

SLU Ireland Student Handbook

Location, Ireland, Galway and the University

1.1 Ireland

Ireland is an island of five million people located in the Northwest of Europe and is a member of the European Union. Long renowned for its culture, it has a strong tradition of developmental and educational links with other nations.

Almost 40% of the Irish population is under the age of twenty five. Ireland has an excellent educational infrastructure and a high rate of participation in third-level education. Its highly-skilled workforce makes Ireland an attractive location for international corporations and industrialists. Irish graduates have distinguished themselves as leaders of economic, social and cultural development in Ireland and throughout the world. NUI Galway is a leading institution in the Irish tertiary education sector.

Ireland is one of six celtic nations with its distinctive Irish (Gaelic) culture and language. Although Irish is its first official language, English is now the most common language in daily use. However, Irish is still the first language of Gaeltacht (Gaelic speaking) communities which are located mainly on the west coast of Ireland.

1.2 Galway and the West of Ireland

Galway, with a population of 65,000, is the third largest city in the Republic of Ireland and one of Europe's fastest growing urban centres. It is a vibrant, cosmopolitan city, with a thriving cultural and commercial community. Settled by the Kings of Connacht and Norman traders in the Twelfth Century, Galway grew steadily in the middle ages. In 1484, the English monarch, King Richard III granted the city its charter.

Traces of Galway's rich medieval past can still be seen today in the city. The most impressive is Lynch's Castle in Shop Street, now in daily use as a bank. At St. Nicholas Collegiate Church, according to tradition, Christopher Columbus prayed before setting out on his voyage of discovery to the 'New World'. The Spanish Arch - so named because of Galway's maritime trade with Spain - is located close to the Claddagh - a traditional nineteenth century fishing village on the banks of the River Corrib.

Because of its dynamic and pioneering role in theatre, arts and culture, Galway has earned the title 'Cultural Capital of Ireland'. The world renowned Druid Theatre Company, the Macnas Street Theatre Company and An Taibhdhearc, the National Irish Language theatre, are all located in the city centre. The close proximity of the Connemara 'Gaeltacht', the country's largest Irish speaking community and location of the Irish-language television service, Teilifís na Gaeilge, gives a distinctive 'Gaelic' dimension to the cultural life of Galway.

1.3 The University

The University was founded in 1845 as Queen's College, Galway. It was one of three Queen's Colleges founded under the Queen's College (Ireland) Act, 1845, the others being located in Belfast and Cork. The College opened for students in October 1849.

By the Irish Universities Act (1908), Queen's College, Galway became a constituent College of the new National University of Ireland, and under a new charter, the name of the College was changed to University College, Galway.

In 1929, the College was given a special statutory responsibility under the University College Galway Act in respect of the use of the Irish language as a working language in the College.

Under the Universities Act, 1997, University College, Galway was reconstituted as a University, under the name of Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh / National University of Ireland, Galway, and became a Constituent University of the National University of Ireland (together with NUI Cork, NUI Dublin and NUI Maynooth).

Since the 1960s, the University has experienced significant and continuous growth, both in its stock of buildings, facilities and physical resources and also in the number of its students and staff. Its student body now numbers 15,000 (over 11,600 fulltime), with academically strong programmes of teaching and research throughout its seven Faculties of

- Arts
- Celtic Studies
- Commerce
- Engineering
- Law
- Medicine and Health Sciences
- Science

The campus itself is situated on the banks of the River Corrib, close to the centre of Galway, on a most attractive site. The original mid-nineteenth century University buildings are in a Tudor architectural style. The old stone quadrangle, at the heart of the University, is flanked by new buildings, reflecting the steady growth, in quality and in numbers, of the University.

Programmes of Study

Applicants are required to complete carefully the section of the application dealing with 'Subject choice and/or Course choice' (section 9). Applicants are not required to specify the exact courses they intend to take, if admitted, but are required to indicate the general subject areas in which they intend to take courses (e.g. English, History, Management, Chemistry, Political Science) and should clearly indicate any courses they are required to take. Students should also indicate the subjects of their declared majors (section 11 of Application Form).

The courses offered are the normal courses of the University.

Courses are available from the Faculties of the University. With the exception of first year courses they are generally organised on a semester basis. A wide range of courses are offered in the following disciplines:

Faculty of Arts (Humanities, Languages, Social Sciences)

Archaeology, Celtic Civilisation, Classical Civilization, Economics, English, French, Geography, German, Greek (Ancient), History, Information Technology, Italian, Latin, Law, Mathematical Physics, Mathematics (including Statistics), Philosophy, Political Science and Sociology, Psychology*, Spanish and Women's Studies.

** Not all courses in Psychology are available to Visiting Students*

For information on the Arts Faculty, refer to http://www.nuigalway.ie/arts/overseas_students.html

Faculty of Commerce (business, Economics)

Accountancy and Finance, Economics, Management, Management Information Systems and Marketing.

For information on the Commerce Faculty, refer to http://www.nuigalway.ie/faculties_departments/commerce/visiting_students.html

Faculty of Science

Anatomy, Biochemistry, Botany, Chemistry, Earth and Ocean Sciences, Mathematical Physics, Mathematics, Microbiology, Oceanography, Pharmacology, Physics (Applied; Experimental), Physiology, Zoology.

For information the Science Faculty, refer to <http://www.nuigalway.ie/science/>

Faculty of Engineering*

Civil Engineering, Electronic Engineering, Industrial Engineering and Information Systems, Information Technology, Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering.

**Some courses are examined in Spring (March/April).*

For information on the Engineering Faculty, refer to <http://www.nuigalway.ie/engineering/visitingstudents.html>

School of Nursing Studies

For information on the Centre for Nursing Studies*, including courses on offer, refer to <http://www.nuigalway.ie/cns/>

**Not all courses are available to Visiting Students.*

The final list of courses on offer in an academic year is not normally available until the preceding July. Students may review current course offerings by following links from:
http://www.nuigalway.ie/arts/overseas_students.html

The notes at the beginning of the information booklet provide an introduction to the principal issues to be considered in selecting courses and to other regulatory matters. Courses are not pre-registered and students have a period of time after the commencement of semester to finalise their course selection.

The menu of courses remains largely the same from year to year, and the structure of the programme will not change. You should therefore consult the course lists together with any restrictions stated. Students having Major or Minor requirements to be completed at this University, especially in Psychology, and in the subjects of English (literature), History, Sociology and Politics, need to be particularly aware of the programmes as offered and any restrictions which may apply to course selection.

Travel & Arrival

3.1 Travel

The major airports in Ireland are at Dublin (on the east coast, approximately 135 miles from Galway) and Shannon (on the west coast, approximately 55 miles from Galway). Galway has a smaller airport approximately 5 miles from the city. There are no trans-Atlantic flights to Galway.

Dublin to Galway

Dublin airport is on the outskirts of the city. Buses leave Dublin Airport approximately every 20 minutes for the Central Bus Station (Busáras). Many of these buses continue to Heuston Railway Station, from which trains for Galway depart. You can also get a taxi from the airport to the centre of the city but the bus is much cheaper.

To Galway by Train

There is a frequent train service from Dublin (Heuston Station) to Galway. The journey takes approximately three hours.

To Galway by Bus

There is a regular bus service from the Dublin Central bus station (Busáras) to Galway. The journey takes about four hours. Some private bus operators also run scheduled buses from Dublin Airport to Galway. Contact the information desk at the airport for further details.

Shannon to Galway

There is a regular bus service from Shannon Airport to Galway. The journey takes approximately one and one half hours.

All train timetables can be accessed on the following WWW address:

<http://www.irishrail.ie/>

All bus timetables can be accessed on the following WWW address:

<http://www.buseireann.ie/>

You can avail of a reduced rate for travel on bus and train journeys once you have an International Student Identity Card with a travelsave stamp.

Arrival in Galway

Upon your arrival at Galway Station there are taxis which can take you to your final destination.

Before your arrival in Galway, it is advisable to arrange temporary accommodation if long-term accommodation has not already been secured. See the section on accommodation (5.5 below) for further details.

3.2 Immigration Procedure

United States of America and Canadian passport-holders do not need visas. Visiting Students are required, however, to register with Immigration. The Immigration Office in Galway provides a registration service and you will be informed of the location of the office and dates on which the service is available as part of the University's Orientation Programme. On registration you will receive an Immigration certificate of registration (Registration Card). A fee of €100 will be charged in respect of the registration certificate.

For immigration registration you will need:

- Passport
- Student Identity Card
- Evidence of financial support e.g. Bank statement, letter from sponsoring body/university confirming financial status
- Personal Credit Card for payment of Immigration fee. If you do not have a credit card, you will be issued with a bank giro form by the Immigration officer and be requested to return with the completed bank giro form, confirming payment of the fee. Payment may be made at the bank on Campus.

3.3 Returning to North America

Visiting Students are strongly advised to book return flights having regard to the date of end of Examinations. Students returning before that date risk missing examinations. No special provision can be made. In the unusual event of a student selecting only courses which are examined by end of semester essay, such assessments will be completed prior to the Examination session.

4.1 The Academic Year

The academic year is divided into two semesters. Dates are as follows:

First Semester

Orientation	Wednesday, 29 August - Friday, 31 August, 2007
Teaching begins	Monday, 3 September, 2007
Teaching ends	Friday, 23 November, 2007
Examinations begin	Monday, 3 December, 2007
Examinations end	Friday, 14 December, 2007
Christmas Vacation	Saturday, 15 December, 2007 - Sunday, 13 January, 2008

Second Semester

Orientation	Wednesday, 9 January - Friday, 11 January, 2008
Teaching begins	Monday, 14 January, 2008
Easter Vacation	Saturday, 15 March - Sunday, 30th March, 2008
Teaching ends	Friday, 19th April, 2008
Study Week	Monday, 21 April - Thursday, 24 April, 2008
Examinations begin*	Friday, 25 April, 2008
Examinations end	Friday, 23 May, 2008

**Some Engineering courses are examined in March/April*

4.2 Courses on Offer and Course Descriptions

The final list of courses on offer in an academic year is not normally available until the preceding July. In practice, there is little change in the courses on offer from one year to the next. The disciplines in which courses are offered are listed above at 2.6 and details of the courses, including course descriptions, are available on the University Web site at http://www.nuigalway.ie/arts/overseas_students.html

4.3 Course Load

The course system at NUI Galway is different from that at North American Universities. A full course load is designated as follows:

Full Year:	60 ECTS
Semester:	30 ECTS

Depending on the courses being taken, students can expect to take 5 - 7 courses. The amount of class content time and work-load required is broadly similar to that in North American Universities. NUI Galway has long experience in dealing with North American institutions in the matter of credit transfer and course equivalence and can, on request, suggest a system to translate from ECTS to North American credits.

4.4 Admission to Courses

In making an application, you are requested to indicate only the disciplines in which you wish to take courses although students should also indicate any courses they are required to take while studying abroad and any requirements of their major(s) which they wish to fulfill. NUI Galway students are not required to select their courses before the commencement of the semester and therefore Visiting Students will be going through their course selection process at the same time as full degree students.

With a small number of exceptions, e.g. seminar classes in some subjects in final year, class size is not limited so that Visiting Students may expect to gain admission to classes they wish to take. Visiting Students, as part of the orientation process, are provided with comprehensive information on:

- courses on offer
- timetables
- venues
- examination arrangements

In addition, the departments providing courses most popular with Visiting Students provide advisory sessions for the students.

Students are given two weeks before being required to specify their choice of courses and a further 'drop/add' week is then allowed. The experience has been that a combination of the information provided, the advisory sessions, and the opportunity to attend classes before course registration is finalised, provides every opportunity for students to make an informed course choice.

4.5 Course Choice

Admission as a Visiting Student is granted in Faculty and subject areas. Within these areas, and in accordance with their own preferences, students may select courses subject only to class and examination timetable limitations. A wide range of courses are available but some restrictions do apply to course choice as follows:

- First year courses in all Faculties and a small number of other courses are offered on a year-long basis. They must be taken over the entire academic year and must be taken in their entirety.

Arising from this, a student who will be attending for one Semester only cannot select, either in the First Semester or the Second Semester, a course which is offered on a year-long basis.

- In all Faculties course prerequisites must be met.
- Not all Psychology courses are available to Visiting Students.
- In the subject Sociological and Political Studies admission to final year seminar courses will be limited.
- In the subject English, students may only select one seminar course per semester and admission to seminar courses is limited.
- In the subject History there are restrictions on the selection of seminar courses
- In Second Year Science, a quota system applies to all subjects. Therefore, class sizes are limited and places in subjects may not be available to visiting students. Permission for entry into any subject in Second Year Science must first be obtained from the Head of Department of the relevant subject. Applicants should therefore indicate clearly on their application forms any Science courses they may wish to take.

When selecting courses students should have regard to their academic and vocational objectives, and in order to make the selection that will best suit their need, they may need to consult with Faculty and Departmental staff. They will be referred to the appropriate Faculty Officers for assistance in these consultations.

Visiting Students are assumed to have serious academic objectives in coming to the University and are expected to satisfy all prescribed attendance and course exercises. Once the deadline for dropping or adding courses has passed, no further course changes are possible.

4.6 Registration

Separate procedures apply to registration as a student of National University of Ireland, Galway and to Course Registration (see 4.4 above). Students will receive a Registration Pack at Orientation giving details of registration procedures.

4.7 Assessment

It is University policy that Visiting Students undergo the same assessment as NUI, Galway degree students. Consequently, Visiting Students should not attempt to make alternative arrangements with individual members of staff.

Assessment is usually by end-of-semester examination or essay(s). In addition, departmental assessments may take place during the semester. However, the final end-of-semester assessment is that on which the final grade, or greater part thereof, for the course is based.

4.8 Transcripts and Grading Systems

NUI Galway will issue a transcript showing courses taken, the number of ECTS attaching to each course and the mark attained, in percentage terms. The University does not issue Grades. However, it will, if requested by the student's home institution, provide appropriate information to enable it to convert the University's results system to its own.

NUI Galway Grading System

First Class Honours	70% and above
Second-Class Honours, Grade 1	60% - 69%
Second-Class Honours, Grade 2	50% - 59%
Third-Class Honours	45% - 49%
Pass	40% - 44%
Fail	0% - 39%

Transcript Queries:

Queries regarding transcripts should be addressed to the:

International Office,
(Visiting Student Section),
National University of Ireland, Galway,
Ireland.
Telephone no. 353-91-492105
Facsimile no. 353-91-495551

4.9 Examination Appeals

Students may formally seek a check of their examination results or appeal those results. Further information is available at <http://www.nuigalway.ie/exams/>

4.10 Irish (Gaelic) Language Courses

The Irish language courses offered by the University as part of its degree programmes presuppose the student having taken Irish at primary and secondary level. Consequently, Visiting Students will generally not be in a position to avail of these courses. The University does, however, offer *voluntary, non-credit* bearing, Irish language classes to Visiting Students. These courses, if taken, are not included on the student's transcript.

4.11 ALIVE Programme

All Visiting Students at NUI Galway have the opportunity to become active within the wider local community through the ALIVE (A Learning Initiative and the Volunteering Experience) Volunteering Programme. ALIVE offers students an opportunity to access volunteering opportunities, gain skills based training, meet local people and attain a University Certificate for volunteer work undertaken in a variety of pathways. ALIVE was established by the University's Community Knowledge Initiative (CKI) in 2003 to harness, acknowledge and support the contribution that NUI Galway students make by volunteering. Since then over 1000 students have been recognised. The volunteering pathways include work with local community & non-governmental organisations, participation within societies and clubs, the NUI Galway Student Newspaper and Radio Station, working with disadvantaged students through the Access Office and mentoring first year students through the Student Connect Programme. For further information contact:

Lorraine Tansey

Student Volunteer Coordinator

Web: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/cki>

E-mail: studentvolunteering@nuigalway.ie

Tel: 091 495346

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

5.1 Office Opening Hours

The office hours of the University are as follows: 9.15 - 13.00 hrs and 14.15 - 17.15 hrs.

The offices are open Monday - Friday, apart from public holidays and short periods at Christmas and Easter.

5.2 Academic Advisory Services

Comprehensive academic advisory services are provided by Faculty offices and by academic departments.

5.3 International Student Officer

The International Student Officer, Mrs. Ann Monahan, provides an advice, information and support service for all International Students, and arranges social and cultural events. She acts as an identifiable point of contact with the various Student Services in the University to ensure that any problems of adjustment are minimised. She helps International Students adjust as quickly as possible to their new environment, so that they can derive maximum benefit and enjoyment from their life at NUI Galway.

Mrs. Monahan may be contacted at:
International Office, National University of Ireland, Galway.
Tel 353 91 493581, e-mail: ann.monahan@nuigalway.ie

5.4 Orientation

In September and January each year, orientation programmes are organised by the International Student Officer to provide practical information and advice for new students on living in Galway, and to introduce the students to academic and administrative staff of the University and to Student Services personnel. The sessions include information on procedures which must be completed by incoming Visiting Students, services and facilities of the University as well as other general information. Registration procedures will also be explained and representatives from the various faculties will be present to offer advice.

The dates of the orientation programme are set out at 4.1 above.

The programme is designed to help the student settle into university life and the new environment as quickly and easily as possible. Included in the programme is a guided tour of the campus, and of Galway city. A reception at the conclusion of the programme, hosted by the President of the University, gives the new students the opportunity to meet University staff and fellow students in an informal atmosphere. All students are strongly advised to attend the Orientation session.

In addition, the faculties and departments in which Visiting Students take the majority of their courses provide introductory talks which cover academic matters of relevance to Visiting students.

5.5 Restaurant Facilities

There are a number of restaurants and snack bars available on the campus which are open throughout the day and evening. These cater for a variety of tastes and offer good value and choice.

Note that the University does not offer a 'meal plan' option.

5.6 Library and Information Services

The James Hardiman Library

The Library, named after the University's first Librarian and noted Galway antiquarian and historian, contains the principal collections in subjects taught in the Faculties of Arts, Law, Celtic Studies, Commerce, Science, Engineering and Medicine & Health Sciences. The Medical and Nursing Libraries are located separately.

Accommodation and Stock: The main Library, which is situated in the heart of the Campus, opened as a new purpose built library in 1973, replacing the original 1849 building in the Quadrangle. It has undergone a number of extensions since then and now offers 8,500 m² of space on four floors. There are 1,632 reader places between the three libraries - the majority being located in the James Hardiman Library.

Total library stock, including bound periodicals, is almost 600,000 volumes, with access to about 2,300 print journal titles and over 10,000 full-text electronic titles, including newspapers. In addition to online journals, the Library offers two major electronic books databases - Early English Books Online (EEBO) and Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO) – which between them offer 250,000 titles in full text. Visiting students will also feel very much at home with the range of international databases available via the Library website. The Library is a beneficiary of the statutory deposit provisions of the Copyright Acts (1963 and 2000). Theses presented to the University, Irish Government publications and a selection of UK Official publications are also available, and, in addition, the Library is a designated European Documentation Centre providing access to a vast range of EU related material.

Internet Access / Electronic Resources Because the Library invests heavily in electronic resources, there are a number of PC clusters located within the library with full INTERNET access – these are located on each floor and there is an additional cluster in the main Information area at ground floor level. Students may use their laptops throughout the Library, using the University's wireless network, and can also access the resources from home.

Special Collections: These include the Douglas Hyde manuscripts, Galway's municipal records dating from 1484, the Delargy collection, the Franciscan Library and a varied collection of documents and papers of local interest. The Library is rich in Irish language material and has a strong Irish Studies collection. Library archival collections are unique on theatre in Galway, including Druid, Taibhdhearc, the Galway Arts Festival and MACNAS, and broader Irish theatre history is represented through the O'Malley/Lyric theatre archive and the Shields Archive. The Library also holds the literary archive of the renowned Irish writer John McGahern. Unique to Galway is the Ritchie-Pickow photographic archive – recently digitised and depicting life in Ireland in the early 1950s - complemented by some unique recordings of traditional music of the time.

Library Services and Using the Library: All visiting students have access to all Library facilities – including off-campus access to electronic resources. Your student ID card is your library card for all activities. Staff are always on hand to help and self-services are being expanded to facilitate weekend use of the Library.

Library Services for users with disabilities: The James Hardiman Library, working with other university services, provides excellent support for students with disabilities and special needs. Users with a range of disabilities are very well served with a state-of-the-art Adaptive Technology Centre, located on the ground floor, offering access to a variety of software packages and a personalized one to one support service.

Learning about the Library: Information on all library services and resources can be found on the Library's Web pages. Information Leaflets are available in the Library foyer or from any of the information points. Regular updates are available via the Library's Newsletter, which is also online. There is a Librarian designated with responsibility for visiting students, who will be happy to arrange orientation tours and introduce you to services, with further support available from a team of information librarians. Opening hours are 08.30 to 22.00 Monday to Friday, 08.30-17.30 on Saturday and 10.00 -17.30 on Sunday during semesters. Further information available from the Sub-Librarian Readers' Services (ext. **2738**) or the Visiting Students Librarian (ext. **3564**).

James Hardiman Library website address: <http://www.library.nuigalway.ie/>

5.7 Computer and E-Mail Facilities

Computer Services provides the University's Information and Communications Technology (ICT) infrastructure, ICT support services to students and academic staff, and strategic co-ordination of University Information Services provision. Computer Services provides desktop provision and support services to approximately 2,000 academic staff members.

In addition, PC Suites across the campus provide free of charge Internet and email facilities to registered students. Printing is charged on a per-page basis. At registration students receive a registration statement that contains their username (student ID number) and password required to login to computers on the campus network. The registration statement also contains the student's email address, which will end with 'nuigalway.ie'

It is advisable to have the email address of your own Study Abroad Coordinator. Using your NUI Galway email will give you a very quick and inexpensive way of making contact with your own University once you are in Galway, particularly with regard to advice/clarification on course selection and approval.

Support Services are available to all staff and students. Computer Services operates a User Support Centre (USC) from 9:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday in Room 118, Computer Services, Arts and Science Building (Ground Floor). The USC is a one-stop-shop where users can bring their computing queries and problems. Contact the USC via e-mail (user_support@nuigalway.ie), telephone (ext. 3325) or in person. Operator emergency cover is available at ext. 3325 on Saturday and Sunday from 9:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 2:15 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A "wi-fi" computing service is available for students and staff with suitably equipped laptops. Please view the Computer Services website (http://www.nuigalway.ie/administration_services/computer_services/wireless) to find out about the wireless service and technical requirements for connecting to it.

Further information on Computer Services is available at (<http://www.nuigalway.ie/cs>).

5.8 Student Counselling Service

The Counselling Service is based at No. 5 Distillery Road. The direct line telephone number is (091) 492484. There is an answer phone at that number outside office hours. There is, however, no emergency service so any messages left will not be responded to until the office re-opens the following morning or after the weekend.

The student counsellors provide a professional and strictly confidential counselling service for all students experiencing problems, while pursuing their studies.

5.9 Student Health Service

A Student Health Service is provided on campus, 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., Monday to Friday, which is free and completely confidential. It is staffed by two doctors, two nurses, a physiotherapist and a sports injuries therapist, who are there to meet the needs of all students with any medical problem. Referral to other agencies and specialist services is available as required. Please note that the Student Health Service does not cover the cost of prescribed medicine, hospitalisation, optical or dental treatment. Students are therefore advised to have a thorough medical check-up before leaving home.

Students from countries other than EU countries are required to pay full charges for in-patient and out-patient services in a public hospital and all charges for doctors' services, drugs and medicines. **Students from non-EU countries are accordingly advised to hold a comprehensive Health Insurance Policy to meet any costs accruing from health care treatment.**

Telephone no. 353 91 491604 | Emergency telephone no. 353 91 491604

In serious non-medical emergencies contact Ann Monahan, International Student Officer, at 086 857 6152

5.10 Disability Support Service

Students with disabilities - for example, learning difficulties, visual impairment, hearing impairment, or mobility problems - are advised to contact the University Disability Officer, Elizabeth Walsh, at the time of application for any information or assistance they may need.

Tel: 353-91-493541; e-mail: elizabeth.walsh@nuigalway.ie

5.11 Travel Office

Information on travel within Ireland, and abroad, can be obtained from the student travel company USIT which is located at 16, Mary St. in Galway city centre (telephone 353-91-565177). The International Student Identity Card (ISIC) is available at USIT and offers concessions on Bus Eireann (the National bus company) bus routes. To obtain an ISIC card, it is necessary to have your University I.D. card and one photograph. Concessions on rail travel are available with an Irish Rail Student Card which can be purchased at the Galway train station. The application form for the Irish Rail Card can also be downloaded from the web at <http://www.irishrail.ie/>. The completed form should be taken to the Students' Union Office in NUI, Galway.

LIFE AT THE UNIVERSITY

6.1 Estimated Cost of Living (excluding tuition fees)

The following is an indication of the approximate cost of living in Galway during term time.

Monthly

Food	€300
Books and other academic requisites	€55
Clothes, laundry	€65
Recreation	€200
Other	€100
Total	€600

When making your decision to study in Ireland you should ensure that you will have enough money to see you through to the end of your studies. The National University of Ireland, Galway will not be in a position to offer you any funding.



6.2 Social Activities

There is no better way to integrate into the social, sporting and cultural life of the University than through membership of one of the University's clubs or societies. It is a most effective way of meeting Irish students.

The University's prime location on the banks of the River Corrib provides students with excellent opportunities to take part in all water sports, from rowing to kayaking to canoeing. Wind-surfing, sailing and a swimming pool are available nearby in Salthill, while the mountains and hills of Connemara are easily accessible for those interested in mountaineering, hill-walking and orienteering.

The University's indoor and outdoor Sports and Recreation Centres offer tennis and squash courts, Olympic handball courts, gymnasium, badminton, volleyball and basketball courts, table tennis, boxing, karate and aerobics. Playing fields are available for other sports e.g. hockey, rugby and football, while provision is also made for horse-riding and golf.

Clubs and Societies

"Pleasant is the life of the scholar", says one of Ireland's old bardic poems, and indeed the student's life can be greatly enhanced by taking part in some of the many social and recreational activities on offer at the National University of Ireland, Galway.

There are more than fifty societies and thirty athletic clubs on campus which cater for a wide variety of interests.

The University also houses one of the main musical venues in the west of Ireland - the Aula Maxima recital room hosts a varied programme of internationally renowned classical, traditional and contemporary Irish musicians throughout the year.

Sports Clubs at the University

Archery; Badminton; Basketball; Billiards; Boxing; Camogie; Diving; Equestrian; Gaelic Football; Golf; Handball; Hurling; Judo; Karate; Kayak; Ladies Athletics; Ladies Hockey; Ladies Soccer; Lawn Tennis; Men's Athletics; Men's Soccer; Mountaineering; Olympic Handball; Orienteering; Racquetball; Rowing; Rugby; Sailing; Squash; Swimming; Table Tennis; Volleyball; Windsurfing; Trampolining.

Recreation (Societies) at the University

Societies include A.I.E.S.C.; Amnesty International; Archaeology; Art Club; Arts; Astronomy and Astrophysics; Biochemistry; Bridge; Chemistry; Chess; Choir; Classics; Commerce and Economics; Computer; Drama; Drámaíocht; Ecology; Éigse agus Seanchais; Engineering; English; European; French; G.A.P.S.S.; Genetics; Geography; Geology; German; History; Industrial Engineering; International Students; Italian; Law; Literary and Debating; Mathematics; Mature Students; Medical; Modern Dance; Music; One World; Peace Moves; Philosophy; Photography; Physics; Pioneer; PLUTO; Political Discussion; Psychology; Radio; Saints and Scholars; Simon; Social Action Movement; Sociology and Politics; Spanish; St. Vincent de Paul; Voluntary Services Abroad; Zoology.

The Societies' contact person is Mr. Matt Doran, Student Services, ext. 2235. Mr. Doran's office is based in the Student Centre (first floor). The Societies' noticeboards are situated in the Hub (Student Common Room) - check these for venues and meeting times.

6.3 Students' Union

Every student of the University is a member of the Students' Union, which promotes and protects the interests of its members. The Union runs a stationery shop, bar and snack bar service. Entertainment is organised on a regular basis by the Union and is open to all students.

6.4 Bookshop

The University Bookshop is located below the Library Building, telephone extension 2599.

Opening hours are 9.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

GENERAL INFORMATION

7.1 Banking and Currency

Students should open a bank account as soon as possible after arrival. Banks near campus are:

- **Bank of Ireland, National University of Ireland, Galway**
Code No. 904018 Intl. Tel. No. 353 91 524555, Fax No. 353 91 527671
- **Allied Irish Bank, Distillery Road, Newcastle, Galway**
Code No. 937436 Intl. Tel. No. 353 91 524466, Fax No. 353 91 524095
- **Ulster Bank, Newcastle Road, Galway**
Code No. 985753 Intl. Tel. No. 353 91 529013, Fax No. 353 91 529015

To open a bank account you need to have two forms of identification. One should have your photograph on it and the other one should show your home address in your own country.

If you wish to open an account in one of these banks prior to arrival, your own bank will be able to facilitate this. It can take up to two weeks for the international transfer of money through the banking system. You should therefore allow for delays of this duration when deciding how much currency to bring with you in order to meet your initial expenses in the first few weeks after arrival.

Ireland places no limit on the amount of money that you may bring into the country in Irish pounds or foreign currency notes, traveller's cheques, banker's drafts, or letter of credit, but you may need the approval of exchange control in your own country for any transfer of funds. You will certainly require, immediately on arrival, a certain amount of cash to cover such expenses as train, bus and taxi fares, overnight accommodation and meals. It is advisable to have about €250 in cash and about €250 in traveller's cheques which are readily cashable. As your own local bank may not have a ready supply of this currency you are advised to order in plenty of time.

Most banks in Galway provide Bureau de Change and Traveller's Cheque facilities. There are also Bureaux de Change at Dublin Airport and Shannon Airport. Banks are open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday to Friday, and until 5 p.m. on Thursday.

7.2 The Euro

The euro (€) is the single currency of the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), which consists of eleven countries including Ireland.

The abbreviation for the euro is "EUR". One euro is made up of 100 cent.

7.3 Postal Services

There are many post offices in Galway. Stamps, airletter forms, postal orders etc. can be purchased in them. There is a post office adjacent to the University campus on Newcastle Road. The General Post Office, on Eglinton Street, is normally open from 9.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. Smaller post offices may close for lunch.

7.4 Telephone Service

There are public telephones in many outdoor locations all over Ireland as well as in telecentres, public buildings, including rail and bus stations, shops, pubs, restaurants and hotels. Local trunk and international calls can be dialled direct from these phones. Telephone cards can be purchased in telecentres and in post offices and retail outlets displaying the CallCard sign.

To make an international call from Ireland

First dial: **Int'l Access Code**
then: **Country Code**
followed by: **Area Code**
and finally: **Local Number**
The International Access Code from Ireland is **00**.

To call NUI Galway from North America

First dial: **Int'l Access Code**
then: **Country Code...353**
followed by: **Area Code.....91**
and finally: **524411 for the University**.

7.5 Climate and Clothing

Western Ireland's proximity to the Atlantic Ocean with its Gulf Stream ensures that the climate is mild with temperatures generally in the range 32 Degrees -70 degrees F. The climate is damp, so waterproof clothing, a warm jacket or raincoat, an umbrella, non-porous footwear, and woollen sweaters are essential items for winter wear. These can all be purchased in the larger chain stores in Galway.

7.6 Electricity

The standard mains voltage is 220v.

7.7 Personal Safety

Galway is generally regarded as a safe city. However, normal precautions regarding personal safety both on and off campus should be taken. If leaving campus after dark, avoid poorly lit areas or areas that are not frequented by the public. A Campus Watch Service operates in the University and its objective is to make NUI Galway a safer place in which to study, live and work. If you notice anything suspicious contact Security staff at extension 2198/direct line 091 - 492198.

7.8 Emergency Services

Fire, Police, Ambulance and Coastal Rescue, Mountain and Cave Rescue: Dial 112 and ask the operator for the emergency service you require. There is no charge for this service.

7.9 Police

The police in Ireland are called Gardaí - full details of national and local Garda stations are in the green pages at the front of the telephone directory. In Galway, the main Garda station is located at Mill Street, Telephone: 091 - 563161.

7.10 Public Holidays in Ireland

	2007	2008
Public Holiday	Monday, January 1	Tuesday, January 1
St. Patrick's Day	Saturday, March 17	Monday, March 17
Good Friday	Friday, April 6	Friday, March 21
Easter Monday	Monday, April 9	Monday, March 24
May Day	Monday, May 7	Monday, May 5
Public Holiday	Monday, June 4	Monday, June 2
Public Holiday	Monday, August 6	Monday, August 4
Public Holiday	Monday, October 29	Monday, October 27
Christmas Day	Tuesday, December 25	Thursday, December 25
St. Stephen's Day	Wednesday, December 26	Friday, December 26

7.11 Embassy Addresses

Embassy of the United States of America.
Chancery: 42 Elgin Road,
Ballsbridge,
Dublin 2.
Tel: 353 1 668 7122
Fax: 353 1 668 9946

9. Important Addresses

General Enquiries and Admissions

Maria Brady
International Office
National University of Ireland, Galway.
Intl. Tel: 353 91 492105
Fax No.: 353 91 495551
E-Mail: maria.brady@nuigalway.ie
visiteng@nuigalway.ie

Accommodation

Ms. Agnes O'Farrell Accommodation Officer National University of Ireland, Galway.
Intl. Tel: 353 91 492760
Fax No.: 353 91 494505
E-Mail: agnes.ofarrell@nuigalway.ie

Summer School

Seamus O'Grady
Adult Education Office
National University of Ireland, Galway.
Intl. Tel: 353 91 492146
Fax No.: 353 91 525051
E-Mail: seamus.ogrady@nuigalway.ie

Junior Year/Semester Abroad

Mr. Michael Kavanagh
Office of the Registrar and Deputy-President
National University of Ireland, Galway.
Intl. Tel: 353 91 492192
Fax No.: 353 91 494557
E-Mail: roisin.mccormack@nuigalway.ie

International Office

Ms. Anna Cunningham
Director of International Affairs
National University of Ireland, Galway.
Intl. Tel: 353 91 495177
Fax No.: 353 91 495551
E-Mail: international@nuigalway.ie

International Student Officer

Mrs. Ann Monahan
International Student Officer
National University of Ireland, Galway.
Intl. Tel: 353 91 493581
Fax No.: 353 91 495551
E-Mail: ann.monahan@nuigalway.ie

Faculties/Courses

Advice on matters relating to faculties/courses may be obtained from the Faculty Deans/Faculty Administrators. Enquiries should be addressed to the Dean/Administrator of the Faculty in which you are interested.

Arts

Professor Kevin Barry (Dean of Faculty)
Mr Declan Ashe (Arts Faculty Administrator)
Tel.: 353-91-492617
E-Mail: mairead.nidhomhnail@nuigalway.ie

Celtic

Professor Máirín Ní Dhonnchadha (Dean of Faculty)
Mr. Declan Ashe (Celtic Faculty Administrator)
Tel.: 353-91-492562
E-Mail: fiona.depaor@nuigalway.ie

Commerce

Professor Michael Keane (Dean of Faculty)
Ms. Caroline Kennedy (Commerce Faculty Administrator)
Ms. Raphael McLoughlin (Administrative Assistant)
Tel.: 353-91-493620
E-Mail: raphael.mcloughlin@nuigalway.ie

Engineering

Professor Padraic O'Donoghue (Dean of Faculty)
Mrs. Nora Murphy (Engineering Faculty Administrator)
Tel.: 353-91-492101 or 493026
E-Mail: nora.murphy@nuigalway.ie

Law

Mr. Donncha O'Connell (Dean of Faculty)
Mr. Desmond Mc Sharry (Law Faculty Administrator)
Ms. Arline Broder (Faculty Executive Assistant)
Tel.: 353-91-493082
E-Mail: law.faculty@nuigalway.ie

Medicine and Health Sciences

Professor B. G. Loftus (Dean of Faculty)
Ms. Rosaleen Carroll (Medical Faculty Administrator)
Tel.: 353-91-524268
E-Mail: therese.dixon@nuigalway.ie

Science

Dr. Gerry Morgan (Dean of Faculty)
Mrs. Nora Murphy (Science Faculty Administrator)
Tel.: 353-91-492182
E-Mail: nora.murphy@nuigalway.ie

Banks

Bank of Ireland
National University of Ireland, Galway
Intl. Tel.: 353 91 524555

Allied Irish Bank
Distillery Road
Newcastle
Galway
Intl. Tel.: 353 91 524466

Ulster Bank
Newcastle Road
Galway
Intl. Tel.: 353 91 529013

Some Final Points to Remember

Make sure that your travel arrangements enable you to be in Galway for the Registration and Orientation sessions.