



# International Student Pre-Arrival Guide 2012-13

National University of Ireland, Galway

Version 2.0 Updated April 2012



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# Introduction

## About NUI Galway

Established in 1845, National University of Ireland, Galway (NUI Galway) has over 160 years' experience of teaching and research across a wide range of academic disciplines. The University comprises five colleges:

- College of Arts, Social Sciences, and Celtic Studies
- College of Business, Public Policy and Law
- College of Engineering and Informatics
- College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences
- College of Science

The research environment at NUI Galway is strongly interdisciplinary, built on the University's particular areas of expertise. In recent years, the University has been extremely successful in developing a number of internationally renowned centres of excellence, in areas including Irish Studies, Child and Family Research, Film and Digital Media, Human Rights, Biomedical Engineering, Semantic Web Technology, Environmental and Marine Science.

As a result, today NUI Galway attracts leading academics from around the world, whose expertise helps ensure that our teaching and research programmes continue to respond to the ever changing needs of students, employers and the wider society. Much of our research is located within our major international research centres.

### Biomedical & Engineering Sciences

- Centre for Bioanalytical Sciences (CBAS)
- Centre for Chromosome Biology (CCB)
- National Centre for Biomedical Engineering Science (NCBES)
- Network of Excellence for Functional Biomaterials (NFB)
- Regenerative Medicine Institute (REMEDI)
- Informatics, Physical and Computational Sciences

### Applied Optics Group

- Irish Centre for High End Computing (ICHEC)
- Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI)
- LightHOUSE - Centre for Applied Photonics
- National Centre for Laser Applications (NCLA)

### Environment, Marine and Energy

- Centre for Climate and Air Pollution Studies (C-CAPS)
- Energy Research Centre
- Institute for Environment, Marine and Energy
- Power Electronics Research Centre (PERC)

### Applied Social Science and Public Policy

- Centre for Clinical Health Services Research and Development
- Centre for Disability Law & Policy
- Centre for Innovation and Structural Change (CISC)
- Child & Family Research Centre (CFRC)
- Health Promotion Research Centre (HPRC)
- Irish Centre for Social Gerontology (ICSG)

### Humanities

- Centre for Irish Studies
- Moore Institute
- Irish Centre for Human Rights (ICHR)
- Huston School of Film and Digital Media



## The Student Experience

NUI Galway's commitment to excellence embraces both the academic and personal development of each student, covering the intellectual, physical, social and cultural domains. Here you will enjoy a student experience that you will never forget. Not only will we provide you with an excellent education, we also help you develop personal and social skills that will benefit you throughout your life.

We currently have over 150 sports clubs and student societies at NUI Galway. Through clubs and societies you can meet new people, build friendships and improve your talents. Whatever your interests, NUI Galway is sure to have a club or society for you! NUI Galway also runs ALIVE, a student volunteering programme. We have over 1,200 registered student volunteers with opportunities to work on community projects in Ireland or abroad. You will receive a certificate in recognition of your volunteering work which will also look great on your CV.

Our combination of academic, personal and social development means that a degree from NUI Galway opens up a world of opportunities for you. Our graduates are highly sought after by employers who recognise that they have the right mix of knowledge and social skills to make a real contribution in the workplace. At NUI Galway, we believe our students benefit from a truly unique experience. We are proud of our reputation as a student-centred University, with staff who are friendly and approachable, and ready to make time for you.

NUI Galway also has an excellent reputation for the provision of care and support services to international students. The International Affairs Office in particular provides a comprehensive advisory, information and support service for students and organises various social and cultural events to help new students adjust and integrate into the life of the University.

## About Ireland

Ireland is an island in the northwest of Europe with a population of over 4 million. Throughout its long and rich history, the country has contributed enormously to the world of culture, scholarship, business, sport and entertainment.

Ireland has long been a popular destination for international students, who are attracted both by its unique combination of ancient heritage and modern lifestyle as well as the Irish education system, which is widely regarded as one of the best in the world (2009 IMD World Competitiveness Report).

The country's excellent educational infrastructure and a high rate of participation in third-level education has led to the development of a highly-skilled and highly-educated workforce, which today makes Ireland an attractive location for many of the world's leading high-tech multinationals, including Google, Microsoft and Intel.

Ireland has a young population, with almost 40% under the age of twenty five. The Irish people are famed for their hospitality and in 2008 and 2010, Ireland was named the 'World's Friendliest Country' by the travel publisher Lonely Planet.

Ireland is one of only two English language speaking countries in Europe. The Irish language is recognised as the first official language of the State, however English is the common language of everyday use for the majority of people and is the main language of instruction within the education system. There are a number of Irish-speaking districts dotted throughout the country, where you will hear Irish spoken regularly.

Ireland enjoys a temperate climate, with warm summers and mild winters. While studying here you will have numerous opportunities to explore the country's wild and beautiful landscape of rivers, lakes, mountains, coastline and open countryside as well as our historic villages, towns and cities.

### Galway, 'Ireland's Cultural Heart'

The unique student experience at NUI Galway owes much to our location in the beautiful west of Ireland. The campus is situated on a picturesque 250 acre site on the banks of the River Corrib, just a short stroll from the centre of Galway.

In 1484, King Richard III granted the city its first charter and traces of Galway's rich medieval past can still be seen today in the city's narrow streets and laneways.

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 and home of the world famous Claddagh Ring.



Today, Galway is a 'college town' in every sense, with students accounting for approximately 20% of the population of the city during term. This youthful energy is reflected in the many internationally renowned festivals, music sessions, cultural and sporting events that are hosted in the city every year, including:

- St. Patrick's Day Parade (March)
- Cúirt International Festival of Literature (April)
- Galway Early Music Festival (May)
- Galway Traditional Irish Music Sessions (June)
- Volvo Ocean Race (June, 2012)
- Galway Film Fleadh (July)
- Galway Arts Festival (July)
- Galway International Oyster Festival (September)
- Galway Comedy Festival (October)

Young, vibrant and cosmopolitan, Galway is widely regarded as the cultural capital of Ireland. The world renowned Druid Theatre Company, the Macnas Street Theatre Company and An Taibhdhearc, the national Irish language theatre company, are all located in the city.

Galway and its surrounding hinterland - Connemara, the Burren and the Aran Islands - is a major draw for visitors who come west to see the Ireland of rugged countryside, castles, lakes and rivers and savor the unique atmosphere of Galway's restaurants, cafes and traditional Irish music pubs.

Galway also serves as great base for exploring other parts of Europe. Shannon Airport is a short 90 minute bus trip from Galway and offers flights to London, Paris, Barcelona as well as New York, Boston and Philadelphia.

# Before you leave home...

## Step 1: Accept Your offer

Refer to your offer letter for instructions on how to accept your offer. If you are not sure about how to accept your offer, please email [international@nuigalway.ie](mailto:international@nuigalway.ie) for further information

### CONDITIONAL OFFERS

The University may on occasion issue an applicant with a conditional offer. The conditions will vary from case to case, but typically a student will be made a conditional offer where he/she has not fulfilled all of the requirement for entry to their chosen programme. The conditions will be set out clearly in the offer letter or in an e-mail from NUI Galway. If you have any queries relating your conditional offer, please mail [international@nuigalway.ie](mailto:international@nuigalway.ie) for further information.

## Step 2: Pay Your Deposit/Tuition Fee

Refer to your offer letter for your tuition fee and information on any deposit required as the rules and procedures regarding payment of fees and/or deposits can vary depending on the programme you have been accepted to.

If you are required to pay a deposit, deposit payment will be deducted from your annual tuition fee.

All annual tuition fees, unless otherwise stated in your letter of offer, must be paid in full before you can register as a student at NUI Galway.

There are two options for paying your tuition fee from outside Ireland:

### Option 1: PaytoStudy (Online Payment)

Non-European Union (EU) students are strongly advised to pay their tuition fee through the Pay to Study website at <http://www.nuigalway.studentfees.ie/>

The PaytoStudy receipt is accepted as proof of payment of tuition fees by the Irish National Immigration Service (INIS) for study visa applications and at the point of entry to Ireland.

Step 1	Log on to <a href="http://www.nuigalway.studentfees.ie/">http://www.nuigalway.studentfees.ie/</a> and fill out the Payment Application Form
Step 2	Make a bank transfer to PaytoStudy at your local bank in your home country. Please ensure you quote your name and Student/Application number when paying.
Step 3	Email PaytoStudy a scanned copy of your Electric Funds Transfer payment

① With PaytoStudy there is no international bank transfer fee and the entire transaction takes just 48 hours from start to finish. PaytoStudy is also recommended by the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service for the purposes of study visa applications.

### Option 2: International Wire Transfer

Alternatively, you may also pay by international wire transfer, using the following details:

Bank: Bank of Ireland, 43 Eyre Square, Galway  
A/C No:28454143  
A/C Name: National University of Ireland, Galway  
IBAN: IE43 BOFI 9038 1628 4541 43  
Sort Code: 90-38-16  
Swift Code:BofIIE2D

① The processing time and the fee for sending international wire transfers may vary from bank to bank. Please allow for up to 10 working days for processing. Please ensure you quote your name and Student ID number when paying by international bank transfer.

Students resident in Ireland can request a bank giro from the Fees Office with which to arrange fee payments at a bank.

## Step 3: Plan Your Budget

When you are considering studying in another country it is important to understand all the costs involved, including tuition fees and day-to-day living costs. Budgeting is one of the key skills you will develop during your time at university and once you learn how to manage your money, you will be able to enjoy university life to the full.

The following table gives an indication of the monthly cost of living in Galway as a student. These costs are an approximation only as monthly costs will depend on each person's individual needs.

MONTHLY	€
Accommodation	340
Food	260
Books and Study Materials	60
Clothes, Laundry	60
Recreation	180
Other	100
Total per month	1,000

① Remember! The first month can be expensive as you may travel more or buy one-off course materials. You also use more electricity and oil during the winter, and will probably do more printing and photocopying later in the year as the exams draw closer.

### FEDERAL AID - US STUDENTS

NUI Galway is approved by the US government to certify financial aid under the William D. Ford Direct Loan Program. US citizens attending NUI Galway as full time degree seeking students can arrange private or Federal Direct Loans to finance their education. Eligible students advised to consult NUI Galway's Federal Aid webpage at [www.nuigalway.ie/international/fees/federalaid.html](http://www.nuigalway.ie/international/fees/federalaid.html)

## Step 4: Purchase Health Insurance

A General Practice (G.P.) service is available to all NUI Galway students in the Student Health Unit on campus. The Student Health Unit is located in Áras na Mac Léinn. The telephone number for the Health Unit is 353-91-492604. A 24 hour emergency medical telephone number is available to students outside office hours - 087 2623997.

### PRE-EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS

If you have a pre-existing medical condition, it is important for you to contact us prior to your arrival by emailing [healthunit@nuigalway.ie](mailto:healthunit@nuigalway.ie) to ensure that all your medical needs can be met as some overseas medications are not licenced for use here in Ireland. Please also ensure that you bring all your relevant medical documentation from home with you and register with the Student Health Unit on your arrival in NUI Galway so that Health Unit staff are aware of your condition.

### Health Insurance

All International students are advised to ensure that they have comprehensive health insurance which includes cover in the event of hospitalisation in Ireland. Students may wish to take out private health insurance in their country of origin or with an Irish health insurance company.

#### Irish Health Insurance Companies

VHI Healthcare - [www.vhi.ie/students](http://www.vhi.ie/students)  
(10% discount for NUIG students - located in Eyre Sq., Galway)  
Vivas - <http://www.vivas.ie/>  
Quinn Healthcare - <http://www.quinn-healthcare.com/>  
(10% discount for NUIG students)

Irish Health Insurance companies can only provide cover to students once they arrive in the country. Students cannot apply for cover with an Irish company while they are still living abroad.

#### Health Insurance and Immigration Regulations (Non-EU students)

Non-EU students from visa required countries, must present proof of medical insurance when applying for a student visa.

Irish health insurance companies can only provide cover to students once they arrive in the country and therefore cannot provide students with documentation for use when applying for a visa.

Non-EU students from visa required countries may therefore take out health insurance in their home country for this purpose or apply for Medcover, a medical expenses insurance policy available exclusively to students travelling to Ireland from overseas to undertake a course of study at an approved educational establishment.

The Medcover policy can be purchased online and provides cover for medical expenses incurred whilst in Ireland arising from any accident or any illness requiring hospitalisation to a limit of €2,500,000 during the period of insurance. Medcover does not provide cover for any pre-existing illness known to the insured person at the time of purchase.

Please visit [www.odon.ie/nuigalway](http://www.odon.ie/nuigalway) For more information, or to purchase Medcover.

### Health Insurance for Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) Registration

All Non-EU students, including citizens of non-visa required countries including the United States, Canada and Malaysia. must present proof of comprehensive medical insurance when registering with the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) after they arrive in Ireland and complete their student registration.

The GNIB will accept evidence of private health insurance from your home country or an Irish health insurance company (including Medcover) which must include hospitalisation cover. You must provide the original policy document in English and the policy document should cite your name. Your policy should clearly state the precise start and finish dates of the insurance cover. You should therefore ensure that you are covered for the full length of time you intend to stay in Ireland i.e. either for the academic year or the semester as appropriate. If you have an insurance card for your policy you should bring it with you to the GNIB office.

### EU Students

EU students from any member state of the EU are entitled to free hospital services provided they have Form E.109 with them. The E111 and E128 forms have been replaced by the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). See <http://www.ehic.ie/> for further details. The EHIC Card was introduced on 1 June 2004. It means that you can get necessary healthcare in the public system of any EU / EEA country or Switzerland, if you become ill or injured while on a temporary stay in that country.



## Step 5: Apply for a Study Visa

### DO I NEED A STUDY VISA?

Not all international students require a study visa for Ireland. EU citizens, citizens of EEA member states and non-EU citizens from the countries listed below do NOT require a visa to study in Ireland.

Citizens of the countries listed below are not required to obtain a Study Visa before travelling to study in Ireland. All non-EU/EEA citizens however must register their presence in the Irish State with the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) within 30 days of their arrival in Ireland.

<i>Andorra</i>	<i>Grenada</i>	<i>Paraguay</i>
<i>Antigua and Barbuda</i>	<i>Guatemala</i>	<i>Poland</i>
<i>Argentina</i>	<i>Guyana</i>	<i>Portugal</i>
<i>Australia</i>	<i>Honduras</i>	<i>Romania</i>
<i>Austria</i>	<i>Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region)</i>	<i>Saint Kitts and Nevis</i>
<i>Bahamas</i>	<i>Hungary</i>	<i>Saint Lucia</i>
<i>Barbados</i>	<i>Iceland</i>	<i>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</i>
<i>Belgium</i>	<i>Israel</i>	<i>Samoa</i>
<i>Belize</i>	<i>Italy</i>	<i>San Marino</i>
<i>Bolivia</i>	<i>Japan</i>	<i>Seychelles</i>
<i>Botswana</i>	<i>Kiribati</i>	<i>Singapore</i>
<i>Brazil</i>	<i>Latvia</i>	<i>Slovak Republic</i>
<i>Brunei</i>	<i>Lesotho</i>	<i>Slovenia</i>
<i>Bulgaria</i>	<i>Liechtenstein</i>	<i>Solomon Islands</i>
<i>Canada</i>	<i>Lithuania</i>	<i>South Africa</i>
<i>Chile</i>	<i>Luxembourg</i>	<i>South Korea</i>
<i>Costa Rica</i>	<i>Macau (Special Administrative Region)</i>	<i>Spain</i>
<i>Croatia</i>	<i>Malawi</i>	<i>Swaziland</i>
<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Malaysia</i>	<i>Sweden</i>
<i>Czech Republic</i>	<i>Maldives</i>	<i>Switzerland</i>
<i>Denmark</i>	<i>Malta</i>	<i>Taiwan</i>
<i>Dominica</i>	<i>Mexico</i>	<i>Tonga</i>
<i>El Salvador</i>	<i>Monaco</i>	<i>Trinidad and Tobago</i>
<i>Estonia</i>	<i>Nauru</i>	<i>Tuvalu</i>
<i>Fiji</i>	<i>Netherlands</i>	<i>United Kingdom and Colonies</i>
<i>Finland</i>	<i>New Zealand</i>	<i>United States of America</i>
<i>France</i>	<i>Nicaragua</i>	<i>Uruguay</i>
<i>Germany</i>	<i>Norway</i>	<i>Vanuatu</i>
<i>Greece</i>	<i>Panama</i>	<i>Vatican City</i>
		<i>Venezuela</i>

### Applying for a Visa

If you are a non-EU/EEA citizen who is not from one of the countries listed above, then you are required to obtain a Study Visa before travelling to Ireland to commence your studies.

A visa is a form of pre-entry clearance. It does not guarantee permission to enter Ireland. A short-stay (C) visa is for stays of up to 90 days. A long-stay (D) visa is for stays of longer than 90 days. An Immigration Officer at the port of entry decides whether or not to admit a person to the State. The Immigration Officer also decides how long a person may remain in Ireland.

Students should read the guidelines for study visas available on the Irish Naturalisation & Immigration Service website of the at [www.inis.gov.ie](http://www.inis.gov.ie). A comprehensive guide on how to make an application and the link to the online application facility is also available. Applications may be made online and supporting documentation is then submitted to Irish consulate or embassy in your country of residence.

Please note that tuition fees should be paid in full prior to applying for a student visa. Students applying for visas to the Irish Visa Offices in India and China can have their applications pre-approved prior to full fees being paid. In all other cases, fees should be paid in full prior to a visa application being lodged. Proof of payment should be submitted with the visa application.

You should contact the International Affairs Office by emailing [international@nuigalway.ie](mailto:international@nuigalway.ie) when you have made your fee payment to obtain written confirmation that fees are paid. If you have paid using the PaytoStudy online service, you may use your PaytoStudy receipt as proof.

You will require private health insurance. Please refer to the information regarding Irish health insurance providers on the website of the International Affairs Office. When submitting visa applications please ensure:

- You have a valid passport
- You have fully completed and signed your visa application form
- You have evidence of medical insurance
- You have evidence of finances to support your study in Ireland (€7,000)
- You have a letter from NUI Galway confirming your acceptance to a fulltime course of study
- You have a letter from the International Affairs Office confirming your tuition fees are paid in full (or your PaytoStudy receipt)
- You should provide full details of all visa applications to any country including Ireland and if refused by any country include the letter of refusal that issued from that state.

The Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service provides a weekly update of visa decisions on their website at [www.inis.gov.ie](http://www.inis.gov.ie), which applicants may search with their visa reference number. The Irish Naturalisation & Immigration Service advises that applicants should allow 6-8 weeks to process study visa applications. Should your visa application be unsuccessful you may appeal the decision to the Irish Naturalisation & Immigration Service. An outline of the appeal procedure is available on the INIS website.

## Step 6: Book Accommodation

There are a variety of accommodation options to choose from and we advise you to consider all the options available before making your choice. These options include:

- University student residences (self-catering, off campus)
- Private rented accommodation (house/apartment)
- Self-catering accommodation with owner

For students who are leaving home for the first time and are not familiar with negotiating accommodation in the private sector, we recommend that Student Residences are the best option for you.

### Student Residences

There are a number of official Student Residences providing self-catering housing specifically for NUI Galway students. Each residence is managed independently of the University.

The majority of Student Residences are within a 15-20 walk of the main NUI Galway campus. Residences vary by size, with smaller residences such as Donegan Court (54 students), Atlantis (80 students) and Menlo Park (140 students) and larger residences such as Cúirt na Coiribe (389 students), Dúnáras (409 students) and Gort na Coiribe (657students).

There are also two smaller residences which provide full board accommodation, Ros Geal University Residence and Gort Ard University Residence.

*① Incoming students wishing to book a place in a NUI Galway Student Residence are advised to do so as early as possible. The residences operate a provisional booking system enabling students to secure a place to live in advance by paying a booking deposit. If a student does not take up a course offer at NUI Galway before an agreed date, then most of the deposit money is returned.*

Students should book their accommodation directly with the residence of their choice. Students booking accommodation with a student residence should ensure they specify their undergraduate or postgraduate status and request that their accommodation allocations are made accordingly.

### Private Rented Accommodation

Students who have not booked accommodation in a Student Residence are advised to arrive in Galway at least a week prior to the start of term to look for accommodation in the private rented sector. When opting for private rented accommodation, you should be careful about signing leases and keeping contracts—even verbal contracts which can also be binding.

We urge you to please read carefully our Student Guide to Renting. Private rented accommodation particularly suits more mature students, particularly graduate students and those who have already met and know other flatmates willing to share the house/apartment.

Temporary accommodation can be arranged in one of Galway's youth hostels or bed and breakfast establishments for a few days to allow time to find more permanent accommodation.

### Useful Links

NUI Galway Accommodation (NUI Galway Student Housing)

[www.nuigalway.ie/accommodation](http://www.nuigalway.ie/accommodation)

Student Guide to Renting (Private Accommodation)

[www.nuigalway.ie/student\\_services/accommodation\\_office/documents/guidelines\\_for\\_renting.doc](http://www.nuigalway.ie/student_services/accommodation_office/documents/guidelines_for_renting.doc)

Other Accommodation Listings

[www.galwayadvertiser.ie](http://www.galwayadvertiser.ie)

[www.daft.ie](http://www.daft.ie)

[www.collegecribs.ie](http://www.collegecribs.ie)

[www.myhome.ie](http://www.myhome.ie)

[www.let.ie](http://www.let.ie)

[www.winterspm.com](http://www.winterspm.com)

[www.castle-estates.ie](http://www.castle-estates.ie)

[www.homesekers.ie](http://www.homesekers.ie)

[www.snoozlehostelgalway.ie](http://www.snoozlehostelgalway.ie)

[www.sleepzone.ie](http://www.sleepzone.ie)

[www.barnacles.ie](http://www.barnacles.ie)

[www.kinlaygalway.ie](http://www.kinlaygalway.ie)



NUI Galway has two Facebook groups for international students. Both groups provide a forum for incoming students to connect with other students and staff of the University and to share general information about accommodation, travel etc.

**Get Going to Galway (Visiting International Students)**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/122749311134617/>

Get Going to Galway is dedicated to incoming visiting students, including Study Abroad and Erasmus, who are spending a semester or a year at NUI Galway.

**Heading to Galway (Full time undergraduate and graduate students)**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/114404341972519/>

Heading to Galway is dedicated to international students pursuing full time undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes at NUI Galway.

For information about the location of the various student residences, please refer to our Map of Galway for International Students on Google Maps



## Step 7: Plan Your Trip

### Airports

Most international students arrive in Ireland at one of the two main airports: Dublin Airport or Shannon Airport. Dublin Airport is approximately 200km from Galway. Citylink, GoBus and Bus Eireann provide frequent bus departures from outside the Terminal 1 building direct to Galway. The direct bus journey from Dublin Airport to Galway takes approximately 3 hours.

Shannon Airport is approximately 85km from Galway and is a popular option for students arriving from North America. Bus Eireann operates a regular service from outside the main terminal building to Galway. The bus journey from Shannon airport takes approximately 90 minutes.

Ireland West (Knock) Airport is 70 km north of Galway and offers connections to some UK and European hubs.

### Train

Irish Rail provides a train service from Dublin to Galway. The Galway train station (Ceannt Station) is located just minutes from Eyre Square in the city centre and is a 20 minute walk from the NUI Galway campus.

### Bus

Galway is well served by national bus operators including Bus Eireann, City Link and GoBus.

### Useful Links

[www.dublinairport.com](http://www.dublinairport.com)

[www.shannonairport.com](http://www.shannonairport.com)

[www.citylink.ie](http://www.citylink.ie)

[www.gobus.ie](http://www.gobus.ie)

[www.buseireann.ie](http://www.buseireann.ie)

[www.irishrail.ie](http://www.irishrail.ie)



### WHAT TO PACK

Ireland has a temperate climate, which means it may be cooler and damper compared to your home country. Temperatures are relatively mild for most of the year and snowfall or freezing temperatures are comparatively rare compared to mainland Europe and North America. Galway has numerous shops and you should have no difficulty finding anything you need after you arrive. Students are advised to pack clothes that can be worn in layers, for example thermal underwear, jeans, t-shirts, sweatshirts and sweaters. You may also wish to consider taking the following with you, bearing in mind your airline luggage allowance and what you can realistically carry:

- light raincoat with a warm lining
- ski jacket (for colder weather)
- light weight jacket or windbreaker (for warmer weather)
- comfortable walking shoes or sneakers - Galway is a compact city and students tend to walk most places rather than take a bus or drive
- hiking boots (if you plan to hike in the Irish countryside)
- pajamas
- jeans
- shorts (one or two pairs) for warm weather
- hat, scarf and gloves
- bathing suit
- underwear and socks (at least two weeks' worth)
- gymwear (Sweats)
- musical instrument or specialist sports equipment

An umbrella and an electric blanket are highly recommended, and both can be purchased in Galway after you arrive. Sheets and towels can also be bought in Galway.

It may be advisable to purchase electrical appliances in Ireland, as the electrical current here (240 volts) may differ to your home country. If you do take your own appliances, remember to take an adaptor with you or purchase one when you arrive in Ireland.



# After you arrive...

## ARRIVING IN IRELAND

On arrival in Ireland non-EU students must pass through immigration control. The onus is on the individual to have all documentation relating to their reasons for entering Ireland for presentation to the Immigration Officer to gain entry. The Immigration Officer may grant leave to enter to a maximum period of three months. They may, depending on the documentation presented grant a lesser period than three months.

Students will be required to demonstrate that they are entering Ireland in order to enrol as a student. You should carry the following documentation with you:

- Passport
- Study visa if applicable
- Letter of offer from NUI Galway
- Proof of fee payment of at least €6,000
- Proof of medical insurance
- Proof that you have funds to support your stay in Ireland e.g. bank statements, sponsorship letter if applicable. (See Funding Requirements for Non-EEA Students at First Registration from 1 April 2011 listed below)

An immigration officer can question you regarding your purpose for coming to Ireland and if the immigration officer is not satisfied with the documentation you present you can be denied entry to the State. It is important therefore that you carry relevant documentation showing that you are entering the State for study purposes.

Your passport details will be recorded and your passport will be stamped with a date by which you must register with the Garda National Immigration Bureau in Ireland (GNIB). Generally speaking non-EU students are granted 30 days during which they may register with the GNIB. This time period is at the discretion of the immigration officer at your point of entry to the Irish State.



## Step 8: Attend Orientation

① Check your letter of offer for dates, times and venues for orientation or refer to [www.nuigalway.ie/international](http://www.nuigalway.ie/international)

The International Affairs Office organises a comprehensive orientation programme for all new international students at NUI Galway. The programme starts with Campus Tours and Library Tours on Day 1 followed on Day 2 with introductions to student services including:

- Accommodation
- Student Health
- Counselling services
- Blackboard
- Chaplaincy
- Sports Clubs and Student Societies
- Library
- Computer Services
- Banking
- Student safety
- Volunteering
- GNIB Registration (Non-EU/EEA students)

On Day 3, academic advisory sessions are held for visiting and exchange students.

① Download a copy of the NUI Galway Orientation Booklet at [www.nuigalway.ie/international/beforearrive/index.html](http://www.nuigalway.ie/international/beforearrive/index.html)

### Orientation for Degree-Seeking Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students

In addition, a compulsory orientation programme is provided by Student Services for all new first year undergraduate students, which first year international undergraduate students are also required to attend. Additional academic orientation programmes for graduate students are organised by individual programme directors. Please refer to your letter of offer for dates, times and venues for orientation or see [www.nuigalway.ie/international](http://www.nuigalway.ie/international)

### Registration

Non EU students must go to the Registration Desks on the first floor of Áras Uí Chathail in order to register. Fees should be paid prior to registration and students should bring their passports with them.

EU students may register at [www.nuigalway.ie/reg](http://www.nuigalway.ie/reg)

### Student Id Photos

EU undergraduate students registering online at [www.nuigalway.ie/reg](http://www.nuigalway.ie/reg) can upload a photograph online during the registration process. Non EU undergraduate students should submit a photo in jpeg format to [reghelp@nuigalway.ie](mailto:reghelp@nuigalway.ie). A student identity number should be quoted when emailing a photo. Students can also submit a photo to the Student Contact Centre on the ground floor of Áras Uí Chathail.

Postgraduate students must also submit a passport-type photograph, as this is required for your I.D. card. If you haven't already uploaded a photo electronically as part of the PAC application process, please do so immediately. You can do this within PAC ([www.pac.ie](http://www.pac.ie)) by logging into your PAC account, and going to the Update Profile section, and then selecting "Profile Photograph" option.

## Step 9: Open a Bank Account

There is a Bank of Ireland located on campus in the Arts/Science Building and there is a branch of Allied Irish Bank on Newcastle Rd, on the corner across from the International Affairs Office.

Students who need to transfer funds from overseas should do so by wire transfer, as it is the quickest most cost effective way to do so. You will need the following documentation to open a bank account:

- Passport
- NUI Galway student identity card
- Letter from NUI Galway confirming your student status, your home address and your Galway address (this letter can be obtained from the International Affairs Office once you have registered as a student)

## Step 10: Register with the GNIB

A study visa provides pre-clearance to enter Ireland as a student. Immigration registration grants leave to remain in Ireland for a defined period of time. All non-EU students intending to remain in Ireland for more than 90 days must register with the Garda National Immigration Bureau within 30 days of arriving in Ireland.

In general, Non-EEA Students studying in Ireland for a period of less than 90 days are not required to register with the Immigration Authorities. However if directed to register by immigration officials at the point of entry to the State, such students will be required to demonstrate evidence of finance on the same basis as Non-EEA students studying for a period of less than 6 months.

The GNIB office is located at Unit 3, Liosbaun Industrial Estate, Tuam Road, Galway. The telephone number is 091 768002 and the fax number is 091 768003. The GNIB in Galway provides an immigration registration service. After registration students will receive an immigration certificate of registration (Registration Card). A fee of €150 will be charged in respect of the registration certificate.

For immigration registration students require:

- Passport
- Current NUI Galway student identity card
- Visiting Students/Erasmus students should bring their original letter of offer from NUI Galway
- Full degree undergraduate and full degree postgraduate students will require an additional letter from the International Affairs Office confirming their course of study and the start and finish dates of the course.
- Proof of your residential address in Galway e.g. a utility bill with your name and address, or a letter from your landlord/student residence confirming your residential address. Changes of address must be notified to the GNIB within 7 days of changing address.
- Personal credit/debit card for payment of immigration fee of €150. If a student does not have a credit card, he/she will be issued with a bank giro form by the Immigration Officer and requested to return with the completed bank giro form, confirming payment of the fee. Payment may be made at the student's bank on campus.

- Proof of comprehensive medical insurance which must include hospitalisation cover. You must provide the original policy document in English and the policy document should state your name. Your policy should clearly state the precise start and finish dates of the insurance cover. You should therefore ensure that you are covered for the full length of time you are in Ireland i.e. either for the academic year or the semester as appropriate. If you have an insurance card for your policy you should bring it with you to the GNIB office.
- Students must demonstrate access to sufficient funds to support themselves during their period of study in Ireland. An acceptable form of evidence of financial support is an original bank statement which shows a student's name and bank balance. It is advisable to open a bank account in Ireland in order to demonstrate your financial status to the GNIB. Student bank accounts with Irish banks are not liable to any bank charges. Letters to open bank accounts can be obtained from the International Affairs Office. Please note that bank statements printed from online bank accounts will not be accepted by the GNIB. Students in receipt of funding from NUI Galway should provide a letter from their Discipline confirming their funding. Documentation should be originals; photocopies are not accepted.

### FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR NON-EU/EEA STUDENTS AT FIRST REGISTRATION FROM 1 APRIL 2011

Non-EU/EEA Students studying for a period of less than 6 months	€500 per month of stay or €3,000 which ever is the lesser
Non-EU/EEA Students studying for a period equal to or greater than 6 months up to 1 year.	€3,000
Non-EU/EEA Students studying in Ireland where the second registration takes place at a time exceeding 1 year.	Such students are generally not required to produce bank accounts at second or subsequent registrations unless they are requested to do so by a Supervisor

- Under immigration rules, all non-EU students must notify the GNIB of any changes to their registration details, including a change of address, change of course or withdrawal from a course, within 7 days. The telephone number is 091 768002 and the fax number is 091 768003.

**ⓘ** Only original documentation should be presented to the GNIB. Photocopied or faxed documents are not acceptable.

### PERSONAL PUBLIC SERVICE (PPS) NUMBER

Students intending to work while in Ireland and/or graduate students in receipt of research funding from the University require a PPS number for tax purposes. Non-EU/EEA students must register with the GNIB before applying for a PPS number. PPS applications can be made at the Social Welfare Office, Hynes Building, St. Augustine Street, Galway (T: 091 500800). For more information, please see [www.nuigalway.ie/international/beforearrive/working.html](http://www.nuigalway.ie/international/beforearrive/working.html)

## PURCHASING A MOBILE PHONE (CELL PHONE)

There are 6 main mobile phone service providers in Ireland. The relevant websites are listed below. Please refer to the websites for information on special offers, price plans and free web text service.

[www.vodafone.ie](http://www.vodafone.ie)  
[www.O2.ie](http://www.O2.ie)  
[www.meteor.ie](http://www.meteor.ie)  
[www.3ireland.ie](http://www.3ireland.ie)  
[www.tescomobile.ie](http://www.tescomobile.ie)  
[www.emobile.ie](http://www.emobile.ie)

These service providers offer the option of “ready to go” phones or an account option. The ‘ready to go option’ allows a customer to purchase a mobile phone and ‘top it up’ with credit as and when required. Credit can be purchased online, at ATM machines in shops or in dispensing machines. There are several shops in Galway City which sell mobile phones e.g. The Carphone Warehouse with branches in the Galway Shopping Centre, Headford Rd and the Eyre Square Shopping Centre, Vodafone Store, Eyre Square, 3Store, Shop St, O2 Store, Shop St., Meteor Shop, William St. It is a good idea to shop around to find the best deal available. Be conscious that when buying a “ready to go” phone that you will receive call credit when you purchase the phone. The call credit is usually delivered over a number of months. If you are a semester only student you may not be in Ireland for long enough to benefit fully from the credit allocated with your telephone.

## Checklist

<input type="checkbox"/>	Accept your offer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pay your deposit/tuition fee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Plan your budget
<input type="checkbox"/>	Purchase health insurance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apply for a study visa ( <i>if needed</i> )
<input type="checkbox"/>	Book accommodation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Plan your trip
<input type="checkbox"/>	Attend orientation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Open a bank account
<input type="checkbox"/>	Register with the GNIB

## Contact Details

### International Affairs Office, NUI Galway

7 Distillery Road

Galway

Ireland

t: + 353 (0)91 49 5277

e: [international@nuigalway.ie](mailto:international@nuigalway.ie)

[www.nuigalway.ie/international](http://www.nuigalway.ie/international)

### Accommodation Office, NUI Galway

Aras Ui Chathail, NUI Galway

Galway

Ireland

t: + 353 (0) 91 49 2364

e: [teresa.kelly@nuigalway.ie](mailto:teresa.kelly@nuigalway.ie)

[www.nuigalway.ie/accommodation/](http://www.nuigalway.ie/accommodation/)

### Fees Office, NUI Galway

Aras Ui Chathail, NUI Galway

Galway

Ireland

t: + 353 (0) 91 49 2386

e: [fees@nuigalway.ie](mailto:fees@nuigalway.ie)

[www.nuigalway.ie/fees](http://www.nuigalway.ie/fees)

## Useful Websites

National University of Ireland, Galway

[www.nuigalway.ie](http://www.nuigalway.ie)

International Affairs Office, NUI Galway

[www.nuigalway.ie/international](http://www.nuigalway.ie/international)

Students' Union, NUI Galway

[www.su.nuigalway.ie](http://www.su.nuigalway.ie)

Student Services , NUI Galway

[www.nuigalway.ie/new-students/](http://www.nuigalway.ie/new-students/)

SIN (student newspaper)

[www.sin.ie](http://www.sin.ie)

Galway Advertiser (local newspaper )

[www.galwayadvertiser.ie](http://www.galwayadvertiser.ie)

Irish Council for International Students

[www.icosirl.ie/](http://www.icosirl.ie/)

Irish Government Information

[www.oasis.gov.ie](http://www.oasis.gov.ie)

Visa/immigration Information

[www.inis.gov.ie](http://www.inis.gov.ie)

Dept. of Enterprise, Trade & Employment

[www.entemp.ie](http://www.entemp.ie)

Interactive campus map

[www.nuigalway.ie/campus\\_map](http://www.nuigalway.ie/campus_map)



**Important buildings**

- 1 The Quadrangle
- 2 Arts/Science Building
- 3 James Hardiman Library
- 4 Arts Millennium Building
- 5 IT Building
- 6 Orbsen Building
- 7 Áras Uí Chathail (Student Contact Centre)
- 8 Áras na Mac Léinn
- 9 Martin Ryan Institute
- 10 Áras na Gaeilge
- 11 Sports Centre
- 12 Engineering Building
- 13 Áras Moyola
- 14 JE Cairnes Business School
- 15 Corrib Village (Student Accommodation)
- 16 Human Biology Building
- 17 Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences Building

**Cafés, restaurants and bars**

- IA An Bhialann
- IB Smokey Joe's Café
- IC Coffee On Line
- ID Moffetts Restaurant
- IE College Bar
- IF Zinc Café
- IG Friars Restaurant

P Parking



**ENGINEERING BUILDING**

OPEN SEPTEMBER 2011

To Park & Ride and Dangan Sports Grounds

To Airport and Dublin

To Galway City

River Corrib

UNIVERSITY ROAD

NEWCASTLE ROAD

DISTILLERY ROAD

QUINCENTENNIAL BRIDGE

NEWCASTLE ROAD

Main Entrance

Distillery Road Entrance

St Anthony's Entrance

Student Contact Centre (Exams, Admissions, Registration, Mature Students), Disability Office, Fees Office, Accommodation Office, Student Services

Computer Services (Ground Floor), Career Development Centre (First Floor)

Students' Union, LIVE Office, Societies Office, Sports Unit, Wellness Centre

International Office, Counsellors

Security

Chaplain's

Clubs

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International Affairs Office

National University of Ireland, Galway  
7 Distillery Road  
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[www.nuigalway.ie/international](http://www.nuigalway.ie/international)