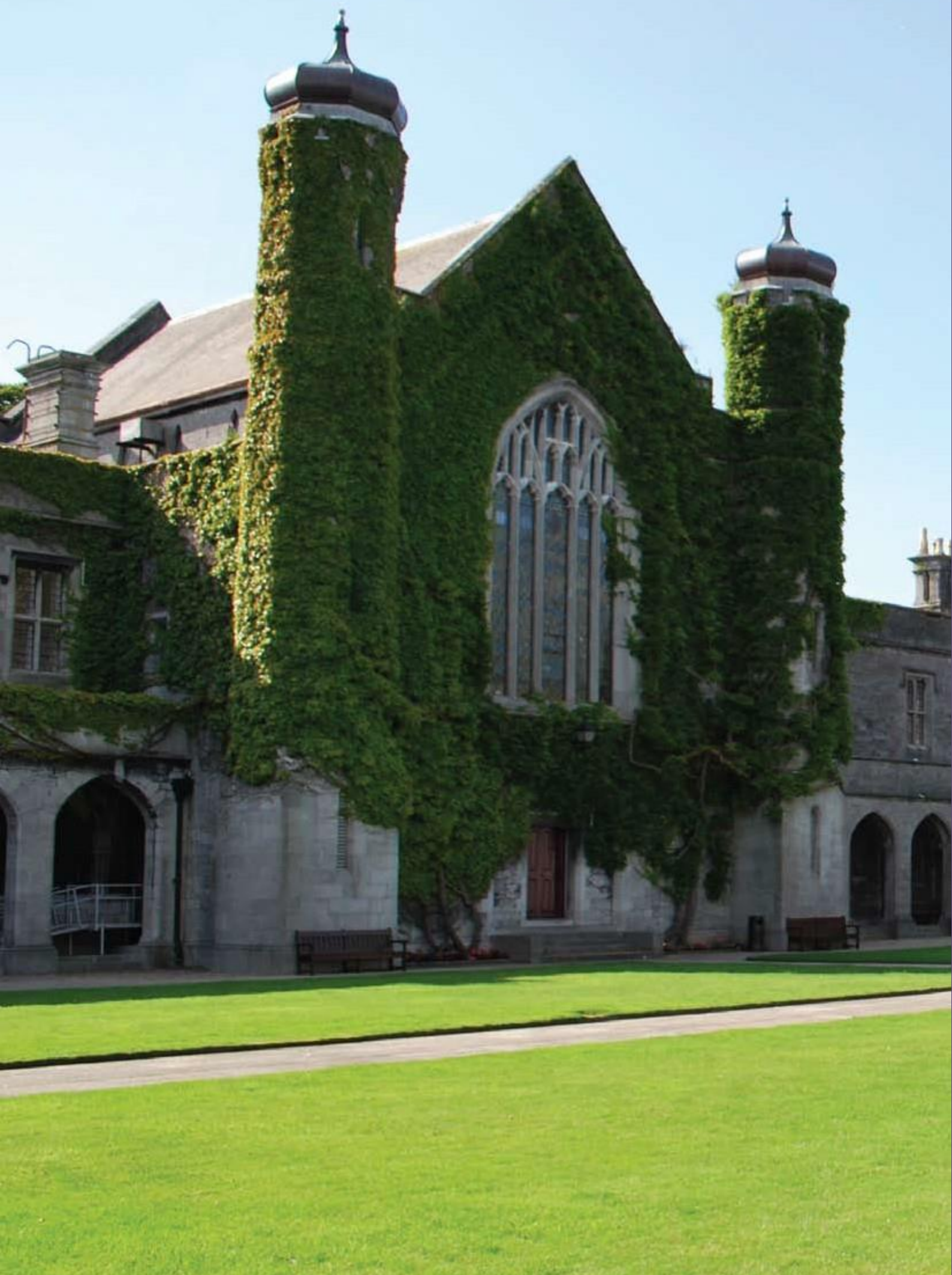




# International Student Pre-Arrival Guide

2015-16

National University of Ireland, Galway





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## About NUI Galway

Established in 1845, National University of Ireland, Galway (NUI Galway) has 170 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. In fact 35% of our staff are from overseas, coming from 45 countries worldwide.

## The Student Experience

Our combination of academic, personal and social development means that a degree from NUI Galway opens up a world of opportunities for you. 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 4,000 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 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. We are one

## Quick facts



### NUI Galway has over:

- 17,000 students.
- 2,000 international students from 92 countries.
- 2,400 staff members.
- 120 links with universities across the globe.
- 90,000 alumni in 107 countries.
- 170 years' experience providing university education.

### NUI Galway is:

- Ireland's top University for graduate employability with 96% of our graduates employed or in further study within six months of graduating.
- The largest and oldest university in the west of Ireland.
- Ranked 261<sup>st</sup> in the world by Times Higher Education 2014/15

### NUI Galway is world leading for research in:

- Biomedical Science and Engineering
- Web Science
- Human Rights
- Marine Science, Energy and Environmental Science
- Applied Social Sciences and Public Policy
- Humanities, in particular literature, Theatre and Irish Studies

of Ireland's top universities for graduate employment, consistently out performing the national average across all disciplines.

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



- **Population:** 4.6 million
- **A Friendly, Safe Environment:** Ireland is the 13th most peaceful place on Earth (Global Peace Index, 2014) & most friendly country in the world (Lonely Planet, 2010)
- **English Speaking Country:** While Ireland has its own language and distinct cultural identity, English is the universal spoken language. In fact, Ireland is the only English-speaking country in the Eurozone, and that's one of the reasons why so many multinational businesses locate their European base here.
- **High Standard of Education:** Ireland is ranked 16<sup>th</sup> in the world for its higher education system, according to the IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook 2015
- **Leading Companies in Ireland:** Over 1,000 FDI giants in ICT, Social Media, Pharmaceuticals and Finance have made Ireland the hub of their European operations, with names such as Google, HP, Apple, IBM, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Pfizer, GSK and Genzyme.
- **Weather:** Ireland enjoys a temperate climate, with warm summers and mild winters.

### Industries in Ireland

9 of the top 10 global ICT companies	8 of the top 10 gaming companies	8 of the top 10 Global pharmaceutical companies	6 of the top 7 diagnostics Companies	15 of the top 20 medical device Companies	50% of the leading financial services firms
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Source: Enterprise Ireland



# Outside of the Classroom!

## Culture

Ireland's traditions of writing, theatre and art are celebrated in a host of events that include Cork World Book Festival, Kilkenny Arts Festival, Jameson Dublin International Film Festival, Galway International Arts Festival, Lismore Immrama Festival Of Travel Writing,

## Over 290 Music festivals

Contemporary music: The Electric Picnic, Castlepalooza, Cork Jazz Festival and Wexford Festival Opera

Traditional music: Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, TradFest in Dublin and Cork, and a lot more festivals around the country.

## Beautiful Ireland

Outside Ireland's buzzing cities and towns, miles and miles of unexplored terrain make it the perfect place to get away from it all. We've got magical castles, enchanted ruins, ancient archaeology and thousands of miles of windswept coastline, with some of the most beautiful beaches, highest sea cliffs and biggest waves in Europe all on Galway's doorstep.

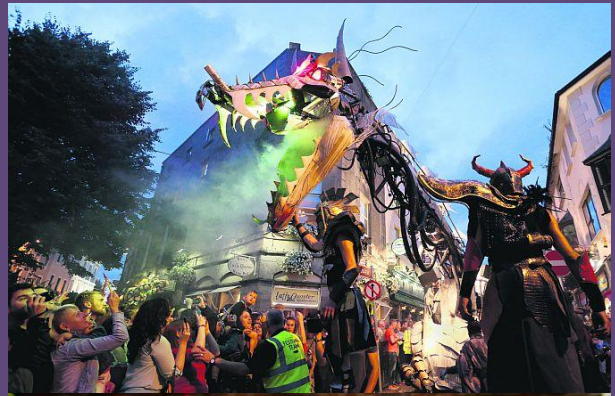
## Galway, 'Ireland's Cultural Heart'

Young, vibrant and cosmopolitan, Galway is widely regarded as the cultural capital of Ireland and 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)
- Cuirt International Festival of Literature (April)
- Galway Early Music Festival (May)
- Galway Traditional Irish Music Sessions ( June)
- Galway Film Fleadh ( July)
- Galway Arts Festival ( July)
- Galway Races (August)
- Galway International Oyster Festival (September)
- Galway Comedy Festival (October)

FDI Magazine awarded Galway ranked Galway as "Best Overall Micro City in Europe". Galway was awarded UNESCO City of Film and a Purple Flag for a safe, vibrant and diverse night time economy in 2015.

"Experience the real beauty of Ireland" close to Galway by visiting Connemara, a place of contrasts, colours, desolate beauty, incredible scenery and amazing attractions.<sup>5</sup>



# Student Journey – Before You Arrive

## 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 requirements 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.

## 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.

### Payment

#### Option1: PaytoStudy (Recommended for non-EU Students)

- Non-European Union (EU) students are strongly advised to pay their tuition fee through the PaytoStudy website <https://nuigalway.studentfees.ie/>
- PaytoStudy payments usually take less than 48 hours and the 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.
- PaytoStudy also avoids international bank charges and because you pay in your own currency, the University receives the exact amount owed.

#### Option 2: Bank Transfer

Alternatively, international students can also pay their tuition fee by international bank transfer using the following details:

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/BIC: BOF IIE2D

Please ensure you quote your **8 digit application number** on all wire transactions. Please note that 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 if paying by bank transfer.

#### Option 3: Online Debit/Credit Card payment

Please contact International Admissions for further information on how to pay online using a debit/credit card [internationaladmissions@nuigalway.ie](mailto:internationaladmissions@nuigalway.ie)

# Student Journey – Before You Arrive

## 3) Plan Your Budget

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	€ Per Month
Accommodation	€340
Food	€260
Electricity and Oil	€80
Books And Study Materials	€60
Clothes, Laundry, Utilities	€60
Recreation	€180
Other	€160
<b>Total Per Month</b>	<b>€1,140</b>

### 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 <http://www.nuigalway.ie/international-students/feesfinance/federalaid/>



**Lao Suining, Undergraduate Business Student, China**

*"I am studying Accounting at NUI Galway. When I first came to Galway, I felt that it was the most serenely beautiful city I had ever seen! During my first year, the teachers were all so professional and thoughtful towards us."*



# Student Journey – Before You Arrive

## 4) Health Insurance

### Student Health Unit

A 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 and it can be contacted on the following telephone numbers:

- 353-91-492604 (9:00-17:00)
- 353-87-2623997 (24 hour emergency number)

### 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.

### Health Insurance

All Non-EU 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.

### Medicover

Medicover is 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. This can be purchased online before travelling to Ireland at <http://www.odon.ie/nuig.aspx>

### Irish Health insurance Companies

- VHI Healthcare - [www.vhi.ie](http://www.vhi.ie) (10% discount for NUIG students - located in Eyre Sq., Galway)
- Aviva - <http://www.aviva.ie>
- Laya Healthcare - <http://www.layahealthcare.ie>

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.

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.



**Siobhan Keenan, Undergraduate Arts Student, USA**

*"I am currently studying English and Psychological Studies in my second year at NUI Galway. I chose NUI Galway because I love Galway City and the school couldn't be a better fit.*

*My two subjects, English and Psychological Studies are the perfect fit for what I was looking for. I've come to Ireland ever since I was a child and I couldn't be happier that I now get to live here year round in one of my favorite cities."*



# Student Journey – Before You Arrive

## 5) Apply for a Study Visa

### Visa Exempted Countries

- Not all international students require a study visa for Ireland but must still register their presence in the Irish State with the Garda National Immigration Bureau after arrival in Ireland.
- A list of nationalities that do not require a Student Visa to study in Ireland can be found at <http://www.nuigalway.ie/international>
- Citizens from countries not appearing on this list are required to obtain a Study Visa to study in Ireland.

### Applying for a Visa

You must make your visa application on-line using the AVATS on-line facility  
<https://www.visas.inis.gov.ie/avats/OnlineHome.aspx>

### Study visa applications should contain the following documents:

- Passport, valid for 12 months
- Signed summary of your on-line application form
- 2 passport sized colour photos
- A signed letter of application
- A Letter of Acceptance from the university
- Submit all exam results obtained, along with your qualification certificates
- If you are currently studying, an original letter from your current place of study
- Provide information about any gaps in your education

### Proof of Finances

Provide evidence that you have access to sufficient funds to cover your tuition fees and cost of living expenses.

- A detailed statement of your and/or your sponsors' bank account(s) covering a six-month period immediately prior to your visa application
- Letters from your sponsor's employer
- You must list each person sponsoring you, and give clear details of their relationship to you
- Note: The estimated cost of living in Ireland for a student for one academic year is €7,000
- Letter from the university confirming payment of fees if made by Bank Transfer

### Alternative Evidence of Finance

Lodge an "Education Bond" with a minimum value of €7,000 with <https://educationbondireland.com/>

### Proof of Medical Insurance

Non-EU students from visa required countries must present proof of medical insurance when applying for a student visa. Please email [international@nuigalway.ie](mailto:international@nuigalway.ie) or visit <http://www.nuigalway.ie/international> for further information

Please note that this is a brief guide and that you should visit <http://www.nuigalway.ie/international> and contact your nearest Irish Embassy for more in-depth information  
<https://www.dfa.ie/embassies/irish-embassies-abroad/>



## Student Journey – Before You Arrive



### 6) Accommodation

**There are a variety of accommodation options to choose from at NUI Galway:**

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

#### **Student Residences**

There are a number of official Student Residences providing self-catering housing specifically for NUI Galway students that are within a 15-20 minutes walk from the main campus.

Each unit usually includes 2-3 bedrooms, a small kitchen area and a shared living space. Students therefore have the option of preparing their own meals in their own apartment, which can be cheaper than eating on campus.

To book Student Resident room please contact the Accommodation Office at <http://www.nuigalway.ie/student-life/accommodation>

#### **Private Rented Accommodation**

There is a wide range of properties available to students in Galway and staff in the Accommodation Office at the university will be able to help you find a suitable place to live <http://www.nuigalway.ie/student-life/accommodation>

# Student Journey – Before You Arrive

## 7) How to Get to Galway

### Airports

- Most international students arrive in Ireland at one of the two main airports: Dublin Airport or Shannon Airport
- Citylink, GoBus and Bus Eireann provide frequent bus departures from outside of Dublin Airport, Terminal 1 direct to Galway
- The direct bus journey from Dublin Airport to Galway takes approximately 3 hours
- Bus Eireann operates a regular service from outside the main terminal building to Galway
- The bus journey from Shannon airport takes approximately 2 hours (Check Bus Eireann timetable)

### Train

- Irish Rail provides a train service from Dublin to Galway
- The Galway train station (Ceannt Station) is located in the centre of Galway City 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
- Galway Bus Station is located in the centre of Galway City and is a 20 minute walk from the NUI Galway campus

## 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.

Galway has numerous shops and you should have no difficulty finding anything you need after you arrive.

You should think about bringing the following in your luggage:

light raincoat with a warm lining

light weight jacket or windbreaker (for warmer weather)

hiking boots (if you plan to hike in the Irish countryside)

shorts

hat, scarf and gloves

gymwear

ski jacket (for colder weather)

pyjamas

jeans

bathing suit

underwear and socks

comfortable walking shoes or sneakers - Galway is a compact city and students tend to walk most places rather than take a bus or drive

# Student Journey – After You Arrive

## 8) Immigration in Ireland

Students will be required to demonstrate that they are entering Ireland in order to enrol as a student and the Immigration Officer may ask to see some or all of the following documents:

- 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.

### Register with Garda National Immigration Bureau in Ireland (GNIB)

Your passport details will be recorded and your passport will be stamped with a date by which you must register with the 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.

The GNIB office is located at Unit 3, Liosbaun Industrial Estate, Tuam Road, Galway and the telephone number is +353 (0) 91 768002.

A fee of €300 will be charged to register with the GNIB and you will need to produce the following documents:

- Passport
- Current NUI Galway student identity card
- Letter from the university confirming your course of study
- 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
- Proof of comprehensive medical insurance
- Proof that you have funds to support your stay in Ireland e.g. bank statements, sponsorship letter if applicable



**Hamad Alawadhi, Undergraduate Engineering Student, UAE**

*"I like how my programme balances both the theory and the practical and I've found the teaching staff to be friendly and helpful and always available for questions or to meet them in their office time.*

*The New Engineering Building is a fantastic facility especially for me.*

*Galway is a nice place to live in. The people here are very friendly and everything is nearby you which makes life simpler."*



# Student Journey – After You Arrive

## 9) Orientation

### Full Time Degree Students

Academic orientation for all full degree international students is College specific and will take place from Monday 31st August. See this page <http://www.nuigalway.ie/orientation/#d.en.52507> for further details.

### Visiting Students

Academic orientation for visiting students only will take place on Friday 4th September

### All International Students

Support services orientation for all international students

Venue: Bailey Allen Hall, Áras na Mac Léinn (Student Centre)

Date: Thursday 3 September 2015, 9.30 am

Areas Covered:

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

### Other Activities for All International Students

#### Fáilte (Welcome!) Mornings

Each day for the first week of term all newly arrived students are invited to attend an informal gathering where they can meet with staff of the International Affairs Office, ask questions and get to know each other.

#### Walking Tour of Galway

The International Affairs Office arranges walking tours of Galway on the weekend after orientation. You can book a place on one of the tours at <http://www.eventbrite.ie/o/international-office-nui-galway-5788491778>

#### Library Training and Tour

The Library will provide Library Orientation for the students for the first weeks of term. Students can book a session that suits them at <http://www.eventbrite.ie/e/getting-started-in-the-library-tickets-14526363745?aff=eorg>

Please visit <http://www.nuigalway.ie/international> for further information

# Student Journey – After You Arrive

## 10) Opening a Bank Account

There are two banks on campus and you will need the following documentation to open an 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)

## 11) Working in Ireland

### 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: +353 (0)91 500800).

## 12) Mobile Phones

There are 5 main mobile phone service providers in Ireland that offer a wide range of price plans. 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.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)

# Contact Details

## University Contacts

### 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

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

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)

### Students' Union

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

### Campus Map

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

### Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/studyabroadgalway>

### Twitter

<https://twitter.com/StudyInGalway>

### Facebook Group

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

## General Information

### Irish Council for International Students

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

### Education in Ireland

<http://www.educationinireland.com/en/>

### Irish Government Information

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

### Visa/immigration Information

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

## Transport

[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)

## Accommodation

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.snoozleshostelgalway.ie](http://www.snoozleshostelgalway.ie)  
[www.sleepzone.ie](http://www.sleepzone.ie)  
[www.barnacles.ie](http://www.barnacles.ie)  
[www.kinlaygalway.ie](http://www.kinlaygalway.ie)



## Key Dates 2015/16

<b>Semester 1</b>	
<b>Orientation</b>	Monday 31st August - Friday 4th September 2015
<b>Start of Teaching</b>	Monday 7th September 2015
<b>End of Teaching</b>	Saturday 28th November 2015
<b>Study Week</b>	Monday 30th November - Saturday 5th December 2015
<b>Semester 1 Exams</b>	Monday 7th December - Friday 18th December 2015
<b>Christmas Holidays</b>	Saturday 19th December 2015 - Sunday 10th January 2016
<b>Semester 2</b>	
<b>Start of Teaching</b>	Monday 11th January 2016
<b>End of teaching</b>	Saturday 16th April
<b>Easter Holidays</b>	Thursday 25th March - Tuesday 29th March 2016
<b>Study Week</b>	Monday 18th April - Saturday 23rd April
<b>Semester 2 Exams</b>	Monday 25th April - Wednesday 11th May
<b>Autumn Exams</b>	Tuesday 2nd August - Friday 12th August
<b>Bank Holidays:</b> Monday 26th October 2015/ Thursday 17th March 2016/ Monday 2nd May 2016 / Monday 6th June 2016 / Monday 1st August 2016	
The dates for Spring Exams 2016 for some Science programmes are not yet available.	
Please see the separate calendar on this webpage for the School of Medicine as the semester dates and exam dates may differ for this School, if you have any queries on the academic calendar for the School of Medicine please contact the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences office directly	