



Checklist for International Students Irish School of Ecumenics, Belfast

- Do you have a valid student visa issued by the UK to study in Northern Ireland?**

*In order to obtain a UK student visa you will need a **CAS number and statement** from ISE. Please contact the Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation (CRR) Executive Officer – contact details on page 3. You can obtain a CAS when you have received an unconditional offer, and paid your deposit to Trinity.*

- Have you bought travel tickets?**

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.

- Do you need directions to the school?**

*Please download a **Directions Factsheet** from www.ecumenics.ie*

- Do you know when you need to arrive at ISE?**

Please keep a check on www.ecumenics.ie for updates on orientation events. In 2010 Orientation will start with a get together with current students on the weekend of Saturday 18 - Sunday 19 September 2010. Orientation will be held at ISE Belfast on Thursday 23 am followed by the Research Skills mini intensive on Thursday afternoon and all day Friday 24. Students will travel to Dublin to register at TCD on Monday 27 September and weekly classes will start on Tuesday 28. Draft dates and a timetable are available at www.ecumenics.ie.

- Have you told the school when you are likely to arrive in Belfast?**

You can do this by contacting the CRR Executive Officer.

- Do you have accommodation arranged upon your arrival to Belfast?**

*Please download the **Prospective Student Handbook** from www.ecumenics.ie.*

- Would you like to spend an hour or two with a past or current student to help you get oriented to life in Belfast?**

Please sign up for our welcoming scheme by contacting the CRR office.



- Do you have a 24-hour telephone number of someone you can contact at ISE Belfast if you have problems on your journey?**

Please contact the following numbers in the order they are listed. Only proceed to the next number if there is no response at an earlier number:

1. In the first instance try these office numbers in the order listed below:

Executive Officer, Ms. Caroline Clarke, +44 (0)28 9077 0087 (Mondays – Fridays, 9am – 1pm), email reconsec@tcd.ie

Programme Coordinator, Dr David Tombs, +44 (0)28 9037 3989, email tombsd@tcd.ie

Lecturer, Dr Gladys Ganiel, +44 (0)28 9037 3988, email gganiel@tcd.ie

2. If none of the above are successful, and an urgent response is required, please contact:

Course Coordinator, Dr Gladys Ganiel on mobile tel. +44 (0)7890 233708

3. If still not successful, and it is a genuine emergency, then please contact:

Lecturer, Dr David Tombs, on mobile tel. +44 (0) 7982 239611 and/or home tel. +44 (0)28 9029 1151.

- Do you have a contact when you arrive at ISE Belfast?**

Either the information above or those with whom you may have arranged housing would be the most suitable unless you have alternative arrangements.

- Have you planned your journey from the point of entry to your final destination?**

*As noted above, for visa purposes, you need to arrive come through a UK customs/passport control entry point (i.e., Belfast airport or from Great Britain). Arrival in Dublin/Republic of Ireland **will not** provide you with a valid entry point on your visa. If you have arrived from Belfast International Airport (BFS), there is a regularly scheduled bus that runs from BFS to city centre and you can go on to your final destination from there.*

- Have you made all the necessary arrangements for any family, if they are coming with you or have you provided contact information for family who are staying behind?**

ISE has wi-fi as well as a student computer room for access to the internet during its opening hours. There are also internet cafes in town. Skype is the best option for keeping in touch with people overseas if you have access to a computer. If you are moving into a house that does not yet have internet, be aware that it may take up to 2-3 weeks to get it connected.



- Have you obtained a letter from your doctor for any prescribed drugs you may need to bring with you or any other medical conditions should you need medical attention?**

Once you arrive in Belfast, you should register with the National Health Service through a local General Practitioner (GP) in order to have regular medical care if needed. This service is free to students with a full year student visa with exception to some discounted prescription rates.

- Do you have means of procuring British currency (pound sterling) for expenses upon your immediate arrival, either via a bankcard/ATM or traveler's cheques, or have you ordered the currency prior to your departure?**

There are plenty of ATMs/cash machines in Belfast, as long as you have a PIN number for your bank or credit card. Northern Ireland operates on the British Pound Sterling (GBP). The Republic of Ireland operates on the Euro (which you won't need until you are traveling to Dublin for orientation).

- Have you checked whether you need permission to transfer money to the UK?**
- Have you checked whether your government has restrictions on the amount of money you can take out of your country?
- Have you visited <http://www.educationuk.org>? Click on 'Living in the UK from one of the drop-down boxes and 'Health and Safety' and then click on the publication 'Safety First' – a personal guide for international students.**
- Have you taken out personal insurance?**

Some feel more secure if they have insurance for a variety of needs: travel, property, repatriation, or medical. For most travelers, it is not necessary. But you should check with your visa requirements before deciding.

- Have you checked with your local British Mission what you must declare at customs?**

Have you weighed your baggage to ensure that it is within your baggage allowance and is easily transportable for your onward journey?

CONTACT THE CRR OFFICE

Executive Officer: Ms. Caroline Clarke

Address: 683 Antrim Road, Belfast, BT15 4EG, Northern Ireland

Phone: +44 (0)28 9077 0087 (Mondays – Fridays, 9am – 1pm)

Email: reconsec@tcd.ie