

Quinn Business School – University College Dublin

Semester 1 2017

BCom Accounting & Finance

Just like everyone else I would have to say that going on exchange was one of the best experiences! There were so many cool people to meet from all over the world and so much stuff to do! It's definitely an eye-opening experience especially for someone from way down in NZ.

Accommodation

The accommodation is great it's modern and a great way to meet people. I would really recommend trying to stay in University College Dublin (UCD) campus accommodation. If you're doing majority business classes Belgrove and Ashfield are right beside Quinn Business School and also the library is really close by as well. Most of the campus accommodation is not catered and also has apartment style rooms. However, Roebuck Castle is catered and is also on campus. I would try stay clear of Muckross if you can as it's a wee way off campus (about 40min walk or 15min bus). I had a friend there and it was hard to catch up and time the buses etc. Also, when you are getting your student visa expect to spend a few hours at GNIB in Dublin and also book an appointment time early as spaces fill up quick!

Transport

The Aircoach will become your best friend, you can get a €14 return ticket to the airport. It takes about 45 minutes to get to the airport from UCD. You should also get a Leap card in orientation week as it makes catching the bus so much easier- you don't have to lug change around and you get a discount! Another must do is download the Dublin bus app. This gives you routes of buses, their live timetabling, and where your closest stops are. Taxis are a little pricy so try to avoid during the daytime, there is also a taxi app called "my taxi".

Money

Dublin is about the same costs as New Zealand if not a little more expensive, but once you get used to all the different shops you can get around easier and save more. A pint of Guinness will generally set you back around €5. I would recommend doing your shopping at Tesco, Lidl or Aldi as they are your cheaper options. You can catch the 47 bus to Tesco but just make sure you check the timetables, otherwise you might be waiting a while. The Ikea buses at the start run by ResLife are also a must do to get some cheap stuff to furnish your room, going to Ikea is an experience itself! Penny's is the Irish version of Primark so is the one stop shop for heaps of cheap clothing and accessories.

Courses

I took 6 papers and the workload would have been about the same to 4 papers at Otago. Each of my classes had 2 hours per week and sometimes assignments. I would really recommend MIS30150, as for one of the two hours a week you were in a Bloomberg lab which was awesome and the lecturer was great. This course ended up also being all internal. The assignments weren't too bad and it meant one less exam to worry about! Another thing

you should be aware about is that assignments for different papers often have similar due dates especially group projects at the end of the semester.

Campus

The campus is huge- if you imagine a park with some small lakes and then some buildings, that's UCD. It even has swans on the lakes! When you first arrive, you are issued with an UCard – this is pretty much everything. It acts as a room key, a library card, laundry money and you can also buy things at the campus shops with it. The campus facilities are amazing, they have heaps of fields, a hockey turf, the UCD bowl (you should try watch a rugby game here), new gym, swimming pool, student cinema, a bar and heaps of other things! There is also heaps of clubs and societies you can get involved with. On the first day of semester (black Monday) head to the Clubhouse Bar as well which is on Campus.

Places to Visit

In terms of flights around Europe try to book a little earlier, Google flights is handy to see which airlines/places will be the cheapest and best option. Ryanair has also just started a student deal where you get 15% off and a free checked bag! For accommodation, you can either use AirBnB or Hostelworld. Ireland also has some amazing places to visit and with heaps of connecting buses and trains it's easy to get around from Dublin. Galway and the Cliffs of Moher are a must do! Paddywagon tours also do some pretty cool guided tours on coaches around Ireland.

Eating

There are plenty of places you need to try in Dublin! Like Bunsen Burger, Eatyard, Mao at Home and the Hairy Lemon Pub. Also Accents is a really cute café with heaps of couches, they also have good Wi-Fi and power plugs so it's a perfect place to study. Lovin' Dublin on Facebook have a lot of great suggestions for places to eat and around Trinity College you can get student deals which they also have lists for. You should also try the Chicken Fillet Rolls and Pizza at least once from Centra! They also have Ben & Jerry's Ice cream at the entrance which is sometimes way too tempting.

Things to Do

If you go on exchange 1st semester, make sure you're around for St Patrick's Day! Dublin is an awesome place to just wander around, however make sure you're prepared for random weather changes! There are also some really nice places on the outskirts as well. The DART is perfect to for a day trip to Howth and then down to Dun Laoghrie for the Sunday Market – make sure you try an ice cream from Teddy's and also Scrumdiddly's. On another nice day, Phoenix Park is a really cool place to see, it's huge and they even have deer roaming around the park. Tuesday nights at the Stags Head is Ukulele Tuesday, which I recommend everyone to go to at least once! There is heaps of people playing Ukuleles and words on the screen for everyone to sing along – it can be heard from the street!



On Campus looking towards the Law Building and Merville Reception



The streets are packed for the St Patrick's Day festival!



Cliffs of Moher – one of my favourite places in Ireland