

**University College Dublin – Quinn School of Business**  
**2018 Semester 1**  
**BCom Accounting & Finance**

Going on exchange to Dublin has been an amazing experience. Ireland is full of warm and welcoming locals, which makes Dublin very easy to acclimatise to. Exchange gave me the opportunity to have a base in Europe to see some of the world. If you can work it into your degree you shouldn't hesitate to do so.

### **Accommodation**

I stayed on campus in Glenomena student residence. I was in a shared apartment of six, each of us with our own ensuite. For on campus accommodation the basics are included, however, you must provide your kitchen equipment and bedding. All of these are easy purchases from IKEA which UCD Reslife runs buses to during orientation week.

Booking the on campus accommodation is notoriously hectic. I got online a few minutes after the website opened and managed to get Glenomena, it was around 1am NZ time. Another student from Otago I was talking to was online at 5am NZ time and by that time everything had already been taken. So if you really want to have on campus accommodation be prepared to get an early start.

### **Academics**

<b>Course title</b>	<b>Otago equivalent</b>
<b>ACC30020 – Financial Accounting III</b>	ACCT315
<b>ACC30040 – Advanced Management Accounting</b>	ACCT302
<b>FIN30090 – Treasury and Risk Management</b>	FIN3xx
<b>IRST30150 – Ireland Uncovered</b>	-
<b>MIS20010 – Business Analytics</b>	-

6 courses at UCD = 4 at Otago

**ACC30020** – this was a very slow paper with an uninspiring lecturer. The content was not overly difficult but it was hard to get motivated to study for.

**ACC30040** – taught by Dr Christoph Dreschler. It is a small class of around 30 students. Christoph is a character, and he is intent on making the class as interactive as possible, with varying degrees of success. Quite an easy paper.

**FIN30090** – a challenging but rewarding paper. A bit harder than FINC202 at Otago.

**MIS20010** – an easy stats paper. Only covered four introductory topics during the semester. If you are alright with excel this paper is a breeze.

**IRST30150** – this paper was sold to the international students as a great way to learn about Irish history/culture. There were different lecturers every week covering different topics, the lectures ranged in quality. Easy to pass.

Like the accommodation, signing up for courses was stressful. Some of the classes fill up very quickly (within minutes), as do the best time slots for tutorials and computer labs. I cannot stress enough the importance of being online at the right time, especially if you do not have much flexibility with possible papers.

## Money matters

Approximate costs in NZD:

Accommodation	\$8,500	Insurance	\$800
Return Flights	\$1,500	Food	\$55/week
INIS Visa	\$550	Laundry	\$8/load

Once you are in Dublin, things are very expensive. For example, a pint of beer will set you back at least €5, and eating out is more expensive than Dunedin. The campus supermarket does do cheap subs and pizzas. Groceries are also more expensive than Dunedin so bear that in mind when budgeting for the trip.

I didn't open a bank account in Ireland, instead I used cash passport and a visa debit card.

### **Visas & Insurance**

You must get an INIS study visa whilst you are in Ireland. You have around three months to get this from when you arrive. Be aware that through the current process there is excess demand to book your appointment with INIS. The new appointments come up at around 10am every weekday. It took me over a month of ritually checking for free slots to get an appointment so I would get onto this as soon as possible.

### **Extra-curricular/Social Activities**

The UCD International Student Society runs weekend trips around Ireland throughout the semester. It's a good way to meet other international students at the start of semester before you go off planning your own trips.

If you play sport, I recommend joining a local team. I played touch and handball, and through this I managed to go away on a touch trip to Barcelona with a team full of locals.

### **Things to do**

The student pub on campus is lively most nights of the week, especially during sports games. Every Tuesday night at the Stagshead pub is ukulele night which provides a great atmosphere. Also, get along to any pub with live Irish music at least once. Finally, make sure to catch at least one game of Gaelic football and hurling at Croke Park.

### **Places to visit**

I would highly recommend getting to Galway as soon as possible, as well as travelling around the west coast of Ireland. Londonderry in Northern Ireland is full of recent history and there is a unique museum you can go to run by locals whose brothers and fathers were killed in the violence there

in the 70s. I would also recommend doing day trips to Howth and Wicklow. Outside of Ireland, with Ryanair and other airlines there are plenty of opportunities to get cheap flights wherever you desire around Europe.

### **Any tips for future students?**

- Get your student leap card – the leap card is what you use to pay for public transport at a discounted rate. It means you can avoid having to lug around spare change
- Sign up to ESN – this costs €10 during orientation and you get 8 flights with Ryanair at a discount of 15% as well as a free checked bag
- If you play sport, join a local team



Howth



Aran  
Islands



Sandymount  
Touch team  
in Barcelona