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Global Education Office  
Reves Center for International Studies  
The College of William & Mary

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## GALWAY SUMMER HANDBOOK

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## William & Mary

### Galway 2019

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This handbook offers guidelines that we hope you will find useful in making your preparations and while studying in Galway. Please read the handbook carefully before your departure and **bring it with you** to Ireland, either as a paper or email copy. The program policies are included, along with lists of important items to bring with you, tips for handling your money, and precautions for safeguarding your health and belongings. In an effort to serve you best, the material in this handbook is edited each year and contains the latest information available to assist you in preparing for your trip. While we do our best to provide you with the most accurate information, inevitably some changes may take place and we will need to make adjustments. Your program director and the Global Education Office Advisor at the Reves Center will keep you informed of any changes.



# Handy Information

SUMMER HOLIDAYS AND EVENTS IN IRELAND		
Date	Holiday	Description
June 15 - 24	Cork Midsummer Festival	Annual city-wide celebration of contemporary arts and culture, including theatre, music, visual arts, and family events
June 19	Midsummer Night	Celtic fire festival, representing the middle of summer, and the shortening of the days on their gradual march to winter.
July 12	Orange Day Parade (Northern Ireland)	Orange Day is the anniversary of the Battle of Boyne. The trouble began when James II lost his throne to William of Orange. Each side raised an army and fought on the banks of the Boyne River. The Orangemen won the battle but the Catholics formed underground societies to try and restore James to the throne.
July 14-22	Clipper Maritime Festival, Londonderry	Featuring arrival of participants in the Clipper Round-the-World Yacht Race; North Atlantic Fiddle Convention, Seafood Festival, Beach Boys in concert.
July 16-29	Galway Arts Festival	Ireland's leading arts festival and one of the most successful and influential arts enterprises in the country.

AVERAGE MIN/MAX TEMPERATURES IN GALWAY (°F)					
January	February	March	April	May	June
35/45	34/46	36/49	38/54	42/58	47/63
July	August	September	October	November	December
50/65	50/65	47/61	43/56	37/49	36/46

TIME ZONE COMPARISON: GALWAY IS 5 HOURS AHEAD OF VIRGINIA				
Pacific (US)	Mountain (US)	Central (US)	Eastern (US)	Galway, IRL
5:00am	6:00am	7:00am	8:00am	1:00 pm (13:00)
1:00pm	2:00pm	3:00pm	4:00pm	9:00 pm (21:00)
9:00pm	10:00pm	11:00pm	Midnight	5:00 am (next day)

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# Overview, Dates, and Money

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## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- **Fees:** \$6,200
- **Program Director:** Professor Larry Evans, Dept. of Government ([clevan@wm.edu](mailto:clevan@wm.edu))
- **Accommodation:** Students will share university apartments, which come fully furnished, including an equipped kitchen. Breakfasts are included Monday through Friday. Lunches are included Monday-Friday. Dinners are 3 times per week.

## PROGRAM DATES

- Arrive June 21 – Depart July 20, 2019

## SPRING ONE CREDIT COURSE

Students will be automatically enrolled in a 1-credit pre-course after the spring semester has begun. This will help you know what to expect, as well as how to prepare for your program. Dates and times are to be determined by the Program Director (meetings will not take place until after Spring Break).

## MONEY

A note on currency: Regardless of the level of financial resources you may have available for your period of study abroad, all students share the same need to have quick access to their funds and, at the same time, to have their money protected against loss. You can check the current exchange rates on the web at <http://www.xe.com/ucc>.

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# Visa Information and Budgeting

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## TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

### Passport

- You should apply as early as possible before departure to secure your passport through a Passport Agency (found in major cities), a local issuing office, a Federal or State Court House, or a Class I Post Office.

Start the process early so that there will be plenty of time to resolve any problems that may arise. If you will be using your current passport, make sure that it is good for six months after your return to the U.S. If it is not, you will need to renew it.

- Guidelines on renewing your passport or applying for a new one can be found at:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports.html>



### Visa

- No visa is required for US citizens for summer study in Ireland. Non-US citizens should consult the foreign ministry of their home government for visa requirements for Ireland. If US citizens plan to travel beyond Ireland either before or after the program, check the State Department website for visa requirements. Travel within the EU does not require visas for US citizens.

## BUDGET

- Your budget for incidental expenses will depend on your personal taste/extravagance and the amount of independent travel you intend to do before or after the program. For basic expenditures in Galway (dinners and incidentals) we recommend that you budget approximately \$200 per week, plus extra money for shopping and traveling. It is possible to live for considerably less than this, but there is lots to do in Galway and you should allow yourself funds to take advantage of the city's offerings. Naturally, if you plan to do a significant amount of shopping and/or traveling, you should budget accordingly. Be prepared to spend according to your personal tastes and the amount of extra travel you plan to do during (and before/after) the program.
- Former students have reported spending \$500-\$1,500 on this program, with most students spending close to \$1,000.
- Breakfasts and lunches are provided Monday-Friday, and some dinners will be provided. Other meals are the responsibility of the student.

### Study Abroad Program Worksheet for Galway

Expenses:	Amount:	When due:	Paid to W&M?	Paid out of pocket?
Program Fee	\$6,200	Deposit March 1 <sup>st</sup> , Balance April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Yes	
Airfare	\$1400			Yes
Room & Board	\$800		Yes	
Study Abroad Program fee	\$75		Yes	
Visa, passport, photos	N/A	Prior to beginning of program		Yes
Books & supplies	\$100		Yes	
Misc./Personal	\$700			Yes
Total	\$8900			
Eating	Items		Average Price	Price Range
	Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant		\$16.00	\$14.00 - \$30.00
	Combo Meal at McDonalds or Similar		\$9.32	\$8.66 - \$9.32
	Coke/Pepsi (0.33 liter can) (Restaurant Price)		\$1.60	\$1.33-2.40
	Water(1.5 liter bottle)		\$2.53	\$2.40 - \$2.66
	Milk (regular), 1 liter		\$1.60	\$1.33 - \$1.93
	Cappuccino (regular)		\$3.33	\$3.33 - \$3.73
Living	Cinema, International Release, 1 Seat		\$12.00	
	1 min. of Prepaid Mobile Tariff Local		\$0.25	
Traveling	Transportation Methods		Average Price	
	One-way Ticket (bus)		\$2.13	
	Monthly Pass		\$39.95	
	Taxi Rates		Taxi Start: \$6.73 Taxi 1km: \$1.80 Taxi 1hour Waiting: \$38.35	

**How will your program be funded?**

<b>Sources:</b>	<b>Amount:</b>	<b>When Available:</b>
Scholarship(s)		Varies by deadline, Reves scholarships will reduce your total balance due. You will find out if you've been awarded a Reves scholarship by the end of February.
Financial Aid (Loans, grants, through W&M)		First day of classes on campus or the first day of the summer program, whichever is <b>LATER</b> .
Savings		
Parental/Guardian support		
Other		
<b>Total</b>		



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# Packing

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## General

- Many items you need can be purchased once you've arrived in Galway. For example, bring travel-sized toiletries to keep your bags light, and purchase full-sized items once you've arrived.
- **Do not bring any items of sentimental value that you couldn't bear to lose.**

## Luggage

- **Pack only what you can carry by yourself up 2-3 flights of stairs, or walk with for relatively long distances.** A wheeled duffle bag or suitcase plus a generous tote or backpack for weekend travel should suffice. Returning students recommend that your carry-on be a backpack rather than a handheld bag if you plan to do any extra traveling.
- Do not pack valuables in your checked luggage.
- Put address labels and contact information inside and outside each piece of luggage.
- Pack medications in your carry-on luggage.
- Pack all sharp objects securely in your checked baggage.
- Pack all liquids in plastic bags to avoid leakage during travel.
- Place your camera in your carry-on. If you take film, carry it in a lead-lined travel pouch (available at camera stores).
- Put TSA-approved locks on all of your luggage so that it can be opened without the lock or bag being destroyed.

## Clothes

- Bring easy care clothing items that are lightweight, drip dry, and wrinkle-proof, such as knits, permanent press, and cotton clothes. Dark colors are more practical than light, as they do not show dirt as easily.
- Pack clothes you can mix and match so as to give your wardrobe as much variety without having to pack as much.
- Only bring clothes you can imagine wearing often.
- Bring clothes that you can layer for various temperatures but assume that is will probably be much cooler than you are used to in the summer.
- Roll clothes instead of folding them; you will fit more in the bag, and have fewer wrinkles upon arrival.
- Travel Guru Rick Steves suggests "if you aren't going to wear it at least three times, don't bring it."
- Pack raingear. It rains a lot in Ireland, even in the summer.

## Gifts

- Students often find that there are people they want to give gifts to at the end of their stay. Try to think of things that are unlikely to be available in Ireland:

items made in your home region, calendars or books with photos of America's outstanding features (wildlife, national parks, plantations, cities, and so on), William & Mary paraphernalia, and the like.

*For more tips, please consult the Summer Study Abroad Manual, as well as the "Know Before You Go" section of this handbook.*





### AN IMPORTANT NOTE ON ELECTRICITY IN GALWAY

Electricity in Ireland runs on **220-240 volts electricity** about 50 cycle alternating current (AC). For comparison, in the United States it is 110 volts, 60 cycle AC current.

If you plan on using your own 110-volt appliances, you will need a voltage converter, unless your appliance is designed to also work with 220-240 volts electricity (dual voltage). For example, most electronic equipment (laptop, camera, and phone chargers) is designed to work at 110 and 220-240 volts. **Plugging in an appliance that is not designed to run on 220-240 volts electricity without using voltage converter will most likely kill it and may cause fire!**



Regardless of voltage, if your appliance has flat prongs, you will need a plug adapter: Irish sockets are designed to accept round prongs. Do get one before your leave!



Ireland uses the Type G electrical plug, a British three-pin rectangular blade plug that has a protective fuse inside to protect cords from high-current circuits. Type G outlets generally include safety switches.

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# Traveling to Galway

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**NOTE: You are responsible for your own travel arrangements to and from Ireland**

## **AIRPORT & ARRIVAL INFORMATION**

*You are responsible for your flight arrangements to and from Ireland.* You can choose to fly into either Dublin Airport (DUB) or Shannon Airport (SNN). It is recommended that you fly into **Dublin Airport (DUB)** since the program will start in Dublin. Please also keep in mind that, if you fly into Shannon Airport (SNN), it takes about two and a half hours by car to reach Dublin.

### **Arrival Information:**

All students should plan to arrive in Dublin in the morning/early afternoon of June 21. Because many flights from the U.S. to Europe are overnight, this means that leaving the U.S. on the evening of June 20 is best. Should you opt for a day flight on June 20, you are responsible for your own accommodations on the night of June 20.

If you are arriving to Shannon Airport (SNN), you will need to arrange your own transportation to ensure arrival in Dublin by morning/early afternoon on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **Getting to your Program Site**

If you are traveling directly to Dublin Airport (DUB), you should plan to use the bus service or taxi available at the airport to travel into Dublin. The Program Director will send more details in an email about how to get to Dublin Trinity College.

If you are traveling into Shannon Airport (SNN), further information about directions to Dublin Trinity College will also be provided at a later date.

### **From Dublin to Galway**

Please note that the program **starts in Dublin and ends in Galway**. W&M will provide transportation from Dublin to Galway on Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. This will be about a four hour bus ride. Classes will start at NUIG on Monday June 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Departure Details:**

The program officially ends **July 20** (i.e. you will need to leave on that date or make arrangements for your own housing beyond that day).

*Students are responsible for their own transportation to/from the airport.* Therefore, if you buy a round-trip ticket from Dublin, you will be responsible for arranging your own travel back to Dublin when the program ends on July 20 in Galway.

If you plan to stay in Galway after the program ends, you will be responsible for organizing and incurring all additional housing and food costs. You have no commitments to the program on the day the program ends.

*It is advised that students travel in pairs, if not larger groups.* Use the Blackboard site and share flight information, or plan travel arrangements during the one-credit course.

\*\*\*After you arrive, remember to call, email, or text your family to let them know you have arrived safely. This will not only save them from worrying, but will keep the Global Education Office from receiving panicked phone calls regarding your whereabouts.

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## Coursework

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A list of textbook requirements and syllabi will be distributed in advance of the program sometime in late April or May. At the University, students have computer access, internet, and library privileges.

During your stay in Galway, you will study at the:

National University of Ireland  
Galway  
University Road, Galway, Ireland.  
Tel: +353 91 524411  
<http://www.nuigalway.ie/>



With over 16,000 students and more than 2,200 staff, NUI Galway has a distinguished reputation for teaching and research excellence in the fields of arts, social science, and Celtic studies; business, public policy and law; engineering and informatics; medicine, nursing and health sciences; and science. In 2009 NUI Galway was named the [Sunday Times University of the Year](#) for 2009/10, while in the **Times Higher Education World University Ranking**; the University has jumped almost 250 places in two years to rank 243<sup>rd</sup> in the world.

From Queen's College to National University of Ireland, the University's past is intertwined with the history of Galway and Ireland. The Quadrangle first opened its doors to 63 students on 30th October 1849 and the University, then known as Queen's College was born. The University was built at the height of the famine as part of a public works relief scheme and was one of three Queen's Colleges, the others located in Dublin and Belfast.

That Quadrangle building, built in local limestone in a Tudor Gothic architectural style, is a replica of Christ Church at the University of Oxford. The 'Quad' still stands proudly at the heart of the University today as a testament to its past. It is now used primarily for administrative purposes and houses the offices of the President and the Vice-Presidents.

In the first academic year, 1849 -1850, the University began with three faculties, Arts, Medicine and Law, but there were also schools of Agriculture and Engineering. Female students later joined the student body and in 1906 Alice Perry graduated from the college, believed to be the first female engineering graduate in the world to receive a first class honors degree in civil engineering.

There are many historical buildings on campus, such as the James Mitchell Museum, established in 1952. This geological museum contains high quality collections sampling a significant diversity of the planet's geology, with a fine display of fossils, minerals and rocks.

**CLASSES AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY**

Students will earn 6 credits and should choose 2 courses from the list below. All of the courses fulfill COLL 300.

Courses
<b>FILM 351:</b> Themes in Irish Cinema
<b>ENGL 465:</b> Modern Irish Literature
<b>GOVT 391:</b> Irish Politics



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## Excursions & Activities

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### OFFICIAL AND PERSONAL TRAVEL OPTIONS

The program includes a weekend excursion to Dublin (Friday-Sunday), as well as an possible overnight excursion in Northern Ireland (Friday-Saturday). The program will also include day trips to various locations, including the Cliffs of Moher, Aran Islands, et.c. Excursions are mandatory, unless otherwise specified by the program director.

### GUIDEBOOKS

Consider purchasing a travel guidebook prior to leaving the United States to help you make personal travel plans. These can be purchased at bookstores like Barnes & Noble, or online. Some guidebook publishers include:

- *Eyewitness Travel Guide* (<https://www.dk.com/uk/book/9781465471598-dk-eyewitness-travel-guide-ireland/> )
- *Fodor's* (<http://www.fodors.com>)
- *Let's Go* (<http://www.letsgo.com>)
- *Lonely Planet* (<http://www.lonelyplanet.com>)
- *Rick Steves' Books*  
([http://www.ricksteves.com/books/update/update\\_menu.htm](http://www.ricksteves.com/books/update/update_menu.htm))





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# Housing and Meals

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## **HOUSING**

Students will share University apartments which come fully furnished, including an equipped kitchen.

## **Meals**

Breakfasts M-F are included, as are lunches M-Th with packed lunches on Fridays for excursions. Three dinners per week are also included, and some meals are covered during overnight program excursions.

Note: In keeping with the policy of the W&M Office of Residence Life, the Reves Center does not offer housing for the family of any students participating in W&M-sponsored study abroad programs. Also, family members or friends may not participate in any program activities or excursions. If you have family or friends who want to visit you while abroad it is recommended they do so after the completion of the program.



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## Communication

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### Online

Our students have computer access on the NUI Galway campus. Whether you take a laptop is entirely up to you, but do keep in mind the issues of security and baggage restrictions. And remember you will have to carry it yourself. Students have access to internet service in the student apartments through a Local Area Network with e-mail and internet access available at a small cost.

### Landline Phones

In order to use a public phone in Galway, you need a prepaid phone card, available at various stores. There are several types of international phone cards which allow you to call the U.S. inexpensively.

### Cell Phones

The Reves Center will provide a small stipend to help cover some of the cell phone expenses. Students are responsible for arranging their own cell phone/communication plan while abroad. Students can choose to unlock their cell phone, purchase a SIM card while abroad, or purchase a international cell phone plan. Throughout the program you are expected to keep your cell phone with you, turned on, and charged with both battery and prepaid credits. This is to ensure you will have it at your disposal for any emergencies and for the director or other W&M official to be able to contact you in case of an emergency.

#### **PLACING INTERNATIONAL PHONE CALLS**

See the "Handy Information" section for a time zone conversion chart before you call!

**Calling Galway from the United States:** Dial 011 +-353-91 + Local Number

**Calling the United States from Galway:** Dial 00-1+area code + phone number.

#### **Emergency Numbers**

Police: 112 or 999

Medical Emergencies: 112 or 999

Fire: 112 or 999

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# Health & Safety

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## IMMUNIZATION

Students are encouraged to consider updating standard immunizations against meningitis and tetanus. Immunization against *tetanus* and *hepatitis A* are usually recommended; *hepatitis B* may also be recommended for long-term travelers. For current information concerning recommended protection against communicable diseases for those planning to travel abroad, you may check the Center for Disease Control's website at <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/ireland.htm>. If you prefer to talk to someone in person about the currently recommended immunizations, you can call Travel Health of Williamsburg at 757-220-9008 (located at 287 McLaws Circle), or consult with a physician in your area who has some expertise concerning immunizations for international travel.

## STAYING WELL/GETTING SICK

The water in Ireland is very safe to drink. Milk is pasteurized and dairy products are safe for consumption. Local meat, poultry, seafood, fruit and vegetables are generally considered safe to eat.

If you become ill, please alert your Program Director for assistance in finding medical care. Please remember to pay for any medical care at the time it is received, and to keep your receipts to submit to your insurance company for reimbursement upon your return.

For the duration of the program, the Program Director and the staff at the National University of Ireland Galway can assist students in obtaining medical care. Useful information on preparing for medical emergencies before you go abroad is provided at <https://step.state.gov/step/>

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## Travel & Country Information

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We encourage all students to research their study abroad destination. The State Department has important information available online. Be sure to read up on Irish history, culture, and current events before your arrival, as well. Knowing as much as possible about where you are going will not only make you more comfortable during your time in the country, but will also allow you to talk more knowledgeably with your with locals.

We strongly recommend that you register your travel plans with the U.S. State Department at this website:

<https://step.state.gov/step/>

This will help the State Department contact you if there is a family emergency in the U.S., or if there is a crisis where you are traveling. On this website you can find information ranging from geographic and political descriptions of the country, to special health & safety announcements.

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# Galway

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Galway or the City of Galway is a city in County Galway and is the fifth largest and the fastest-growing city in Ireland. It is also the third largest city in the Republic and the only city in the Province of Connacht. Located on the west coast of Ireland, it sits on the River Corrib between Lough Corrib and Galway Bay. The population of Galway city and its environs is 72,729 according to the 2006 census. Galway is known as *Ireland's Cultural Heart* (*Croí Cultúrtha na hÉireann*) and is renowned for its vibrant lifestyle and numerous festivals, celebrations and events. Every July, Galway hosts the Galway Arts Festival which is known for its famous Macnas parade.

Galway has a strong local economy with complementary business sectors, including manufacturing industry, tourism, retail and distribution, education, healthcare and services that include financial, construction, cultural, and professional.

Most (47%) of the people employed in Galway work in either the commerce or professional sector, with a large number (17%) also employed in manufacturing. Most industry and manufacturing in Galway, like the rest of Ireland, is hi-tech (e.g. ICT, medical equipment, electronics, chemicals, etc.), due to the Celtic Tiger economic boom. Tourism is also of major importance to the city, which had over 2.1 million visitors in 2000, and produced revenue of over €400 million.

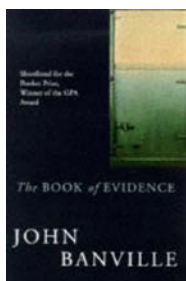
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## FOR FUN: LIGHT READING AND MOVIES

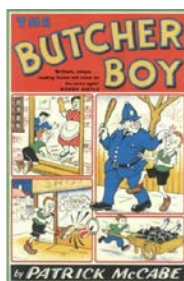
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Following are a few books regarding Ireland. Check them out, or consider looking for other books to put you in an Ireland mood prior to – or during – your time abroad. Don't worry; you won't be tested on them!

### BOOKS



**THE BOOK OF  
EVIDENCE**  
By John Banville



**THE BUTCHER BOY**  
By Patrick McCabe

### TV & MOVIES

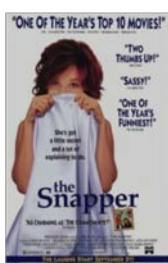
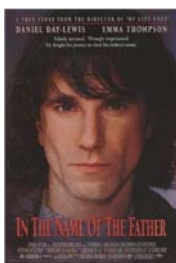


This mini-series is based on very popular crime novels that are set in Galway, and the series is all filmed right in Galway. Not necessarily the best TV you'll see (and makes Galway city seem like a crime ridden place which it really isn't at all), but it does give you a chance to check out the city. Also, this is available on Netflix instant.



**Derry Girls** available on nexflix is a Northern Irish sitcom created and written by Lisa McGee. Produced by British production company Hat Trick Productions and starring a predominantly Northern Irishcast, the show is set in Derry, Northern Ireland, in the 1990s.[1] It premiered on 4 January 2018 on Channel 4[2] and, following an early series renewal, production of a second series began later that year on 8 October 2018.[3] The show follows the lives of Erin (Saoirse-Monica Jackson), her cousin Orla (Louisa Harland) and their friends Clare (Nicola Coughlan), Michelle (Jamie-Lee O'Donnell) and Michelle's English cousin James (Dylan Llewellyn), as they navigate their teens in Derry during the Troubles.

Some Critically Acclaimed and Iconic Irish Films Well Worth Watching Before Departure:



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# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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## **Will I need a visa?**

A visa for summer study in Ireland not required for U.S. citizens. Citizens of other countries should check with their home government's foreign ministry.

## **What airport will I fly into? Do all W&M students travel together on the same flights?**

Please refer to the section in this handbook on "Traveling to Galway" for specific information. W&M students do not necessarily take the same flight. However if you wish to travel with other students you can arrange and communicate through Blackboard or Facebook.

## **Can I arrive earlier or stay longer than the program dates?**

Yes, you may but you will be responsible for making your own accommodation arrangements. You will **NOT** be able to stay in the housing provided during the program.

## **If my family or friends visit, may they stay with me?**

No, they will need to make their own arrangements for accommodations. Please advise your program director if you expect family or friends to visit you during the program. Friends and family may not participate in program activities. If you want to travel or meet up with family or friends, it is suggested you plan this **AFTER** the completion of the program.

## **Am I required to participate in all excursions provided by the program?**

Yes, unless your program director says otherwise. The excursions supplement the coursework and expand cultural learning.

## **Will I need to seek post approval for the courses I take?**

No, all of the courses offered in the W&M faculty-led summer programs have already been approved.

## **Will my grades be posted on my transcript?**

Yes, the grades you receive will be posted on your W&M transcript and will be calculated into your GPA.

## **Can I take class pass/fail?**

No, this is not an option.

## **Do I need to take my own sheets and towels?**

Students will be housed in NUI Galway student apartments. Towels and linens are included. However, if you plan to travel before or after the program, it is advisable to bring a light towel and linens for overnight stays in hostels.

## **Will my study-abroad facility have a fitness center/gym for student use?**

The National University of Ireland Galway has a fitness center for student use.

## **How much spending money will I need?**

This amount varies based on your normal spending habits, especially in regards to eating meals out and how much shopping you like to do. Students reported spending between \$750-1,000 during the program. Many students reported spending \$1,000 or more, but again this depends on your personal spending habits. Former students **DO NOT** recommend traveler's checks. They recommend carrying some cash and your credit or debit card.



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# KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

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## ADDITIONAL TIPS FROM PAST STUDENTS

### *PLACES TO SEE IN AND NEAR GALWAY*

- Athenry – Medieval Town with Arts and Heritage Centre
- Battle of Aughrim Interpretive Center
- St. Jarlath's Wheel – Taum
- Galway Bay
- Tropical Butterfly Center
- The Aran Islands, located in Galway Bay
- Eyre Square – Galway City
- Kirwan's Lane – Galway City
- Clifden in West Galway
- Portumna Castle
- Coole Park
- Thoor Ballylee
- Turoe Pet Farm
- Dunguaire Castle
- Mill Museum – Tuam
- Quiet Man film locations

### *TRAVEL*

### *LIVING*

- "The housing quality was phenomenal. Nice rooms, plenty of space, regularly cleaned, fresh towels."

### *MONEY*

- Be sure to call your bank and put a travel notice on your debit AND credit cards. Otherwise, purchases and withdrawals may be declined due to suspected fraud.
- Discuss with your bank the fees associated with international transactions and withdrawals. The bank may be able to inform you of a partner bank in Galway that you can use to withdraw cash and avoid fees.
- Students reported spending \$750-\$1,500 during the program. Many students reported spending \$1,000 or more, but again this depends on your personal spending habits. Former students recommend carrying some cash and your credit or debit card.
- Former students have stated that food was their greatest expense while in Galway.
- "You will use more cash than you think. Many places do not accept debit or credit cards, and constant cash withdrawals can be expensive, so come prepared."

### *PACKING SMART*

- A good way to keep a copy of your passport “with you” at all times is to scan your passport and email it to yourself. Access to your passport, therefore, will be possible at any computer with internet access.
- Returning students recommend that your carry-on be a backpack rather than a handheld bag if you plan to do any extra traveling and for field trips.
- The weather in Galway will be much cooler than summer back on the East Coast of the U.S. Be sure to bring layers.

### *COURSEWORK*

- All courses fulfill COLL 300.

### *IRISH CULTURE*

- Potentially controversial topics to avoid would include any stereotypes or clichés about Ireland; Northern Ireland and the role of the UK in Irish politics; or divorce, homosexuality, or abortion. Many people in Ireland are devoutly religious or conservative in their social values. Referring to the Republic of Ireland as part of the UK or Britain might not be taken well. Irish people are fairly nationalistic, so avoid partaking in any criticism of Ireland.

### *MEETING PEOPLE*

- Good conversation topics could include Irish literature, music, history, or sports – especially Gaelic games.
- If out socializing, asking for recommendations on the drinks available in the establishment being visited could be a good conversation-starter.
- Being overly emotional, loud, touchy, or friendly early on in a friendship may be seen as fake and put people off.

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# CONTACT INFORMATION

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## REVES CENTER CONTACTS

You may call the Reves Center and its advisors at the numbers below between 8am and 5pm (Virginia time), Monday through Friday. In case of an emergency that falls outside of these times, please call William & Mary Campus Police at +001 (757) 221-4596. Campus police will then forward your call to the correct person or office.

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