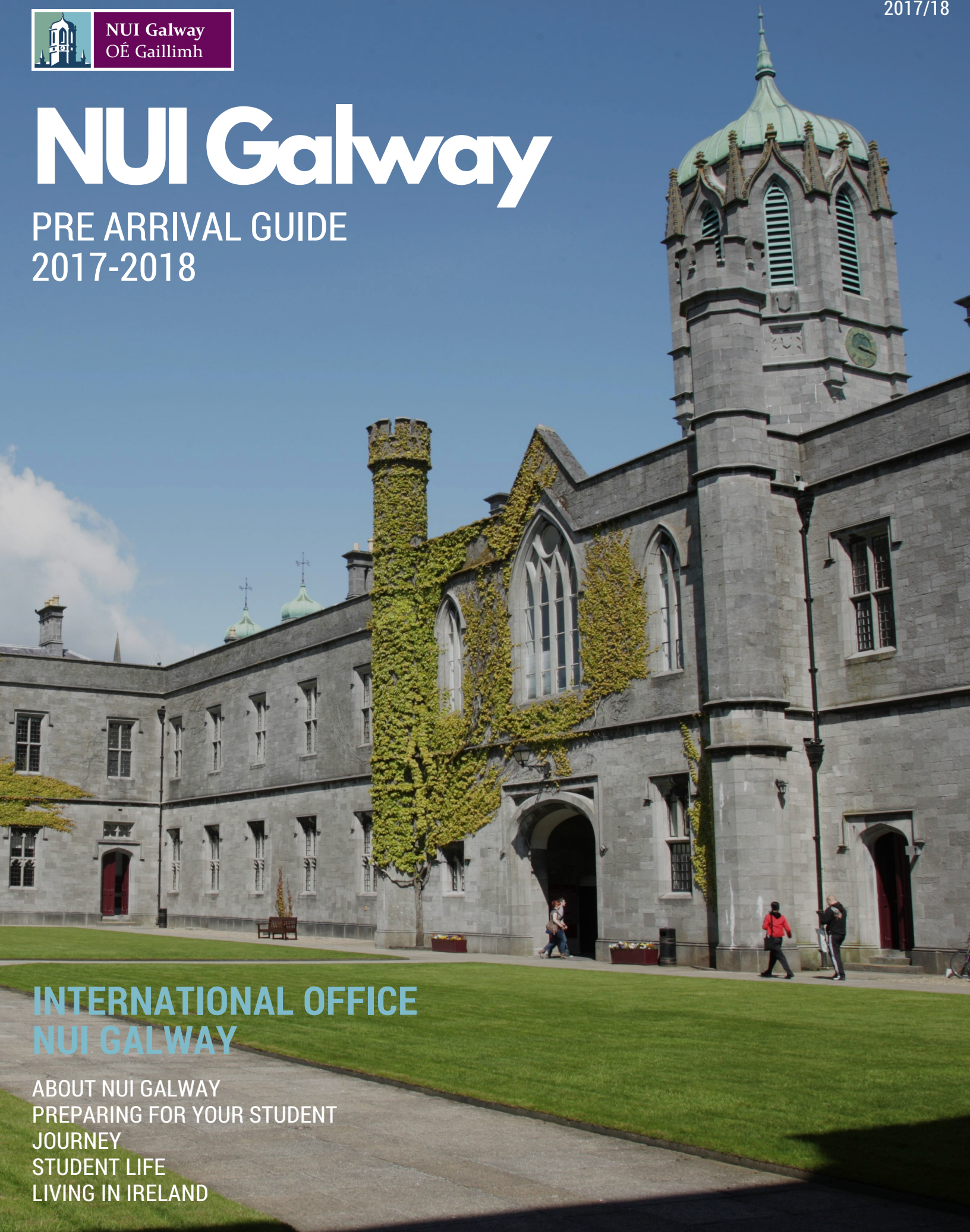


NUI Galway

PRE ARRIVAL GUIDE
2017-2018

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE NUI GALWAY

ABOUT NUI GALWAY
PREPARING FOR YOUR STUDENT
JOURNEY
STUDENT LIFE
LIVING IN IRELAND



Contents



Your Student Journey

About NUI Galway

- 3 About NUI Galway
- 4 About Ireland
- 5 Why Galway?
- 6 The Student Experience

Before You Arrive

- 7 Accept your Offer
- 7 Pay Your Deposit/
- 8 Tuition Fee
- 9 Plan Your Budget
- 10 Health Insurance
- 11 Apply for a Study VISA
- 12 Accommodation
- 13 How to get to Galway

After You Arrive

- 14 Immigration in Ireland
- 15 Orientation
- 16 Opening a Bank Account
- 16 Working in Ireland
- 16 Mobile Phones
- 17 Contact Details
- 18 Key Dates

*The contents of this booklet are for information purposes only and shall not be deemed to constitute a contract between NUI Galway and an applicant or any other third party. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this publication, the University reserves the right to amend, change or delete any courses, syllabuses, examinations, dates, fees, regulations, rules or orders at any time without notice.

About NUI Galway

About NUI Galway

Established in 1845, National University of Ireland, Galway (NUI Galway) has 170 years' experience of teaching and research across a wide range of academic disciplines.

The research environment at NUI Galway is strongly interdisciplinary, built on the University's particular areas of expertise. In recent years, the University has been extremely successful in developing a number of internationally renowned centres of excellence, in areas including Irish Studies, Child and Family Research, Film and Digital Media, Human Rights, Biomedical Engineering, Semantic Web Technology, Environmental and Marine Science.

As a result, today NUI Galway attracts leading academics from around the world, whose expertise helps ensure that our teaching and research programmes continue to respond to the ever changing needs of students, employers and the wider society. In fact 35% of our staff are from overseas, coming from 45 countries worldwide.

1%

According to QS,
NUI Galway is among
the Top 1% of universities
in the world

96%

of our grads are working
or in further study 6
months after graduating

#1

Galway has been dubbed
the 'Most Charming City'
by the New York Times



About Ireland

Population: 4.7 million

A Friendly, Safe Environment: Ireland is the 10th most peaceful place on Earth according to the Global Peace Index, 2017 and was also voted the "most friendly country in the world," according to the Lonely Planet, 2010.

Language: While Ireland has its own language and distinct cultural identity, English is the universal spoken language. In fact, Ireland is the only English-speaking country in the Eurozone.

High Standard of Education: Ireland is ranked in the top 1% of universities worldwide according to QS World University Rankings 2017.

Leading Companies in Ireland: Over 1,000 FDI giants in ICT, Social Media, Pharmaceuticals and Finance have made Ireland the hub of their European operations, with names such as Google, HP, Apple, IBM, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Pfizer.

Weather: Ireland enjoys a temperate climate, with warm summers and mild winters.

8

of the top 10 global
ICT companies are
located in
Ireland

8

of the top 10
gaming companies
are located in
Ireland

6

of the top 7 diagnostic
companies are located
in Ireland

15

of the top 20 medical
device companies are
located in Ireland



Why Galway?

Outside The Classroom

Galway, 'Ireland's Cultural Heart', young, vibrant and cosmopolitan, Galway is widely regarded as the cultural capital of Ireland and is a 'college town' in every sense, with students accounting for approximately 20% of the population of the city during term.

This youthful energy is reflected in the many internationally renowned festivals, music sessions, cultural and sporting events that are hosted in the city every year, including:

- St. Patrick's Day Parade (March)
- Galway Early Music Festival (May)
- Galway Traditional Irish Music Sessions (June)
- Galway Film Fleadh (July)
- Galway Arts Festival (July)
- Galway Races (August)
- Galway International Oyster Festival (September)
- Galway Comedy Festival (October)

Ireland's traditions of writing, theatre and art are celebrated in a host of events that include Cork World Book Festival, Kilkenny Arts Festival, Jameson Dublin International Film Festival, Galway International Arts Festival, Lismore Immrama Festival Of Travel Writing.

FDI Magazine awarded Galway ranked Galway as "Best Overall Micro City in Europe".

Galway was also awarded UNESCO City of Film and a Purple Flag for a safe, vibrant and diverse night time economy in 2015.

"Experience the real beauty of Ireland" close to Galway by visiting Connemara, a place of contrasts, colours, desolate beauty, incredible scenery and amazing attractions.



The Student Experience

Our combination of academic, personal and social development means that a degree from NUI Galway opens up a world of opportunities for you. Here you will enjoy a student experience that you will never forget.

We currently have over 150 sports clubs and student societies at NUI Galway. Through clubs and societies you can meet new people, build friendships and improve your talents.

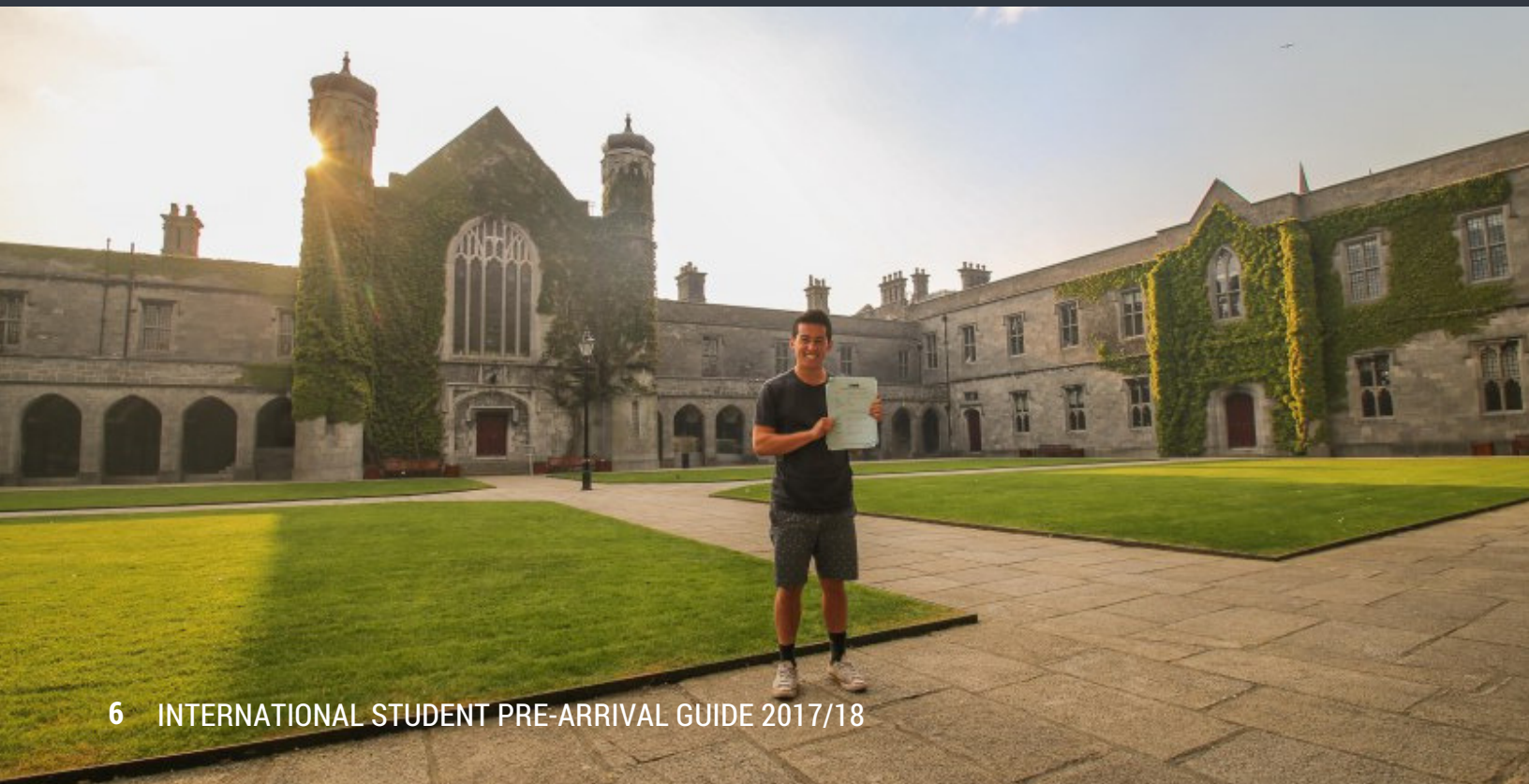
Whatever your interests, NUI Galway is sure to have a club or society for you! NUI Galway also runs ALIVE, a student volunteering programme. We have over 4,000 registered student volunteers with opportunities to work on community projects in Ireland or abroad.

Quick Facts

- Over 18,000 students
- Over 3,000 international students from 115 countries
- 2,400 staff members
- 90,000 alumni in 107 countries
- 120 links with universities around the globe
- €59.7m annual research income
- €400m campus development programme



**FDI Magazine
awarded Galway
ranked Galway as
“Best Overall Micro
City in Europe”**





Your Student Journey

Before You Arrive

Accept Your Offer

Please refer to your offer letter for instructions on how to accept your offer.

If you are not sure about how to accept your offer, please email international@nuigalway.ie for further information.

What is a conditional offer?

The University may on occasion issue an applicant with a conditional offer. The conditions will vary from case to case, but typically a student will be made a conditional offer where he/she has not fulfilled all of the requirements for entry to their chosen programme. The conditions will be set out clearly in the offer letter or in an e-mail from NUI Galway.

Pay Your Deposit/Tuition Fee

Please refer to your offer letter for your tuition fee and information on any deposit required as the rules and procedures regarding payment of fees and/or deposits can vary depending on the programme you have been accepted to.

- If you are required to pay a deposit, deposit payment will be deducted from your annual tuition fee.
- All annual tuition fees, unless otherwise stated in your letter of offer, must be paid in full before you can register as a student at NUI Galway.

Before You Arrive

Pay Your Deposit/Tuition Fee

Payment Options

- Option 1: PaytoStudy (Recommended for non-EU Students)

Non-European Union (EU) students are strongly advised to pay their tuition fee through the PaytoStudy website <https://nuigalway.studentfees.ie/>

PaytoStudy payments usually take less than 48 hours and the receipt is accepted as proof of payment of tuition fees by the Irish National Immigration Service (INIS) for study visa applications and at the point of entry to Ireland.

PaytoStudy also avoids international bank charges and because you pay in your own currency, the University receives the exact amount owed.

- Option 2: Bank Transfer

Alternatively, international students can also pay their tuition fee by international bank transfer using the following details:

Bank of Ireland, 43 Eyre Square, Galway

A/C No: 28454143

A/C Name: National University of Ireland, Galway

IBAN: IE43 BOFI 9038 1628 4541 43

Sort Code: 90-38-16

Swift Code/BIC: BOF IIE2D

Please ensure you quote your 8 digit application number on all wire transactions. Please note that the processing time and the fee for sending international wire transfers may vary from bank to bank. Please allow for up to 10 working days for processing if paying by bank transfer.

- Option 3: Online Debit/Credit Card payment

Please contact International Admissions for further information on how to pay online using a debit/credit card internationaladmissions@nuigalway.ie



Before You Arrive

Plan Your Budget

The following summary gives an indication of the monthly cost of living in Galway as a student. These costs are an approximation only as monthly costs will depend on each person's individual needs.

Monthly Expenses (€)

Accommodation - €340

Food - €260

Electricity and Oil - €80

Books and Study Materials - €60

Clothes, Laundry, Utilities - €60

Recreation - €180

Other - €160

Total per - €1,140



Did You Know

That rent prices are 61% more expensive in Dublin than Galway?

Federal Aid - US Students

NUI Galway is approved by the US government to certify financial aid under the William D. Ford Direct Loan Program. US citizens attending NUI Galway as full time degree seeking students can arrange private or Federal Direct Loans to finance their education. Eligible students advised to consult NUI Galway's Federal Aid webpage at <http://www.nuigalway.ie/international-students/feesfinance/federalaid/>

Pack Your Bag

Ireland has a temperate climate, which means it may be cooler and damper compared to your home country. Temperatures are relatively mild for most of the year and snowfall or freezing temperatures are comparatively rare. Galway has numerous shops and you should have no difficulty finding anything you need after you arrive.



You should think about bringing the following in your luggage:

- Light raincoat with a warm lining ski jacket (for colder weather)
- Light weight jacket or windbreaker (for warmer weather)
- Pyjamas
- Hiking boots (if you plan to hike in the Irish countryside)
- Jeans
- Shorts bathing suit
- Hat, scarf and gloves
- Underwear and socks
- Gymwear
- Comfortable walking shoes or sneakers - Galway is a compact city and students tend to walk most places rather than take a bus or drive



Before You Arrive

Health Insurance

Student Health Unit

A service is available to all NUI Galway students in the Student Health Unit on campus. The Student Health Unit is located in Áras na Mac Léinn and it can be contacted on the following telephone:

- 353-91-492604 (9:00-17:00)
- 353-87-2623997 (24 hour emergency number)

Pre-Existing Medical Conditions

If you have a pre-existing medical condition, it is important for you to contact us prior to your arrival by emailing healthunit@nuigalway.ie to ensure that all your medical needs can be met as some overseas medications are not licenced for use here in Ireland. Please also ensure that you bring all your relevant medical documentation from home with you and register with the Student Health Unit.

Health Insurance

All Non-EU students are advised to ensure that they have comprehensive health insurance, which includes cover in the event of hospitalisation in Ireland. Students may wish to take out private health insurance in their country of origin or with an Irish health insurance company.

Medicover

Medicover is a medical expenses insurance policy available exclusively to students travelling to Ireland from overseas to undertake a course of study at an approved educational establishment. This can be purchased online before travelling to Ireland at <http://www.odon.ie/nuig.aspx>

Irish Health insurance Companies

- VHI Healthcare - www.vhi.ie (10% discount for NUIG students - located in Eyre Sq., Galway)
- Aviva - <http://www.aviva.ie>
- Laya Healthcare - <http://www.layahealthcare.ie>

Irish Health Insurance companies can only provide cover to students once they arrive in the country. Students cannot apply for cover with an Irish company while they are still living abroad.

All Non-EU students, including citizens of non-visa required countries including the United States, Canada and Malaysia, must present proof of comprehensive medical insurance when registering with the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) after they arrive in Ireland and complete their student registration.

Before You Arrive

Apply for a Study Visa

Applying for a Visa

You must make your visa application on-line using the AVATS on-line facility - <https://www.visas.inis.gov.ie/avats/OnlineHome.aspx>
Study visa applications should contain the following documents:

- Passport, valid for 12 months
- Signed summary of your on-line application form
- 2 passport sized colour photos
- A signed letter of application
- A Letter of Acceptance from the university
- Submit all exam results obtained, along with your qualification certificates
- If you are currently studying, an original letter from your current place of study
- Provide information about any gaps in your education

Proof of Finances

Provide evidence that you have access to sufficient funds to cover your tuition fees and cost of living expenses.

- A detailed statement of your and/or your sponsors' bank account(s) covering a six-month period immediately prior to your visa application
- Letters from your sponsor's employer
- You must list each person sponsoring you, and give clear details of their relationship to you
- Note: The estimated cost of living in Ireland for a student for one academic year is €7,000
- Letter from the university confirming payment of fees if made by Bank Transfer

Alternative Evidence of Finance

Lodge an "Education Bond" with a minimum value of €7,000 with <https://educationbondireland.com/>

Proof of Medical Insurance

Non-EU students from visa required countries must present proof of medical insurance when applying for a student visa. Please email international@nuigalway.ie or visit <http://www.nuigalway.ie/international> for further information

*Please note that this is a brief guide and that you should visit <http://www.nuigalway.ie/international> and contact your nearest Irish Embassy for more in-depth information
<https://www.dfa.ie/embassies/irish-embassies-abroad/>*

Visa Exempted Countries

Not all international students require a study visa for Ireland but must still register their presence in the Irish State with the Garda National Immigration Bureau after arrival in Ireland.

A list of nationalities that do not require a Student Visa to study in Ireland can be found at <http://www.nuigalway.ie/international>
Citizens from countries not appearing on this list are required to obtain a Study Visa to study in Ireland.

Before You Arrive

Student Accommodation

There are a variety of accommodation options to choose from at NUI Galway:

- University student residences (self-catering, off campus)
- Private rented accommodation (house/apartment)
- Self-catering accommodation with owner

Student Residences

There are a number of official Student Residences providing self-catering housing specifically for NUI Galway students that are within a 15-20 minutes walk from the main campus.

Each unit usually includes 2-3 bedrooms, a small kitchen area and a shared living space. Students therefore have the option of preparing their own meals in their own apartment, which can be cheaper than eating on campus.

To book Student Resident room please contact the Accommodation Office at <http://www.nuigalway.ie/student-life/accommodation>

Private Rented Accommodation

There is a wide range of properties available to students in Galway and staff in the Accommodation Office at the university will be able to help you find a suitable place to live

<http://www.nuigalway.ie/student-life/accommodation>



Before You Arrive

How to Get to Galway

Airports

- Most international students arrive in Ireland at one of the two main airports: Dublin Airport or Shannon Airport
- Citylink, GoBus and Bus Eireann provide frequent bus departures from outside of Dublin Airport, Terminal 1 direct to Galway
- The direct bus journey from Dublin Airport to Galway takes approximately 3 hours
- Bus Eireann operates a regular service from outside the main terminal building to Galway
- The bus journey from Shannon airport takes approximately 2 hours (Check Bus Eireann timetable)

Train

- Irish Rail provides a train service from Dublin to Galway
- The Galway train station (Ceannt Station) is located in the centre of Galway City and is a 20 minute walk from the NUI Galway campus

Bus

- Galway is well served by national bus operators including Bus Eireann, City Link and GoBus
- Galway Bus Station is located in the centre of Galway City and is a 20 minute walk from the NUI Galway campus





After You Arrive

Immigration in Ireland

Students will be required to demonstrate that they are entering Ireland in order to enrol as a student and the Immigration Officer **may** ask to see some or all of the following documents:

- Passport
- Study visa if applicable
- Letter of offer from NUI Galway
- Proof of fee payment of at least €6,000
- Proof of medical insurance
- Proof that you have funds to support your stay in Ireland e.g. bank statements, sponsorship letter if applicable.

Register with Garda National Immigration Bureau in Ireland (GNIB)

Your passport details will be recorded and your passport will be stamped with a date by which you must register with the GNIB. Generally speaking non-EU students are granted 30 days during which they may register with the GNIB. This time period is at the discretion of the immigration officer at your point of entry to the Irish State.

The GNIB office is located at Unit 3, Liosbaun Industrial Estate, Tuam Road, Galway and the telephone number is +353 (0) 91 768002.

A fee of €300 will be charged to register with the GNIB and you will need to produce the following documents:

- Passport
- Current NUI Galway student identity card
- Letter from the university confirming your course of study
- Proof of your residential address in Galway e.g. a utility bill with your name and address, or a letter from your landlord/student residence
- Proof of comprehensive medical insurance
- Proof that you have funds to support your stay in Ireland e.g. bank statements, sponsorship letter if applicable





After You Arrive

Student Orientation

Full Time Degree Students

Academic orientation for all full degree undergraduate international students is College specific and will take place from Tuesday 29th August 2017. Information about academic orientation for full-degree students can be found [here](#).

- College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies
- College of Business, Public Policy and Law
- College of Engineering and Informatics
- College of Medicine
- College of Science

Academic orientation for Visiting Students will take place on Friday 2 September in the Bailey Allen Hall starting at 8:30 am. Students will receive information on exams, timetables and other important academic information at this session so attendance is mandatory.

All International Students

Support Services Orientation for all International Students will take place on:

- Thursday 31 August 2017 at 9.30 am
- Venue: Bailey Allen Hall, Áras na Mac Léinn (Student Centre)

Topics covered include: Student Health, Counselling services, Blackboard, Sports Clubs and Student Societies, Library, Computer Services, Banking, Student safety, Volunteering opportunities and GNIB Registration (Non-EU/EEA students)

Other Activities for All International Students: Social activities for all new students during orientation can be accessed on Fun Fest 2016.

Fáilte (Welcome!) Mornings: Each day for the first week of term all newly arrived students are invited to attend an informal gathering where they can meet with staff of the International Affairs Office, ask questions and get to know each other. Time: 12 to 1 pm in the Space, upstairs in Áras na Mac Léinn.

Walking Tour of Galway: The International Affairs Office arranges walking tours of Galway on the weekend after orientation. You can book a place on one of the tours at:
<http://www.eventbrite.ie/o/international-office-nui-galway-5788491778>

Library Training and Tour

The Library will provide Library Orientation for the students for the first weeks of term. Students can book a session that suits them at:
<http://www.eventbrite.ie/e/getting-started-in-the-library-tickets-14526363745?aff=eorg>

Please visit: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/international> for further information

After You Arrive

Opening a Bank Account

There are two banks on campus and you will need the following documentation to open an account:

- Passport
- NUI Galway student identity card
- Letter from NUI Galway confirming your student status, your home address and your Galway address (this letter can be obtained from the International Affairs Office once you have registered as a student)

Working in Ireland

There are two banks on campus and you will need the following documentation to open an account:

- Passport
- NUI Galway student identity card
- Letter from NUI Galway confirming your student status, your home address and your Galway address (this letter can be obtained from the International Affairs Office once you have registered as a student)

Mobile Phones

There are 5 main mobile phone service providers in Ireland that offer a wide range of price plans. Please refer to the websites for information on special offers, price plans and free web text service.

- www.vodafone.ie
- www.meteor.ie
- www.3ireland.ie
- www.tescomobile.ie
- www.emobile.ie





USEFUL CONTACTS

University Contacts

International Affairs Office

NUI Galway
7 Distillery Road
Galway
Ireland
t: + 353 (0) 91 49 5277
e: international@nuigalway.ie
www.nuigalway.ie/international

Opening hours:

Term Time
9:15-13:00 & 14:15-17:00
Summer Months (1st June-14th August)
11:30-13:00 & 14:30-16:00

Students' Union - www.su.nuigalway.ie

Campus Map - http://www.nuigalway.ie/campus_map/

Accommodation Office

Aras Ui Chathail, NUI Galway
Galway
Ireland
t: + 353 (0) 91 49 2364
e: teresa.kelly@nuigalway.ie
www.nuigalway.ie/accommodation/

Fees Office

Ui Chathail, NUI Galway Galway
Ireland
t: + 353 (0) 91 49 2386 e:
fees@nuigalway.ie
www.nuigalway.ie/fees



Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/studyabroadgalway>

Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/122749311134617/>



Twitter

<https://twitter.com/StudyInGalway>

General Information

Irish Council for International Students

www.icosirl.ie/

Education in Ireland

<http://www.educationinireland.com/en/>

Irish Government Information

www.oasis.gov.ie

Visa/immigration Information

www.inis.gov.ie

Accommodation Listings

www.galwayadvertiser.ie
www.daft.ie
www.collegecribs.ie
www.myhome.ie
www.let.ie
www.winterspm.com
www.castle-estates.ie
www.homesekers.ie
www.snuzzleshostelgalway.ie
www.sleepzone.ie
www.barnacles.ie
www.kinlaygalway.ie

Transport

www.dublinairport.com
www.shannonairport.com
www.citylink.ie
www.gobus.ie
www.buseireann.ie
www.irishrail.ie



USEFUL INFORMATION

Key Dates 2017/2018

Semester 1

Orientation: Tuesday 29th August - Friday 1st September 2017

Start of Teaching: Monday 4th September 2017

End of Teaching: Saturday 25th November 2017

Study Week: Monday 27th November - Saturday 2nd December 2017

Semester 1 Exams: Monday 4th December - Friday 15th December 2017

Christmas Holidays: Friday 15th December 2016 - Monday 15th January 2018

Semester 2

Start of Teaching: Monday 15th January 2018

End of Teaching: Saturday 21st April 2018

Easter Holidays: Good Friday 30th March – Easter Monday 7th April 2018

Study Week: Monday 23rd April - Saturday 28th April 2018

Semester 2 Exams: Monday 30th April - Thursday 17th May 2018

Autumn Exams: Tuesday 7th August - Friday 17th August 2018

Bank Holidays:

Monday 30th October 2017

Monday 19th March 2018

Monday 7th May 2018

Monday 4th June 2018

Monday 6th August 2018

The dates for Spring Exams 2018 for some Science programmes are not yet available.

Please see the separate calendar on this webpage for the School of Medicine as the semester dates and exam dates may differ for this School, if you have any queries on the academic calendar for the School of Medicine.

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