
Ireland Summer Session ***2018***

Literary Ireland: The Influence of Landscapes and Cities



Study Abroad Program Guide **Prepared by Maria S Horne and Chelsea L Horne**

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DESTINATION: DUBLIN AND GALWAY

SPECIAL NOTES REGARDING OUR DESTINATION

Location

Dublin, the capital of Ireland and a UNESCO City of Literature, boasts four Nobel prize winners (Yeats, Beckett, Shaw, and Heaney), world-renowned universities such as Trinity College and UCD, over half a dozen book festivals, the prestigious Dublin Literary Award, and the internationally acclaimed Abbey Theatre. Dublin is rich in history, culture, and art, and it is both an influence to writers and a setting to literary works.

Galway, home to the International Arts Festival and a UNESCO City of Film, stands at a pivotal vantage point on the West Coast of Ireland. The city is also home to the top-ranked National University of Ireland and to the Druid Theatre Company, one of the nation's most famous troops. Galway's center is the 18th-century Eyre Square, surrounded by shops and traditional pubs offering live Irish folk music. Nearby, stone-clad cafes and art galleries line the winding lanes of the Latin Quarter, which retains portions of the medieval city walls.

If sheep, lake monsters, mountains, bogs, valleys, myth, magic, and beautiful scenery are what you wish, then come with us to see the land that inspired generations of Irish writers!

Climate

Ireland's weather is hardly predictable. The climate is usually mild, damp, and changeable (sometimes you can experience all four-seasons in one day). Be prepared for rain; it's why Ireland is so green! So, while it does rain in summer, drizzles and showers alternate with bright sunshine on and off and you will need sunscreen (even with clouds, the sun can be strong). The summer days are long and the sun shines well into the evening hours (think sunset at around 10:00pm), giving way to the Irish saying "sure there's a grand stretch in the evenings." In summer, the averages for highest temperatures are between 64°F and 68°F, but there could be heat waves or cold spells too. In this climate, having a layer to peel off (and put back on) is important. Jeans, layers, the occasional sweater, and a rainproof jacket are recommended, as is a good pair of weatherproof sneakers or boots and socks. Take into consideration that the weather is unreliable so we don't know for sure how it will be during our visit. Layers are the way to go, along with outdoor wear that will keep you dry. Remember to pack both sunglasses and an umbrella.

Transportation

Our program covers all your ground transportation to all program activities while in Ireland, including round-trip transfer from Dublin to Galway. Note that on your arrival to Dublin's airport we will meet you there for a direct transfer from Dublin airport to Galway. However, the cost of the transfer from Trinity College to Dublin airport for your return home flight is your responsibility. A main bus stop to the airport is very near to Trinity College and costs about \$10. Also not included in the program fee: any personal trips you may choose to add.

During our program, we will walk a lot; repeat, a lot! It is crucial that you bring comfortable shoes/sneakers. You don't need many of them, just 2 pairs total, but they must be very comfortable and weatherproof (remember that even if it isn't raining, the ground most like will still be wet with dew). So, wear one pair on the plane and pack the other one on your carry-on luggage. It is important that your feet are dry and comfortable all the time and that you don't get blisters or sprain your ankles.

Food

Irish cuisine has adapted not only to the climate of its cities, but also combines a great variety of ingredients from around the world. Traditional elements from cultures across the globe have been incorporated to the Irish diet and you'll find restaurants and foods of all sorts in the markets. Be sure to indulge in traditional Irish fare like Beef and Guinness Stew, Bangers and Mash, Colcannon and Champ, boxty, and soda bread. One of the most representative dishes of the country is "Irish Stew" and "Fish & Chips" and the traditional, heartily portioned "Full Irish Breakfast." And many places offer gluten-free, vegan, and vegetarian options. Irish cuisine often makes use of the potato; how many different ways can you count?

While eating out is tempting, it can drain a budget very fast. So plan ahead and use your kitchens. Both of our housing locations will have a fully equipped kitchen, and cooking together will create a great sense of community, save you a lot of money, and it will also allow you to keep a healthy diet. Also, for our outings, prepare sandwiches/lunches to bring along so you can "eat on the hoof." And before our outings, always remember to have a hearty meal. We will be walking quite a bit, so it is important to fuel up before we go out.

Alcohol

All 18-year-old participants will be of legal drinking age while in Ireland. Every participant must behave responsibly in choices involving alcohol, as the abuse of alcohol endangers not only the individual who does so, but other participants in the program as well. Alcohol **abuse** is grounds for immediate dismissal from the program, at the discretion of the program directors. However, wine, whiskey, and beer (especially in friendly pubs) are certainly staples of the Irish culture of food and drink, and can be enjoyed in moderation. Remember, alcohol consumption is never mandatory and students should feel no pressure or obligation whatsoever to participate in the consumption of alcohol.

Personal Safety

Once in Ireland, you will participate in a "Living in Ireland Orientation" where you will gain valuable information. Both Dublin and Galway are quite safe, but like in all cities there are dangers you must

be aware of. Keep in mind to always travel in groups, never alone; beware of pickpockets; beware of unstable individuals and of your surroundings.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Official Ireland Tourism Page: www.ireland.com

Embassy of Ireland in the US: <https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/usa/>

US Embassy in Ireland: <https://ie.usembassy.gov/>

THE PROGRAM DIRECTORS

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ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Once all participants have committed to the program by making their down payment, the program will begin with a pre-departure “literary salon” during the spring semester of 2018 at time/location TBA, where students will get to know each other (not mandatory for non-UB participants residing elsewhere). This will be a great opportunity to pose questions as well as gathering useful information on how to best plan your trip abroad. Next, there will be a pre-departure Program Orientation session held by the Office of Study abroad (TBA), which will include a general study abroad presentation followed by our program’s breakout session (TBA). Students will also be expected to complete all required reading and media viewings assignments prior to departure.

Additionally, UB e-mail will be our method of communication to share critical information throughout the program, including the before/after overseas component. We will also use a Facebook Group to communicate program information. Students should check their FB and UB email on a daily basis, particularly while abroad.

Program Description

Literary Ireland: The Influence of Landscapes and Cities is an intensive experiential program that integrates the study of dramatic literature with focused research on its relationship with landscapes and cities. We will explore Ireland coast to coast: from artistic Galway to literary Dublin. While the program is jam-packed, there will also be free time to relax and enjoy Ireland’s cities and truly magical countryside on your own. This is a 3-credit course that satisfies an Arts credit in the older UB Gen Ed program and in the new Global Pathways program as part of the UB Curriculum.

This is an experiential 21-day discovery of Ireland's literary world. Ireland's very cities and landscapes will be our classrooms! Learning and teaching take place onsite at some of the world's most fascinating sites: historical (Dublin Castle, GPO, Kilmainham Jail, St. Patrick's), cultural (Abbey Theatre, Book of Kells, Guinness Storehouse, National Museums, a Literary Pub Crawl) and ecological (Galway Bay, the Wild Atlantic Way), and much more! Our guided journeys allow students to become knowledgeable and familiar with the country that provides such inspiration for its writers. Students will also visit the library and archives of the National University of Ireland Galway where, working in small groups, they will conduct independent field research on a topic of their selection and digitally documenting their discoveries.

Daily itineraries take us on comprehensive explorations of Ireland's past, present, and future. And to further enrich appreciation of the influence of cities and landscapes in dramatic literature, the program includes several strategically chosen day trips corresponding to the course's curriculum: Connemara and Cong; the Cliffs of Moher and the Burren; Inishmore of the Aran Islands; Malahide Castle and Gardens; and the Game of Thrones film locations to experience the breathtaking landscapes of the north. This summer, winter is coming!

Course Description

The arts do not occur in a vacuum. They are the indisputable reflection of the distinct culture responsible for its production. Artistic manifestations illuminate humankind and they often are precursors of the future. They reflect on the effects of the past, pose questions on the present, and dare with visions of things to come. To fully comprehend a literary piece, it is necessary to also comprehend the people, culture, and landscapes that created it. Learning how to appreciate dramatic literature through its landscapes expands our understanding of different cultures, and in turn, of ourselves and of humankind. This course, *TH 481 Irish Dramatists: The Influence of Landscapes and Cities*, explores themes of identity, nationalism, and revolt, particularly emphasizing the tradition of tragic-comedy in the work of Irish writers, on the very locations where their plays take place. This is a 3 credit-hour course that fulfills a UB General Education requirement (Arts).

Objectives

- acquire the skills to become more globally and cross-culturally competent
- learn about and how to appreciate cultures that are different from own
- expand understanding of oneself and of the people of different cultures
- learn how to appreciate literature, drama, culture, and their relationships to the environment
- acquire knowledge of Irish dramatists and the influence of landscapes and cities exert in their works
- analyze the work of major Irish dramatic playwrights
- develop tools on how to critically absorb and experience an artistic expression while gaining further knowledge of the people and culture that created it
- identify a variety of genres, methods, and techniques in literature and the dramatic arts
- examine the reciprocal nature of environment (city and landscape) and the artist
- reflect on personal and communal experiences from a holistic worldview perspective

Assignments

At the beginning of the course and once in Ireland, students will receive a daily schedule of activities. Prior to departure from the United States, students will also receive a course syllabus outlining assignments and required readings and viewings. Tentative plans for graded work: an e-portfolio/digital journal starting with a preliminary entry prior to departure and entries throughout the program; attendance to all Literary Salons and scheduled activities/programming; an independent group research project and oral presentation to be presented on location; and a self-reflective final paper due no later than June 18th upon returning home.

Grading and Conduct

Students will receive a letter grade for the course. Conduct will affect the overall grade, hopefully in a positive way. While abroad, UB students are ambassadors for our university and our country, and are held to high standards and to all university regulations.

ACCOMMODATIONS

While in Dublin, students follow in the footsteps of iconic Irish scholars and reside at Trinity College's historic on-campus housing, in the heart of the city by the vibrant Temple Bar district, and in walking distance to all the top attractions. While in Galway, students stay in the centrally located historic Latin Quarter at Kinlay House, voted Best Hostel in Ireland.

All accommodations are prearranged and included in the program fee. Detailed information on housing, address, phone numbers, emergency contacts, etc., will be sent as addendums via e-mail and will also be available at the Study Abroad Office.

ADVICE ON MONEY, COMPUTERS, PHONE, ETC.

Your UB Student ID can save you money!

Do not forget to bring your UB student ID to get discounts at theatres, attractions, stores, and more!

Money for Students from the US

Your credit card is a good alternative to carrying cash and it will automatically convert the local charges into dollars on your statement, often with a service fee, unless you own a credit card that has "no foreign transaction fees." The advantage to using a credit card is that a written record of purchases will appear on your monthly statement and also that you won't need to pay until billed. However, despite the convenience, it can be very easy to overspend. Carry at least some cash and be disciplined about purchases. You are not required to acquire Euros until you get to Ireland, however, it may be a good idea to arrive in Dublin with at least some Euros, which you can order ahead from your bank (plan ahead, it takes several days). Personally, we use an ATM/debit card to get cash on location, usually at the airport in Dublin. You get the bank's exchange rate, and there is usually a fee per transaction. Before departure, find out how much your bank fee is per transaction so that you are not

unpleasantly surprised and make sure your bank account allows for international withdrawals. Double check that your PIN number will work abroad! Not all ATM cards automatically do: some need activation. There also may be problems if your debit card is linked to a savings account vs. a checking account. Make sure you contact your bank before departure to set a “travel alert” and to check on how to use your debit card/ATM in Ireland and what it will cost. Additionally, be aware that there could be two service fees per transaction: one charged by your bank and then another one charged by the Irish bank. In order to avoid the 2nd service fee, check with your bank and ask for a list of “sister” or “partner” institutions that will not charge a 2nd fee.

Do not buy traveler’s checks, almost no one uses them. Do not carry large amounts of US currency, but have some as a back-up that you can exchange in a pinch, in case of difficulties with your credit or debit card. To summarize: use credit card/cash whenever possible (using an ATM card to withdraw cash as necessary) and keep very close track of debit and credit card usage and fees.

Computers and Personal Electronics

In Ireland, the electricity runs on 220-240 volts, which is not what we use in the USA. Additionally, they use a different kind of electrical outlet. So you will need to do two things: 1) to find out if your electrical computers and personal electronics have a built-in converter that makes them safe to use with 220-240 volts (otherwise they will fry upon connection). If the answer is yes, you are OK and proceed to step 2; if the answer is no, then you need to purchase an electricity converter (note that this is different from an *outlet adapter*; you might need both). And 2) you will need to buy an electrical outlet adapter for the Ireland/UK. Outlet adapters are available at AAA, Walmart, Target and most electronics stores for less than \$10. Electricity converters however are more expensive.

Phones Generally

Contact your cell/mobile phone carrier and find out if your (typically locked) US phones will work in Ireland. You may wish to investigate purchasing a local SIM card with a short-term data plan from a retailer in Ireland. Skype, WhatsApp, and Facetime are free and convenient ways to check in with home. Ireland country code: +353.

Time

At this time of year, there will be a 4-hour differential between Ireland and the US Eastern time. That means that noon in Buffalo will translate to 4:00pm in Ireland.

Water

Tap water in Ireland is Tap water in Ireland is controversial. We recommend you do not drink tap water but instead choose filtered water or purchase purified water. Restaurants do offer filtered water as part of the tap water service, but just in case ask if their water is filtered.

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Students are responsible for making their own international travel arrangements. Students are expected to book their own round-trip flight to Dublin Airport (DUB), departing from city of their choice, on Tuesday May 22 (please note this is an overnight flight) arriving in Dublin on the morning of Wednesday May 23. Students should book their return home flight for June 11.

Students are expected to arrive in Dublin on the morning of Tuesday, May 23, 2018, which means taking an overnight flight departing from the USA on May 22, 2018. Upon their morning arrival at

Dublin Airport, at a time to be confirmed, students will be met by faculty directors and together we will transfer from Dublin Airport to Galway via bus. On June 3, faculty and students will travel back via bus to Dublin as a group. On the morning of June 11, students will check out by 10:00am from their rooms at Trinity College and they will independently transfer to Dublin airport to catch their flight back home. The bus to the airport has a stop just outside Trinity College.

Early arrivals/late departures cannot be accommodated. However, students can petition (in writing to faculty directors prior to departure) to meet the group directly at Kinlay House in Galway in the early afternoon of May 23 as long as they work out their own transfer to Galway, and in this case, at their own expense.

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Program participants must have a valid passport. Check the expiration date and ensure it will still be valid at the time of travel. Expiration date should be no less than six months after travel dates.

Regarding visas, Ireland requires visas for citizens of a number of countries. Whether you need a visa to enter Ireland depends on what country you're from. At present, US citizens do not require a visa. However, if you hold a passport from any other country other than the US, please make sure you check visa requirements at <https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/usa/our-services/visas/visas-for-ireland/>. If you do need a visa—while sometimes visas are processed in a considerably shorter time—please allow at least 8 weeks for processing. Please do not hesitate to contact the UB Office of Study Abroad if you need help with your visa application process!

KEEP YOUR IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS AND ITEMS SAFE

Carry all important documents such as money, credit cards, passport, and plane tickets with you in your carry-on bag. One of the best ways to keep these items safe from harm is to purchase a holder that you wear under your clothes. These are available from most luggage stores, AAA, etc. and usually in two styles: with a string to wear around neck or with a strap to wear around your waist.

Make three photocopies of your passport and leave one at home with someone you can easily be in touch with should you lose your passport. Hide the second copy in your luggage, separate from your passport. And the third keep with you at all times to use as ID (ie. proof of age). In addition scan and/or copy all credit cards/ATM cards you carry and leave a copy at home with someone easy to contact and also upload a PDF that you could easily retrieve online if needed. In the unfortunate event you were to lose passport and/or cards, you will be then able to retrieve the information and contact the appropriate agencies.

Lastly, do not bring irreplaceable items on this trip. No need for expensive jewelry or accessories either.

SUGGESTED PACKING LIST

Guiding Principles:

- Only pack what you can carry without outside help! Travel light.

- Plan on carrying your luggage with you on board to ensure you and your luggage arrive together.
- Check with your airline for baggage allowances and carry on regulations (particularly in terms of fluids, and total weight allowed, etc.)
- Only bring what is necessary. You can buy at the supermarket any toiletries you forget and Ireland has plenty of everything else you may need.
- Dark clothing may be easier to keep clean.
- Technically you only need 2-3 outfits: two for everyday so you can change clothes and one for more dressed up occasions if you choose to go out at night. Anything else is extra. Remember you don't need to impress anyone. And besides every day we will be in a different place so no one will know you are repeating outfits!
- After you finish packing, pick up your suitcase/bag and go up and down a flight of stairs. If you can't do it with ease or if it is cumbersome, rethink your packing until you are self-sufficient. There will be no porters assisting you once you are abroad. And you will have to use stairs with your suitcase in Ireland.
- You are representing your university and your country abroad!

Additional Observations:

- Summer in Ireland is still summer and is mild though unpredictable. Plan to dress in layers, have comfortable weatherproof sneakers/boots and a good rainproof jacket. Bring a sweater too.
- At Kinlay House, you may 'hire' towels for an additional cost, or bring your own from home to save money.
- Sheets/linens, however, will be provided.
- Plan on bringing something that says UB! A shirt, a hat, etc., so you can take photos for the contest proudly displaying our colors and logo.

Recommended Clothing:

- Rainproof jacket!!!
- Socks
- Shirts: long sleeves, T-shirts, for under layers
- A sweater for on top
- Jeans/long pants
- Shoes/preferably sneakers or boots that are weatherproof because it will be wet and/or dewy, and that are comfortable for extended walking (No high heels please! No dress shoes! at least for our walks/excursions, of which we have many)
- Re-read the guiding principles above

Personal Care:

- Vitamins, and other medical needs
- Travel size toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, moisturizer and other creams, etc.)
- Antiperspirant
- Sunscreen
- Dramamine or motion sickness medicine (non-drowsy); recommended for our ferry ride
- Make-up, shaving needs, if needed
- If you wear prescription glasses, bring a 2nd pair in case you lose or break your 1st pair. It can happen!

- Contact lenses and contact solution, and your glasses for when you are not using contacts. Actually, it is best not to travel on a plane with contact lenses because your eyes dry out a lot. Use your glasses for the flight instead.

Other Necessities:

- Your UB student ID
- Neck wallet or waist pack that hangs inside your shirt to hold passport, etc.
- Important addresses and phone numbers for contacting friend and relatives
- Camera/Smartphone
- Sunglasses
- Small folding umbrella, but then again, they sell them in Ireland and they make a great souvenir
- Prescription medication in original container carried on plane with you. Depending on the prescription you may need a doctors' note to import prescribed drugs or medical equipment in Ireland. If in doubt, check directly with the Irish consulate

*Lastly, it is not how much stuff you bring to Ireland,
but what you take away from being there!*

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

UB Study Abroad Programs:

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Director, Study Abroad Programs
University at Buffalo
201 Talbert Hall
Buffalo, New York 14260

Office Phone: +1 716 645-3912 (business hours: Mon-Fri 8:30am-5:00pm)
Emergency Phone: +1 716 645-2222 (UB Police – 24 hours)
Fax: +1 716 645-6197
E-mail: maryodrz@buffalo.edu or studyabroad@buffalo.edu

United States Embassy in Dublin

42 Elgin Road
Ballsbridge
Dublin 4
Phone: +353 1 668-8777

For non-emergency services, including visa appointments, ESTA questions and passport renewals or replacements, please see our General Contacts Page: <https://ie.usembassy.gov/embassy/embassy-dublin/mission/contact-us/>.

In Case of Emergency

If you are an American citizen in Ireland in need of emergency assistance outside of regular business hours (including weekends and [holidays](#)), please call the Embassy's main number (01)668 8777 and follow the prompts to reach the operator. You will be connected to the U.S. Marine Security Guard on duty who will assist with directing your call.

If you are an American citizen in Ireland in need of emergency assistance during regular business hours (7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.), please call the Embassy main number (01-668-8777) and follow the prompts to reach the American Citizen Services Unit.

Police/Fire/Ambulance emergencies in Ireland: 999 and 112.