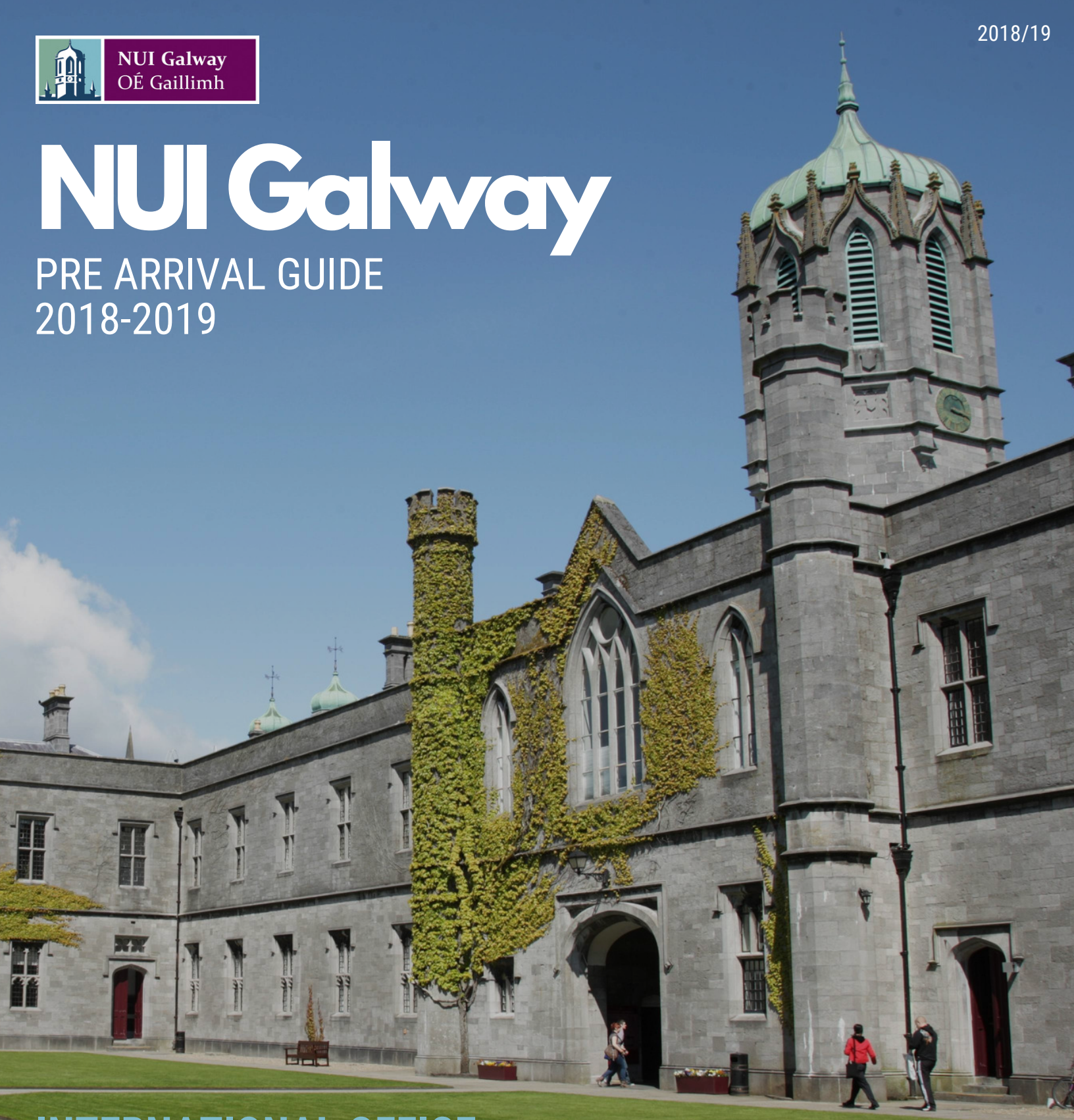
2018/19

NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh

NUI Galway

PRE ARRIVAL GUIDE
2018-2019



INTERNATIONAL OFFICE
NUI GALWAY

ABOUT NUI GALWAY
PREPARING FOR YOUR STUDENT JOURNEY
STUDENT LIFE
LIVING IN IRELAND

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About NUI Galway

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 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.

1%

Based on QS rankings, NUI Galway is among the top 1% of universities in the world

98%

of our grads are working or in further study 6 months after graduating

#1

Galway has been dubbed the 'Most Charming City' by the New York Times

About Ireland

Population: 4.8 million

A Friendly, Safe Environment: Ireland is the 10th most peaceful place on Earth according to the Global Peace Index, 2017 and was also voted the "most friendly country in the world," according to the Lonely Planet, 2010.

Language: 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.

High Standard of Education: Ireland is ranked in the top 1% of universities worldwide based on QS World University Rankings 2018.

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.

Weather: Ireland enjoys a temperate climate, with warm summers and mild winters.

8 of the top 10 global ICT companies are located in Ireland

8 of the top 10 gaming companies are located in Ireland

6 of the top 7 diagnostic companies are located in Ireland

15 of the top 20 medical device companies are located in Ireland

The Cliffs of Moher, Co Clare

Google Headquarters, Dublin

Salthill, Co Galway

Why Galway?

Outside The Classrom

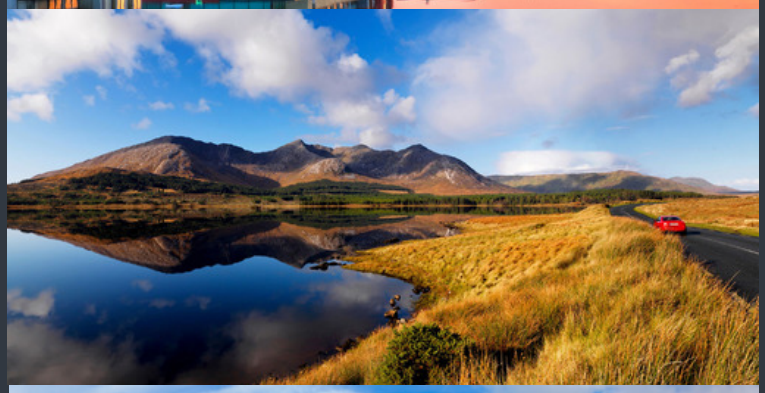
Galway, **'Ireland's Cultural Heart'**, young, vibrant and cosmopolitan, Galway is widely regarded as the cultural capital of Ireland and is a 'college town' in every sense, with students accounting for approximately 20% of the population of the city during term.

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)
- 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)

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.

fDi Magazine ranked Galway as 'Best Overall Micro City in Europe' 2015. Galway was awarded UNESCO 'City of Film' 2015 and also a Purple Flag for a safe, vibrant and diverse night time economy 2017.

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



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.

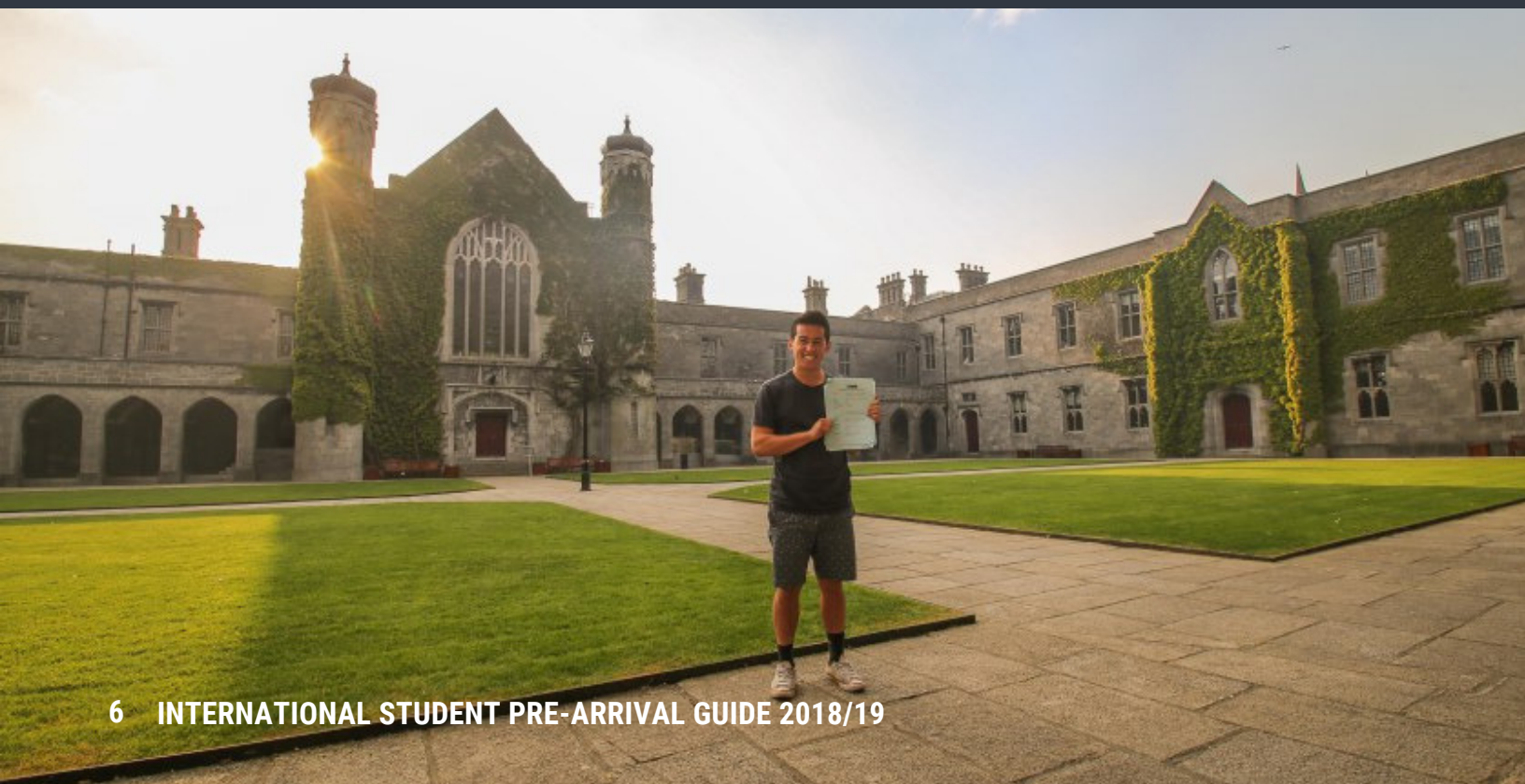
We currently have over 150 sports clubs and student societies and through clubs and societies you can meet new people, build friendships and improve your talents.

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.

Quick Facts

- Over 18,000 students
- Over 3,000 international students from 115 countries
- 2,400 staff members
- 90,000 alumni in 107 countries
- 120 links with universites around the globe
- €59.7m annual research income
- €400m campus development programme

fDi Magazine ranked Galway as 'Best Overall Micro City in Europe'



Your Student Journey

Before You Arrive

Accept Your Offer

Please 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 us for further information.

What is a conditional offer?

The University may on occasion issue an applicant with a conditional offer. The conditions will vary from case to case, but typically you will receive a conditional offer where you have not fulfilled all of the requirements for entry to your chosen programme. The conditions will be set out clearly in the offer letter or in an email from NUI Galway.

Pay Your Deposit/Tuition Fee

Please 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, a deposit payment will be deducted from your annual tuition fee.
- All annual tuition fees, unless otherwise stated in your offer letter, must be paid in full before you can register as a student at NUI Galway.

Before You Arrive

Pay Your Deposit/Tuition Fee

Payment Options

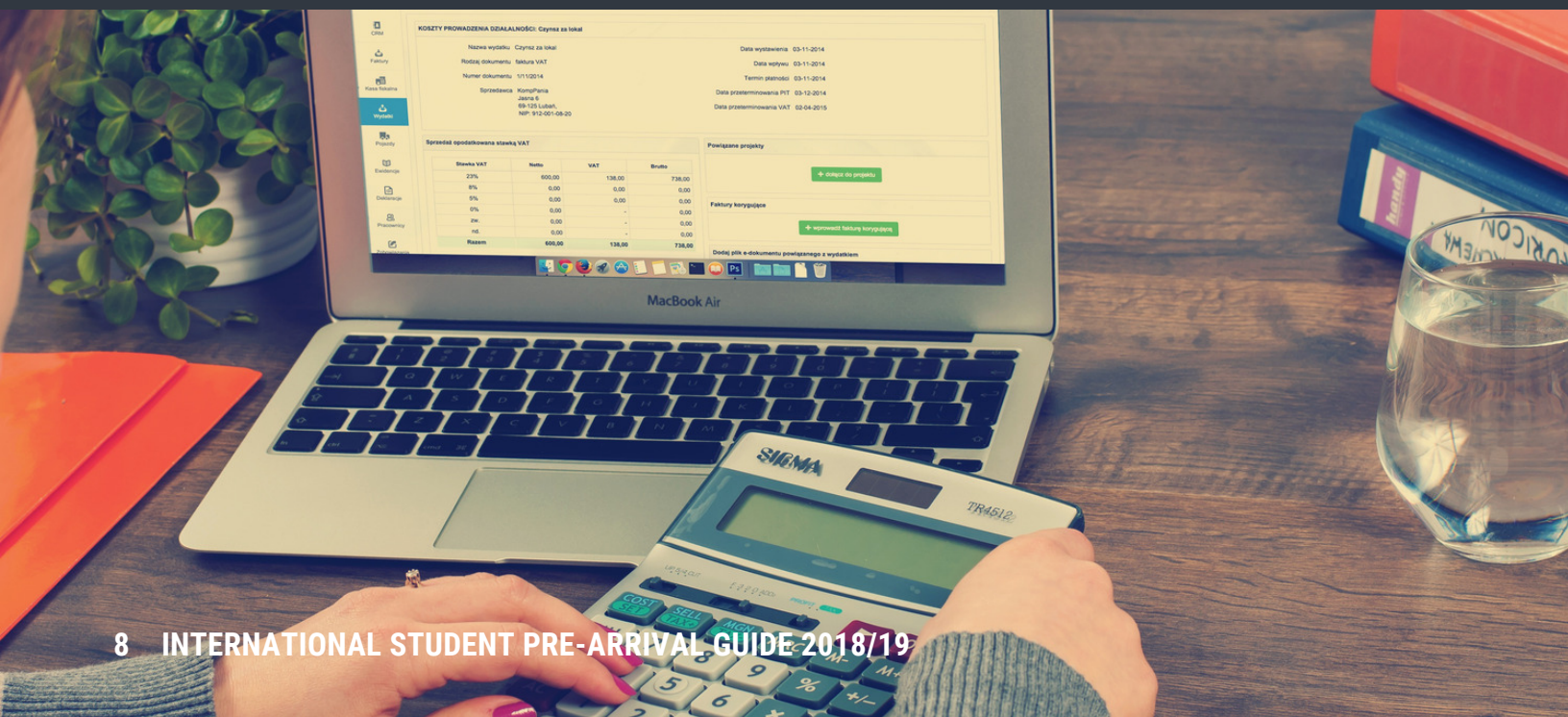
- Option 1: PaytoStudy (Recommended for non-EU Students)
Non-European Union (EU) students are strongly advised to pay their tuition fee through the PaytoStudy website https://nuigalway.studentfees.ie/
PaytoStudy payments usually take less than 48 hours and we accept the receipt as proof of payment of your 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, students can 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 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



Before You Arrive

Plan Your Budget

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

Monthly Expenses (€)

Accommodation - €400
Food - €260
Electricity and Oil - €80
Books and Study Materials - €60
Clothes, Laundry, Utilities - €60
Recreation - €180
Other - €160

Total per - €1,200

Did You Know?

Cost of living is 9% lower in Galway than in Dublin

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/

Pack Your Bag

Ireland has a temperate climate, which means it may by 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 ski jacket (for colder weather)
- Light weight jacket or windbreaker (for warmer weather)
- Pyjamas
- Hiking boots (if you plan to hike in the Irish countryside)
- Jeans
- Shorts bathing suit
- Hat, scarf and gloves
- Underwear and socks
- Gymwear
- Comfortable walking shoes or sneakers - Galway is a compact city and students tend to walk most places rather than take a bus or drive.

Before You Arrive

Health Insurance

Student Health Unit
The Student Health Unit provides on-campus medical, psychiatric and physiotherapy care to registered NUI Galway students in a professional and confidential manner. It is located in Áras na Mac Léinn and can be contacted at:
• 353-91-492604
• 353-87-2623997 (emergency number)

Pre-Existing Medical Conditions
If you have a pre-existing medical condition, it is important that you let us know prior to your arrival by emailing healthunit@nuigalway.ie to ensure that all your medical needs can be met since some overseas medications are not licenced for use here in Ireland. Please also ensure that you bring all relevant medical documentation with you and register with the Student Health Unit.

Health Insurance
All Non-EU students, including citizens of non-visa required countries including the United States, Canada and Malaysia, are required to show proof of comprehensive medical insurance when registering with the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) after you arrive in Ireland and complete your student registration. . Proof of medical insurance is also required when applying for a student visa. You may wish to take out private health insurance in your country of origin or with an Irish health insurance company.

Study & Protect
Study & Protect 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 www.studyandprotect.com

Irish Health insurance Companies
• VHI Healthcare - www.vhi.ie
• Irish Life Health - www.irishlifehealth.ie
• Laya Healthcare - 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.

Before You Arrive

Apply for a Study Visa

Visa Exempted Countries

Not all international students require a study visa for Ireland however, all students must register their presence in the Irish State with the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) 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 - www.visas.inis.gov.ie. 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 your application
- A Letter of Acceptance from the university
- All exam results obtained, along with your qualification certificates
- If you are currently studying, an original letter from your current place of study
- Information about any gaps in your education

Proof of Finances

You must provide evidence that you have access to sufficient funds to cover your tuition fees and cost of living expenses. You will need to:

- Pay €6,000 towards your tuition fees in order to complete your study visa application
- Provide a detailed statement of your and/or your sponsors' bank account(s) covering a six-month period immediately prior to your visa application
- Provide letters from your sponsor's employer
- 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
- Provide a 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 www.educationbondireland.com

Proof of Health Insurance

Non-EU students from visa required countries must present proof of health insurance when applying for a student visa. Please refer to the health insurance section for further information.

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

Before You Arrive

Student 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 your own meals in your own apartment, which can be cheaper than eating on campus.

To book a student resident room please contact the Accommodation Office at www.nuigalway.ie/student-life/accommodation

Private Rented Accommodation

Private rented properties in Galway are available to students and staff in the Accommodation Office will be able to help you find a suitable place to live www.nuigalway.ie/student-life/accommodation

Before You Arrive

How to Get to Galway

Airports

• Most international students arrive in Ireland at one of the two main airports: Dublin Airport or Shannon Airport

Dublin Airport:

• Citylink, GoBus and Bus Eireann provide frequent bus services direct to Galway from outside Terminal 1

• The direct bus journey from Dublin Airport to Galway takes approximately 3 hours

Shannon Airport:

• Bus Eireann provide a frequent service to Galway from outside the main terminal building

• The direct bus journey from Shannon Airport to Galway takes approximately 2 hours (check Bus Eireann timetable)

Train

• Irish Rail provide a frequent train service from Dublin to Galway

• Galway train station (Ceannt Station) is located in the centre of Galway City and is a 20 minute walk from 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 NUI Galway campus

After You Arrive

Immigration in Ireland

Students will be required to demonstrate that they are entering Ireland in order to enroll 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.

There is a fee of €300 to register with 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

After You Arrive

Student Orientation: 3rd - 7th September 2018

All non-EU International Students
Support services orientation for all non-EU international students will take place on Thursday 6th September 2018 at 9:30 in the Bailey Allen Hall, Áras na Mac Léinn (Student Centre). Topics covered will include student health, counselling services, blackboard, sports clubs and student societies, library, computer services, banking, student safety, volunteering opportunities and GNIB registration.

Postgraduate Students
A specific orientation session for non-EU postgraduate students will take place on Thursday 6th September from 15:30–16:30 in the Bailey Allen Hall with presentations from the Career Development Centre and the Accommodation Office.

Undergraduate Students
Academic orientation for full degree non-EU undergraduate students will take place from Monday 3rd September to Friday 7th September in the Bailey Allen Hall and is College specific.
- College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies
- College of Business, Public Policy and Law
- College of Engineering and Informatics
- College of Medicine
- College of Science

Visiting Students / Study Abroad
Academic orientation for visiting students will take place on Thursday 6th September from 8:30–12:30 and Friday 7th September from 8:30–16:00 in the Bailey Allen Hall. Students will receive information on exams, timetables and other important academic information at this session, so **attendance is mandatory**.

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.
- 12:00–13:00 in the Space, upstairs in Áras na Mac Léinn.

Walking Tour of Galway: The International Affairs Office arranges walking tours of Galway on the weekend after orientation.

Library Training and Tour: The Library provides Library Orientation for students during the first weeks of term.

Please visit www.nuigalway.ie/international for further information.

After You Arrive

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)

Working in Ireland

Non-EU students are entitled to work 20 hours part time per week while studying and 40 hours full-time per week during holiday's. The University does not organise jobs for students on campus and there are part time jobs available in Galway city. Refer to:
- www.galwayadvertiser.ie
- www.indeed.ie
- www.jobs.ie

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 and price plans.
- www.vodafone.ie
- www.eir.ie
- www.three.ie
- www.tescomobile.ie
- www.virgin.ie

USEFUL CONTACTS

University Contacts

International Affairs Office
7 Distillery Road
NUI Galway
Ireland
t: + 353 (0)91 49 5277
e: international@nuigalway.ie
www.nuigalway.ie/international

Opening hours:
Term Time
10:00-13:00 and 14:00-16:00
Summer Months (June - August)
11:30-13:00 and 14:30-16:00

Accommodation Office
Aras Ui Chathail, NUI Galway
Galway
Ireland
t: + 353 (0) 91 49 2364
e: accommodation@nuigalway.ie
www.nuigalway.ie/accommodation/

Fees Office
Aras Ui Chathail, NUI Galway
Galway
Ireland
t: + 353 (0) 91 49 2386
e: fees@nuigalway.ie
www.nuigalway.ie/fees

Students' Union - www.su.nuigalway.ie
Campus Map - www.nuigalway.ie/campus_map/

Facebook
facebook.com/nuigalwayinternational

Twitter
twitter.com/StudyInGalway

Instagram
instagram.com/nuigalwayinternational

General Information

Irish Council for International Students
www.icosirl.ie/

Education in Ireland
http://www.educationinireland.com/en/

Irish Government Information
www.gov.ie

Visa/immigration Information
www.inis.gov.ie

Accommodation Listings
www.galwayadvertiser.ie
www.daft.ie
www.collegecribs.ie
www.myhome.ie
www.let.ie
www.winterspm.com
www.homeseekers.ie
www.snoozleshostelgalway.ie
www.sleepzone.ie
www.barnacles.ie
www.kinlaygalway.ie

Transport
www.dublinairport.com
www.shannonairport.com
www.citylink.ie
www.gobus.ie
www.buseireann.ie
www.irishrail.ie

USEFUL INFORMATION

Key Dates 2018/2019

Semester 1

Orientation: Monday 3rd - Friday 7th September 2018
Start of Teaching: Monday 10th September 2018
End of Teaching: Saturday 1st December 2018
Study Week: Monday 3rd - Saturday 8th December 2018
Semester 1 Exams: Monday 10th - Friday 21st December 2018
Christmas Holidays: Saturday 22nd December 2018 - Monday 15th January 2019

Semester 2

Start of Teaching: Monday 15th January 2019
End of Teaching: Saturday 6th April 2019
Easter Holidays: Good Friday 19th April - Easter Monday 22nd April 2019
Study Week: Monday 23rd April - Saturday 28th April 2019
Semester 2 Exams: Tuesday 23rd April - Friday 10th May 2019
Autumn Exams: Tuesday 6th - Friday 16th August 2019

Bank Holidays:

Monday 29th October 2018
Monday 18th March 2019
Monday 6th May 2019
Monday 3th June 2019
Monday 5th August 2019

The dates for Spring Exams 2019 for some Science programmes are not yet available.
Please see the separate calendar for the School of Medicine as the semester dates and exam dates may differ. If you have any queries on the School of Medicine academic calendar, please contact them directly.

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