valid international passport
 - Entry visa (if applicable)
 - Your UCC acceptance letter offering you a place on a full-time course
 - Health Insurance
 - Proof of funds

Do I need a VISA?

Why do I need to register with Immigration?

- All non-EU students must register with Immigration to obtain long term permission to reside in Ireland.
- An Irish Residence Permit card* is issued to students granted long term permission to live in Ireland.
- Please remember that you are a guest in Ireland and the issuing of your Immigration/Residency/card is at the discretion of the Irish government.
- *Irish Residence Permit (IRP) is in effect since December 2017. It was formally known as the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB). It is the same process, the name has just changed.

How to make an appointment?

1. Email corkcity.immigration@garda.ie with all of these details included. An appointment will not be issued without providing these details.
2. **One person** per appointment.
Each Student must request their own appointment using their own email address.
3. Block Booking of appointments is strictly forbidden.
4. **Only Arrive 5 minutes** prior to appointment time.
5. **Strictly No queuing** is permitted.

You must bring:

1. Appointment Confirmation email.
2. Completed IRP form.
3. All original supporting documentation detailed on IRP form.
4. If permission is based on a family member, family member must be present at registration.
5. Students should use their Debit/Credit Card instead of a Bank Giro, where possible, as this will minimise the number of visits to the Immigration Office.
6. If a student is using another person's debit/credit card, the cardholder must be present with Photo I.D., they should remain outside the Garda Station until they are called by the student and asked to present at the registration desk.
7. Please refer to www.irishimmigration.ie for further details of documents required in relation to your registration.



Cost of Living

Cost of living may vary greatly according to your lifestyle and choices you make whilst studying at UCC. The following decisions will impact your costs:

- Type and standard of accommodation
- Cooking for yourself or eating in campus restaurants
- Course textbooks and equipment
- Leisure activities
- Transport costs

It is best to work out what your estimated income and expenditure will be and budget accordingly.

Please note the following approximate figures serve as a guide only.

Expense	Average Cost Range per month
Option 1 - On Campus Accommodation	€600 - €680
Option 2 - Private Complex	€600 - €1,000
Option 3- Private rental (house share)	€500 – 600 (bills not included)
Utilities (Electric/Gas/Refuse)	€30 - €50
Food	€250 - €350
Travel (Monthly Bus Ticket)	€65 - €85
Textbook & Materials	€ 75
Mobile Phone	€ 20
Personal Expenses (Social/ Sports)	€200 - €300
Overall Expense (excluding Accommodation)	€640 - €880
Overall Expense (including Accommodation)	€1,240 - €1880

Accommodation

UCC knows how important it is to find the right student housing. Campus Accommodation is university owned and managed apartment style living. Other Housing Options include purpose built student apartment complexes as well as rooms in a private house or apartment. The Accommodation & Community Life office focuses on providing an up-to-date information service for students actively seeking student accommodation.

UCC Campus Accommodation

UCC Campus Accommodation offer several different residences near the main UCC campus. These residences are owned and managed by UCC, and are specifically designed for student life, offering security, a reception service and other amenities.

Privately Owned Student Apartment Complexes

Cork boasts a wide range of purpose built student accommodation (apartment style), which is privately owned, but caters predominantly to UCC students. We recommend that students consider all options when investigating their accommodation needs. You will find a full list of privately owned accommodation providers on our website:

www.ucc.ie/en/accommodation/privateapartmentcomplexes

Private Housing Options

The University is situated in a pleasant residential area where there is a wide variety of private housing options to suit individuals or groups. Students can rent a room in a landlord owned student house or a room in a house that is occupied by the owner (known as Digs). Rents can vary according to size, type, location, distance from the University and facilities.

Please see studentpad.ucc.ie/Students to search for private rental homes and owner occupied houses. We strongly recommend that students book their accommodation early before arriving in Ireland to ensure your needs are met.

You should only book when it's safe to do so, being mindful of scams. You will find advice on how to spot these scams on the Accommodation & Life website. If you have any concerns, feel free to email resservices@ucc.ie before making a financial commitment.

Getting to Cork

Getting to Cork city from your home country may involve several modes of transport. To help you make as smooth a journey as possible we have provided some basic information about airports, inter city buses, local buses and train services here in Ireland.

Airport

Cork Airport

Cork airport is located 6 km from the city centre and 7.5km from University College Cork. A taxi journey, with little traffic, takes approximately 20 minutes and costs approximately €20. Everything you need to know about Cork airport, including transport connections, is available on the Cork Airport website at <http://www.corkairport.com/>.

Dublin and Shannon Airports

You may be flying into Dublin airport (<https://www.dublinairport.com/home.aspx>) or Shannon airport (<http://www.shannonairport.ie/gns/Passengers/Home.aspx>), or via Amsterdam, Paris or London, which have frequent direct connections with Cork. Whichever way you arrive, there are a number of possibilities for getting to Cork. There are frequent connections by train or bus, which are detailed on the airport websites.

Trains

Cork City Train Station

Kent Train Station

Irish Rail is the company operating the train network in Ireland on behalf of the Irish government. Kent Train Station is the main station in Cork. To get the train from Dublin to Cork you need to go to Heuston Station, Dublin. Trains to Cork leave every hour, and details of schedules and fares are available at <http://www.irishrail.ie/>. It may be considerably cheaper to book train tickets online rather than at the ticket office in the train station. The journey will take approximately 3 hours.

Details of all train connections in and out of Cork Kent Train station are available at <http://www.irishrail.ie/>

Buses

Intercity Buses

There are several intercity bus companies operating routes to Cork. Bus Eireann is the national bus company run by the government (<http://www.buseireann.ie/>). Aircoach (<http://www.aircoach.ie/>) is a privately owned company as is GoBus (<http://www.gobus.ie/>), both of which operate a direct service from Dublin airport to Cork city centre. The journey from Dublin airport to Cork city will take approximately 3 and half hours. Regular bus services connect Shannon Airport to Limerick, from where you may take a bus or a train to Cork: the journey takes less than two hours. For up to date information about connections from Irish airports to Irish cities log on to the bus companies website or check out the airports' websites.

Cork City Buses

Cork Parnell Place Bus Station

Bus Eireann operate the bus services in Cork city. The number 205 departs from Cork Kent train station, and connects to UCC via the city centre's St. Patrick Street, not far from Parnell Bus Station, the main bus station. The number 208 departs from the city centre St. Patrick's Street and stops at the UCC as well as several of the Campus Accommodation residences. Timetables and fare details are available at <http://www.buseireann.ie/>.





Health Insurance

You must have health insurance for your entire stay in Ireland. Immigration officers may ask you for proof of this when you arrive.

Non-EU students must obtain private health insurance. You can purchase insurance in your home country, however you will need to ensure that it is valid in Ireland and in any other countries you plan to travel to. There are different levels of private health insurance available. Students are advised to read their policy documents carefully. Immigration Service Delivery (ISD) requires that, if you have health insurance from your own country it must cover you up to €25,000 for in-hospital treatment.

If you are coming to Ireland to study on an academic course of one year or less, basic medical expenses insurance is available for approximately €160 from Study and Protect. This insurance policy will satisfy the visa/immigration requirement for private health insurance and can be obtained before students arrive in Ireland.

If you are coming to Ireland to study on an academic course of more than one year, you are deemed 'ordinary resident' from the moment you arrive in Ireland, and therefore require more comprehensive health insurance.

Please review details below to learn about your health insurance requirements and options.

Health Insurance | ICOS (internationalstudents.ie)

Options for Private Health Insurance

- A** Obtain health cover from home country. Please ensure that it is valid in Ireland. Please note that in cases where there is a high deductible (excess) it may be less expensive to purchase health insurance in Ireland.
- B** Obtain private health insurance from providers operating in the Irish Market.
- C** Some students have also availed of the services of Bupa Global. Details are available at www.ihi.com



After your arrive

Opening a Bank Account

It is of great benefit to students to establish a banking connection as soon as they arrive on campus. Staff in the Bank of Ireland understand students' financial arrangements and can offer financial advice suitable to students' needs. In order to open a bank account you will need your passport/driver's licence/national I.D. and proof of home address.

Working in Ireland

Non EEA students

Non-EEA students with Stamp 2 permission to remain are allowed to take up casual employment. They can work up to 20 hours a week during term time and up to 40 hours a week in the holidays. Holiday periods have been standardised - June to September inclusive and from 15 December to 15 January. Students with stamp 2A permission are not allowed to work.

For the most up to date information you may wish to consult the following websites: <http://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/> or www.inis.gov.ie.

It is not realistic to rely on a part time job to fund your studies. Visa requiring students will be required to have sufficient funds to cover costs of the entire course.

How do I get a part-time job?

Part-time jobs are in short supply. Those fortunate enough to have part-time work recognise this coveted position and consequently there is very little turnover of staff. It appears Employers no longer need to advertise vacancies as they can fill posts through word of mouth, personal recommendations or speculative applications.

UCC - My Student Jobs Portal

However, UCC has its very own new 'one-stop' jobs portal <http://mystudentjob.ucc.ie/>, a collaborative venture between Student Development and Employability, UCC Human Resources and the Students' Union. The portal aims to provide UCC students with the opportunity to gain access to a wide listing of temporary, casual and part-time work; in addition to providing support for local business with a free, timely and efficient way to advertise their vacancies to UCC students.

The bank is located in Áras na Mac Léinn/Student Centre. ATM cash dispenser machines are also located in Áras na Mac Léinn/Student Centre and in the Main Restaurant. Information on the service provided by Bank of Ireland and the bank's opening hours is available at studentcentre.ucc.ie

Other sources include the notice board in the Student Centre, in newspapers, in shop windows and by word of mouth. You may also approach managers directly and ask if they have any vacancies for part-time workers.

In the event that you do find a part-time position you will face steep competition. You will most likely be required to complete an application form or to submit a curriculum vitae/resume. You will probably be interviewed for the post. If you are successful it is not uncommon to have a probationary period before becoming a permanent part-time employee.

Ireland's National minimum wage

The national minimum wage for an experienced adult employee is €10.50 per hour. An experienced adult employee for the purposes of the National Minimum Wage Act is an employee who has an employment of any kind in any 2 years over the age of 18. The national minimum wage is reviewed at regular intervals. Further information is available from <http://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/>.



How to Apply for a PPS Number in Cork



Personal Public Service Number (PPS Number) is a unique reference number that helps you access social welfare benefits, public services and information in Ireland. State agencies that use PPS Numbers to identify individuals include the Department of Social Protection, the Revenue Commissioners and the Health Service Executive (HSE).

In order to take up employment you will require a PPS number. In essence it is a taxation number. PPS numbers are issued by the Department of Social Protection. When making an application, you will need to present the following:

1. Passport
2. Proof of Address
3. Immigration card
4. UCC Student ID Card
5. Letter from UCC Exams/Records Office confirming your student registration

Note: You must be fully registered with UCC, prior to applying for a PPS number as you need to present your UCC Student ID Card.

Student Development and Employability



Vision: The Careers Service supports students to understand their career interests, evaluate and assess career opportunities and effectively implement their career decisions.

In achieving our vision the Careers Service provides a wide range of services, which are categorised as follows:

1. Careers Advice and Guidance
2. Undergraduate Work Placement
3. Employer Relations and Graduate Recruitment



Welcome Programme

The Welcome Programme is organised by the International Office for newly arrived international students. It is specifically designed to help with the initial adjustment to living in Cork and studying at UCC. The programme is full of events and activities providing a great opportunity to make new friends- both with Irish students and other internationals. The range of activities includes a familiarisation tour of UCC campus, a practical walking tour of Cork city, cinema, day trips, as well as Irish music and Irish dancing. Participation is free of charge, however, there is a limited number of places for some events, such as day trips, and they book out quickly. Feedback from previous participants has been extremely positive. We look forward to meeting you and your participation in the programme.

Freshers' Week

The Registrar's Office is organising a welcome weekend for new students called Freshers' Fest. The fest takes place the weekend before term starts. It involves activities such as drama, music, cookery demonstrations, exhibitions, tours of campus, the library, the Glucksman Art Gallery and the Mardyke Sports Arena. Food stalls will be set up on campus for the day providing something special for everybody.

Workshops are also an essential part of the fest. There will be two elements to the workshops: (a) generic academic skills and (b) life skills. These workshops will give you a head start on student life and will help you to settle into UCC. Please keep an eye on the following link for further information: www.uccsu.ie

Welcome Meeting

All International Students are invited to attend one of our many Welcome Meetings hosted by Suzanne Buckley, Support Officer for International Students. As well as the opportunity to meet fellow students, advice and information for the initial adjustment to living in Ireland is provided. At the Welcome Meetings students will also learn more about the events coming up over the coming weeks.

Tentative Dates:

Tuesday 30th August 2022

Wednesday 31st August 2022

Thursday 1st September 2022

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