

Prospective Student Handbook 2010-2011

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General Information

About Trinity College Dublin at Belfast

Trinity's specialist cross-border School is the Belfast campus of the Irish School of Ecumenics (ISE) and is located at 683 Antrim Road at the foot of the Cave Hill. ISE also has a campus in Milltown Park, Dublin. Trinity College Dublin was founded in 1592 and is Ireland's oldest university. In the 2008 World University Rankings (Times Higher Education Supplement), Trinity was ranked in the top 50 in the world and in the top 20 in Europe. Our Faculty, Arts and Humanities, was ranked in the top 10 in Europe.

Programmes Available (for detailed information on each programme please visit the website)

M. Phil. / P.Grad.Dip. in Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation

Three course options are available on this taught M. Phil. programme:

Master in Conflict Resolution - Develops skills in conflict analysis and conflict intervention for both established practitioners and those seeking to develop new expertise.

Master in Reconciliation Studies - Offers an interdisciplinary approach to the challenges of social reconciliation in the aftermath of armed conflict and political violence, drawing on politics, theology, social research and ethics.

Master in Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation Studies - A combination of modules from both courses.

M. Litt. / Ph.D.: Students undertaking research degrees can be based in either Belfast or Dublin. Supervision is available in one of four thematic areas: inter-religious ethics and globalisation; religious worlds and the politics of difference; peacebuilding and reconciliation; and Northern Ireland.

Canada EU Exchange: Postgraduate one term exchange programme. Application is through the home institution. ISE students can also apply to spend a term in Canada.

Semester in Northern Ireland: One term visiting undergraduate student programme in partnership with Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania. Application is through Swarthmore College.

Fees, Entry Requirements & Application

Details of fees for 2010-2011 can be found on the [Fees Office website](#). For details on how to apply as well as information about entry requirements, EU/Non-EU fee status, English language requirements etc., please visit the [Graduate Studies website](#). (For information on the Canada-EU Exchange or Semester in Northern Ireland please contact ISE directly.)

Information for International Students

Visas and Travel

EEA and Swiss Nationals

If you are a national of the EEA (27 EU countries plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) or Switzerland you have the right of free movement and residence in the UK. There will be only a brief passport or identity card check on arrival in the UK.

Non EEA Nationals

There are a number of things to do before you leave home to ensure that your arrival runs smoothly. One of the most important of these is to ensure that you have all the necessary documentation to allow you to reside in the United Kingdom. In most cases for Non-EEA students this will mean obtaining entry clearance or a visa to stay as a student for six months or more.

Visa Information - One Term Visiting Students

Visit the [UK Visa website](#) for details on how to apply for a Student Visitor Visa. Once accepted onto the programme at ISE a letter will be issued to you containing all the information you need to enable you to obtain a Student Visitor Visa. Conditions are slightly different to those applied to one year students. You will not be able to work during your stay and you will need to have health insurance. Under the most recently announced changes (February 2010), you will not be able to bring family members or dependents with you. You will also not be allowed to apply to extend your stay once here. As part of your application you will need to show that you have enough funds to cover your fees (if applicable) and living expenses without recourse to public funds.

Visa Information - Full Student Visa

Visit the [UK Visa website](#) for details on how to apply for to apply for a Student Visa. As part of your visa application you will need to show that you have 40 points: 30 for having been accepted onto a suitable course (your Certificate of Acceptance or CAS provided by us) and 10 points for having enough funds to cover one year's fees (See [Trinity Fees Office](#) for current fee information) and to cover living expenses in the UK for nine months. You will need to show that funds have been in your account for 28 days before your visa application. Guidance can be found at: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/applicationforms/pbs/Tier4migrantguidance.pdf>

We will begin issuing CAS from the beginning of July as you cannot apply for a student visa more than 3 months in advance of your course start date. A CAS can be obtained once you have received an unconditional offer of a place, and paid your course deposit. The CAS is not a paper document, but is a unique number assigned to you. To generate your CAS we will need you to send us an electronic copy of the photograph page of your passport if you have not already provided this as part of your course application on PAC. We will send you a CAS Statement – a letter containing information you need to obtain your visa including your CAS number, the course start and end date, qualifications used to obtain the offer of a place on the course, and confirmation that your deposit to Trinity has been paid.

Arrival Date

M. Phil. students should plan to arrive in Belfast on the weekend of Saturday 25 - Sunday 26 September 2010. A welcome meal will be held during the weekend. Or, if you need to find housing please arrive in Belfast a week or so earlier. Classes will start the following week and a trip to Dublin to register at College will be organised. Prospective students will receive updates on the orientation programme nearer the time.

Entering Northern Ireland

If you have a valid UK student visa you must enter the United Kingdom/Northern Ireland through an official point of entry, in order to have your visa validated. The easiest way to do this is to enter through Belfast International Airport (BFS), although entering via London or other UK airports is also feasible. There are regular flights to BFS from the U.S., Great Britain, and continental Europe. If necessary, please make clear at your point of entry that the course is in Belfast and you will be resident in the UK. You are not simply in transit to the Republic of Ireland. On arrival, an immigration officer may ask you to show evidence of your reasons for coming to the UK. This may include travel tickets, passport with visa, evidence of funding, and your acceptance to ISE. You should carry in your hand luggage copies of documents that you showed to the entry clearance officer.

Republic of Ireland

Please note that travel between Belfast and Dublin will be necessary on occasions so those classed as 'Visa Nationals' need to obtain a visa that is valid for each entry into the UK. (All students should ensure that their visa allows for travel to Republic of Ireland.) For those considering living in Dublin for the dissertation writing period once classes in Belfast are finished, please check visa requirements for the Republic of Ireland at [Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service](#) and visit Trinity's [International Office website](#). For all students travelling to Dublin from Belfast it is worth noting that occasional checks are made on public transport so do carry your passport with you.

Entitlement to Work

With a full student visa you can normally work 20 hours in term time and full time during holidays. To work, you will need to obtain a National Insurance number (at the Jobs & Securities Office, Great Victoria Street just off Shaftesbury Square) which enables taxation to be deducted from your wages. Obtaining a National Insurance number will consist of filling out paperwork and having an interview to authenticate your identity and purpose for being in the UK. Those travelling on a student visitor visa i.e. for six months or less are not entitled to work.

International Student Checklist

Our international student checklist can help you in your preparations. Please request this from the CRR office – contact details are on page 7.

ISE Welcoming Scheme

Run by past and current ISE students this scheme provides an opportunity to spend an hour or two with someone who can chat to you about their experience studying at ISE and life in Belfast as an international student. To sign up, please contact the RS office in early September.

Accommodation

Accommodation is probably the largest item of expenditure for students. It is the students' own responsibility to secure accommodation for the duration of their studies but we can help with general advice. Whilst ISE is situated in the north of the city some of you may wish to live near Queen's University in south Belfast as the surrounding area has a wealth of bars, restaurants, cafes etc. and has a lively student atmosphere. If you do go for this option it is worth getting further advice on what the road is like. For students, the best places are Lisburn Road, Ormeau Road, Malone Road, Stranmillis Road, Botanic Avenue, or Ravenhill Road. In these areas weekly/monthly rentals are easier to find and they are on the main bus routes into town. ISE is on the Antrim Road in North Belfast. If you choose south Belfast expect to take a bus to city centre (unless you live within walking distance) and then a bus up the Antrim Road to get to school each day. Prices and timetables are available from the local bus and train company [Translink](#).

Firstly, determine what you want: a shared house, living alone, an apartment or house; close to school or closer to other students in Belfast; quiet or near nightlife. There are several websites used by students and young professionals (including former ISE students) to find housing. Belfast is a relatively safe city on the whole. There have been some incidents of racism and hate crimes since the conflict directed towards non-English speaking, non-white immigrants particularly in Loyalist and Republican (non-mixed) areas. But there are plenty of mixed areas where anyone will be safe and welcome.

Useful Websites

[Daft.ie](#)

[Gumtree](#)

[Spare Room Flat Share](#)

[Let a life](#)

[City Lets](#)

[Perfect Housemate](#)

[Property News](#)

[NI Student Pad](#) for housing advice as well as rental listings. (Search under area rather than university as ISE does not appear in the university list, but you will find plenty of housing options under 'Belfast').

Edgehill Theological College

These are new self-catering student bedsits in south Belfast, which comprise free parking, a fully-equipped laundry and ensuite rooms. If you are interested please contact the administrator at admin@edgehillcollege.org or telephone: +44 (0) 28 9068 6932. [Website](#) (Edgehill students have priority.)

Short Term Accommodation

Suggestions recommended by past students for a few days or a week while you find somewhere for the year:

[Arnies Backpacker](#) Fitzwilliam Street

[Paddys Palace](#) Fitzwilliam Street

[Lagan Backpackers](#) Fitzroy Avenue

[Somerton House B&B](#) Lansdowne Road – as a B&B this is a more expensive option but is very close to ISE.

If you would like to share with other ISE students, contact the RS office and we will pass your details on.

Studying and Living in the UK

The [British Council](#) and the [UK Council for International Student Affairs](#) have excellent up to date information on healthcare, entitlement to work, opening a bank account etc.

Health Care Services

With a full student visa you will be entitled to free treatment in the UK under the National Health Service (NHS) from the beginning of your stay. If you are coming for one term only you will need to take out medical insurance before you leave home or as soon as possible after you arrive in the UK.

Registering with a Doctor

In order to receive any kind of treatment through the NHS, you must be registered with a doctor (sometimes called a GP or General Practitioner). It is best to arrange this as soon as possible after you arrive in the UK, once you have a permanent address, as it may delay your treatment if you need to see a doctor and are not registered. You will need to take proof of your student status, your passport and evidence of your address with you when you register. You will then be sent an NHS medical card with an individual identity code, which you can also use to register with a dentist. A consultation with your doctor is free, but you must pay for any medicines prescribed.

Currency

Northern Ireland's currency is GBP sterling pound and pence. Euros are used in the Republic of Ireland. For students who have a bank account in Northern Ireland it is useful to know that Euros can be obtained from the cash machine at Central Train Station, the departure point for trains to Dublin.

Living Costs

In general expect to pay around £200 - £250.00 per month for a room in a shared house. Bills such as electricity and heating would be extra. In general living costs should not exceed £600 per month. Belfast is recognised by the British Council as having the lowest living costs in the UK.

Try the [International Student Calculator](#) to help you work out your costs.

Life in Belfast

Discount Cards

The International Student Identity Card opens up a world of discount both in Ireland and worldwide for the full-time international student. [Apply online](#).

Student Union

Students at ISE are entitled to use the facilities at the Students Union (nearest branch – Queens University). The all-Ireland Student Union movement (NUS-USI) has a useful [website](#) with information on issues of student welfare.

Places of Worship

For those who wish to attend a church while in Belfast, here are some suggestions of student-friendly places:

[Windsor Baptist](#) Malone Avenue off the Malone Road

[Clonard Monastery](#) Falls Road

[Fitzroy Presbyterian Church](#) off University Street

[Fisherwick Presbyterian Church](#) Chlorine Gardens

[Lisburn Road Methodist Church](#)

[All Saints Church of Ireland](#) University Street

The Synagogue, Somerton Road, Belfast

Belfast Mosque, Wellington Park

Islamic Centre, Elmwood Avenue

Sports Facilities

There are several council run leisure centres in Belfast and all offer student rates. For more details visit: [Belfast City Council](#) - good discounts are available with the new Boost card. If living in South Belfast you may be interested in joining Queen's University [Physical Education Centre](#) (PEC) which is located in Botanic Gardens just off Stranmillis Road.

Tourist Information

Information for visitors to Belfast can be found on the [Belfast Welcome Centre](#) website. The Belfast Welcome Centre is located in Royal Avenue in the city centre (beside Boots). For an overview of Northern Ireland visit the [Tourist Board](#).

Contact Details

Trinity College Dublin at Belfast, Irish School of Ecumenics, 683 Antrim Road, Belfast, BT15 4EG, Northern Ireland

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