



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHÉ
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

Guide for International Students

universityofgalway.ie/international



Welcome to the University of Galway!

We are delighted that you have chosen University of Galway, selecting a study destination is not easy and there is a lot to consider. Rest assured that you have made the right decision, and we are here to support you every step of the way. This international student guide will provide you with the information you might need as you plan your arrival to Galway. It is designed not only to help you in your first few weeks but to also act as a point of reference throughout your time at University of Galway.



Be sure to download
and refer to this booklet
whenever you might need it!

Irish Culture

Before we get into the serious stuff, why not prepare yourself for settling into Irish culture.

University of Galway is a bilingual university, so you will notice Irish being spoken around campus. Connemara, which is Ireland's largest speaking Irish region is located in Co. Galway!

Some key Irish phrases:

Dia Dhuit
"Dee-ya Gwit"
Hello

Slainte
"Slawn che"
Cheers

Dia is Muire dhuit
"Dee-ya iss mura gwit"
Hello (in response)

Slan
"Slawn"
Good bye

Go raibh maith agat
"Guh rev mah ogot"
Thank you

Vocabulary you might hear often:

"Sound"
Thanks

"Go Away"
I don't believe you

"That's gas"
That's funny

"What's the craic?"
Hello, how are you?

"Good luck"
Goodbye

"I'm after"
I'm looking for

"Grand"
Good/Fine

"No bother"
That's ok

"Your one"
That woman

"Yoke"
That thing

"Your man"
That man

"Sure look, You know yourself"
**Filler sentence/
no meaning**

Timeline of Events



*This does not apply to Exchange students

1. Pre-arrival

Before you leave home

So you've accepted your offer and started your planning, here's what you need to know...

| | | |
|-----|--|----|
| 1.1 | Visas | 6 |
| 1.2 | Health Insurance | 7 |
| 1.3 | Accommodation | 8 |
| 1.4 | Opening a Bank Account | 11 |
| 1.5 | Registration with Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) | 12 |
| 1.6 | Cost of Living | 13 |
| 1.7 | Pack for the Irish Weather | 14 |



1.1 Visa

Do you need a visa?

It's important to be aware if you are required to obtain a visa before planning your trip.

Visit



Applicants from Visa Required Countries (except India) will need to pay €6,000 towards their Tuition Fees in order to obtain Visa approval.



Applicants from India are required to pay 50% of their tuition fees in order to obtain VISA approval.

[Click to check if you are from a visa required country](#)



1.2 Health Insurance

DID YOU KNOW? All students who don't hold a European Passport are required to have medical cover for the purposes of registration with immigration. Policies from your home country are acceptable but must include hospitalisation.

Study and Protect is a medical expenses policy available to students travelling to Ireland from overseas at an approved Irish education establishment.

You will need health insurance before applying for a visa.

University Group Scheme
[international-students/offerholders/healthinsurance/](#)

Other Health Insurance Suppliers:



The Irish Health Authority provides extensive comparisons of health insurance providers.



1.3 Accommodation

Upon paying your fees and confirming your place, your first step should be finding accommodation.

Securing accommodation in Galway is not always easy. However, there is a variety of accommodation types available, and we suggest taking into consideration which type of housing is best suited to your individual needs.

Options include:

University Student Residences

Private Rented Accommodation

Self-catering Accommodation with Owner or “Digs”

It is best to contact our Accommodation Advisory Service as they will have the most up to date information.

You can email the Accommodation Advisory Service directly at accommodation@universityofgalway.ie or phone +353 91 493540 or Click [Here](#) to visit the Accommodation Advisory Service website.



1.3 Self-Catering Accommodation With Owner Or “Digs”

Studentpad is your trusted site for finding private accommodation during your time at the University of Galway.

All properties advertised go through a registration process and are regularly updated.

1.3 Private Rented Accommodation

Private housing is usually cheaper, but there are more risks involved.

Rent is typically paid monthly and in advance. At the start of a letting period, it is standard to pay one month's rent, also known as a deposit, which is refunded provided you don't break any of the terms in the lease. The standard lease term is normally 9-12 months.

Private housing can be found via the following websites, however caution is urged. Do not part with any money until you have seen the property in person.

Students also find their accommodation through Facebook Groups such as: 'Galway House Hunting for **Sound** People'

Kinlay Hostel and **Snoozles** offer some student-specific dorms for the full academic year.

Private landlords may request a reference from a previous landlord.

It is a good idea to take photographs of the property when you arrive as a reference when seeking return of your deposit.

"Sound" is slang for nice or friendly people. This page is for working professionals and students too.

IMPORTANT; Be Aware of Scams!
Across Ireland every year there are scams reported. International students have unique challenges and are likely to face fraudulent behaviour. Please refer to the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission advice on how to spot scammers. If it feels too good to be true, it probably is.



Top Tips when Looking for Private Accommodation



Do not go to house viewings alone, always bring a friend.



If you have any connections in Galway ask them for recommendations.



Do not book long term accommodation in the private sector without viewing it, meeting with the landlord and receiving the keys.



Don't rush into making a decision if it doesn't feel right. If it feels too good to be true, it probably is.



Be very mindful of posts on Facebook; be aware of scams.



Make sure you know what's involved in the cost. Is it just rent or bills as well? Typical bills include electricity, home heating oil and internet.



Research the location of the accommodation, how will you get to campus? Are there amenities and stores in the area?



IMPORTANT; Be Aware of Scams! It's so important we have to say it twice. Please refer to the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission advice on how to spot scammers. [See here](#)



Check out Threshold, a registered housing advisory and advocacy charity who can inform you on your rights as a tenant.

Common areas for students to live

- Westside
- Ragoon
- Shantalla
- Knocknacarra
- Salthill
- Renmore
- Salthill
- City Centre
- New Castle
- Greenfields
- Laurel Park, New Castle
- Foster Court, City Centre
- Bohermore, City
- Castle Lawn Heights, Headford Road

Other areas to consider

- Oranmore
- Athenry
- Tuam
- Barna
- Moycullen
- Spiddal
- Doughishka
- Ballybane

1.3 Hostels

Many students stay in hostels when they arrive in Galway. This way, you can attend accommodation viewings and make the right decision.

There are several student-friendly hostels located in Galway City. Prices of hostels will vary. However, at that time of the year you might expect to pay between €40-€120 per night. A lot of hostels will cater for different needs, so we suggest doing your research prior to booking.

Some websites to help your hostel research:

1.4 Opening a Bank Account

Your next step should involve opening a bank account as you will need this when registering with GNIB.

Documents Required for Immigration Registration:

- Bank of Ireland – branch on campus
- AIB (Allied Irish Banks)
- Educational Building Society (EBS)
- Permanent TSB (PTSB)
- An Post
- Revolut

There may be additional documentation required, but the bank will discuss this with you in person.

When opening a bank account, you will need the following documents:



1. Passport



2. Registration Statement with your Galway address. You will be able to print this off from your student account once you register.

1.5 Registration with Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB)

All nationals from beyond the EU/EEA and UK who have entered the country and who plan on residing in Ireland for more than 3 months must register with the local GNIB (Garda national Immigration Bureau) office.

Original documents are preferable but will accept photocopies.

When you enter the country, your passport will usually be stamped for 90 days.

Those who don't register might be prosecuted, so it's important you're aware of this.

The International Office organises the appointments for all first-time students, typically in the last two weeks of October.

Please do not contact GNIB directly for an appointment, instructions will be sent to your university email at the end of September regarding your appointment

An immigration ID card known as the Irish Residents Permit (IRP) is issued to all students from beyond the EU/EEA and UK who register with Garda National Immigration Bureau. This card is valid for one year or for visiting students, until the end of their course.

What constitutes an acceptable proof of finances? An original bank statement showing the students name and bank balance. No older than a month.

Documents Required for Immigration Registration:

- Passport
- Current University of Galway student identity card
- University of Galway registration statement with current Galway address
- For all academic courses due to begin after 1 July 2023, you must show evidence that you have immediate access to at least €10,000. This is the estimated cost of living in Ireland for a student for one academic year
- €700 per month or €4,200 (in total) if you are staying 6 months or less to support yourself for the duration of your studies. This is only applicable to students who do not require a visa to enter Ireland.
- Proof of Medical Insurance

Registration costs €300 which is payable by Credit/ Debit card ONLY.

NEED TO KNOW: All students from beyond the EU/EEA and UK must inform GNIB of any changes in their registration details. For example, change of address, change or withdrawal from a course within 7 days!



The GNIB office is located at: Garda National Immigration Bureau (Galway)
Western Regional Headquarters
Dublin Road, Renmore
Galway, H91 F62K
Tel: +353 (0)91 337140

1.6 Cost of Living

This is just a guide, the cost of living will vary depending on the individual and their needs.

Monthly*



Accommodation:
€550 - €860



Food:
€300 - €400



**Bills (phone/
electricity/internet):**
€80 - €150



**Books/Study Materials/
Printing:**
€75



Clothes and Laundry:
€50



Recreation:
€100 - €300

Everyday Items**

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Litre of Milk: | €1.32 |
| Can of Coke: | €1.60 |
| Cappuccino: | €3.67 |
| Loaf of fresh bread: | €1.72 |
| Rice (1kg): | €1.340 |
| 12 Eggs: | €3.24 |
| Chicken Fillets (1kg): | €6.90 |
| Lunch from Campus: from | €6.25*** |
| Meal in a mid-range restaurant (3 course): | €67 for two |
| Meal in an inexpensive restaurant: | €15 |
| City bus ticket (one way): | €1.90 |

* Source universityofgalway.com

** Source numbeo.com

***Source anbhialann.com

1.7 Pack for the Irish Weather

Four Seasons in One Day

Ireland has a temperate climate, but our weather likes to keep you guessing. Behind the dark clouds are often bright blue skies, behind the sun is a mist of cold and a looming shower of snow.

To get an idea of the weather and help with your planning, check out Met Éireann [met.ie](https://www.met.ie) or RTE News [rte.ie](https://www.rte.ie)

It is best to categorize your packing into light, heavy and rain gear. That way, you're prepared for every season!

Remember Galway is small and compact, so you will be doing a lot of walking, dress accordingly!

Do not be surprised when you find that the Irish love to talk about the weather. It is probably our favourite conversation starter. The weather has not only played a huge role in shaping our landscape, but also our culture!

You might find the weather a lot more dramatic than your home country. It can sometimes be quite windy here in Galway.



Check list!



Durable trainers



Activewear



Water-proof boots



Pyjamas



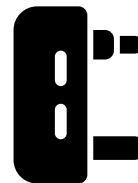
Lightweight jacket with a hood



Underwear and socks



Raincoat with a warm lining ski jacket



Adapters



Easily layered clothing:

- Shorts and long-sleeved tops
- Leggings and long pants
- Button down shirts
- Sweaters and cardigans
- Socks, scarves and gloves
- Tank tops



Swimsuit

There are lots of retail clothing stores such as Dunnes [dunnesstores.com](https://www.dunnesstores.com) or Penney's (Primark) [primark.com](https://www.primark.com) where you can buy affordable clothes, so there is no need to overpack!

Three pin plugs are used in Ireland so you may require a three-pin plug adaptor, which can be bought at any electrical shop e.g., Currys Electrical, Galway Retail Park, Headford Road

Swimming is a popular activity in Galway, even in the winter! Check here [swimireland.ie](https://www.swimireland.ie) for sea safety tips.

2. Arrival

When you get here

| | | |
|-----|--|----|
| 2.1 | Arriving into Ireland | 17 |
| 2.2 | What to expect on arrival into Ireland | 17 |



2.1 Arriving into Ireland

Now that you have made the journey over, you are probably wondering what arriving at the airport will look like.

Arriving to a new country beginning a new chapter in your life is both exciting and nerve wracking and there is so much to consider. In this section, we will discuss what you might be faced with upon arrival into Ireland as an international student.

There are two main airports in Ireland, Dublin Airport and Shannon Airport. If possible, try to organise flights into Dublin Airport as the flights and onward travel to Galway are generally cheaper and more frequent.

Dublin Airport receives around 32 million passengers a year, making it the 12th busiest airport in Europe, offering flights to more than 222 destinations in 44 countries.

2.2 What to Expect on Arrival into Ireland

At the port of entry, immigration officers will want to ensure you meet the entry requirements as an international student.

Despite being already granted your visa, you need the following documents in your hand luggage

- Photocopies of your passport.
- Plane tickets.
- Two copies of your offer and acceptance letters.
- Copy of medical insurance policy.

The Irish Government covid travel guidelines may vary at the time of your departure. Please ensure you are up to date on required documents at the time of travel.

The key to having a smooth transition into Ireland is having all of your paperwork in order.

Arriving in Galway

Dublin Airport direct to Galway by bus

Getting to Galway from Dublin Airport is relatively easy. Buses depart from Dublin Airport to Galway every hour. The journey is approximately 3 hours long and costs usually €13 - €25.

The main service providers are:
City Link - citylink.ie, Go Bus - gobus.ie
and Bus Éireann - buseireann.ie

All buses depart from Terminal One outside of Dublin Airport.

Dublin Airport to Dublin City by bus

In case you are interested in visiting Dublin before Galway, you can take a Airlink bus, which departs directly from Terminal One Airport every 10 -15 minutes. See here for information on Dublin buses - dublinbus.ie

Dublin City to Galway by train

There is a train service that departs from Heuston Train Station located in Dublin City. Prices range from €17 - €25. The journey takes 2hr and 25 minutes. See here for more information - irishrail.ie

Upon arriving to Galway, we suggest taking a taxi to your accommodation. You will be able to order a taxi from the bus station.

City Link and Go Bus are offering arriving University of Galway international students an exclusive 10% off tickets purchased online. Use **Promo Code: UOGALGO10***

***Terms:** Valid for use by all international students (including travelling companions), valid for Adult and Teen fares, online booking only, valid for booking and travel from 13/07/2023 to 30/09/2023.

Many taxi companies will charge a call out charge if it is ordered.



If you are staying in a hostel, most of the hostels are located throughout the City Centre and are walking distance from the station. You can expect to pay €10 - €30 for a taxi to the surrounding suburbs.

Some popular taxi companies are:

Big O taxi

+353 91 585 858

Pro Cabs

+353 91 535 353

Claddagh Hackneys

+353 91 588 434

Galway Taxis

+353 91 561 111



Eircode is Ireland's postcode system.

Every address, business and location have their own unique 7-character Eircode which you can search for on your map app or via [Eircode.ie](https://www.eircode.ie).

Try it for yourself, search for Galway Train Station - Eircode H91 T9CE.

We suggest downloading Free Now - [free-now.com](https://www.free-now.com) in Galway for taxis. It is a similar service to Uber. Also download TFI Driver Check App - [transportforireland.ie](https://www.transportforireland.ie) This app lets you verify that the driver of the vehicle you have ordered is fully registered. Additionally, you can forward the details of the journey to a friend.



3. Living and Settling in Ireland

| | | |
|------|----------------------------------|----|
| 3.1 | Registration | 21 |
| 3.2 | Setting up a Mobile Phone | 21 |
| 3.3 | Transport in Galway | 22 |
| 3.4 | Setting up a Leap Card in Galway | 23 |
| 3.5 | Shopping and Eating | 24 |
| 3.6 | Finding a Job | 28 |
| 3.7 | PPS Number & Tax in Ireland | 29 |
| 3.8 | Student Services | 30 |
| 3.9 | Health | 31 |
| 3.10 | Students' Union | 33 |
| 3.11 | Clubs & Societies | 34 |
| 3.12 | Volunteering in Galway | 35 |



3.1 Registration

You will need to register as a student once you arrive in Galway.

You can register in person or online!

Information on student registration dates, instructions and venues can be found on the University of Galway website at universityofgalway.ie/registration/ Queries should be addressed to reghelp@universityofgalway.ie.

3.2 Setting up a Mobile Phone

Ireland has a number of mobile phone providers. Sim Only plans are generally the cheapest options for students. Sim Only is a contract that includes an allocation of minutes, texts and data which vary depending on the plan you choose. The difference between a sim only contract is that you receive the sim and no mobile phone.

The main service providers are:

| | |
|---|--|
| Vodafone - vodafone.ie | 48 - 48.ie |
| Three Ireland - three.ie | Clear Mobile - clearmobile.ie |
| Tesco Mobile - tescomobile.ie | Lyca Mobile - lycamobile.es |
| Eir Mobile - eir.ie | Virgin Mobile - virginmedia.ie |
| GoMO - gomo.ie | |

If you want to use your phone from home, it will need to be unlocked to ensure its compatible with an international sim card. To check if your phone is already unlocked simply insert another sim card and see if the network works on your phone.

To get your phone unlocked you can either:

- Bring your phone to a phone shop that will charge a service fee.
- Simply contact your network and ask them to unlock it.

Depending on the plan you will go with, you might need to buy a new phone. There are plenty of shops around Galway city where you can purchase one.

Vodafone Store, Eyre Square
Three Phone Store, Shop St
Fonez, Corbett Court Shopping Centre
CeX, Williamsgate St
Tesco Mobile, Galway Shopping Centre
Eir, William St

Vodafone have an exclusive offer for international students - get an Irish Vodafone SIM card with €5 preloaded onto it and when you top it up by €20, you will get another €20 for free! Available from International Office reception.

Check out **Bonkers** for a cost comparison of providers

3.3 Transport in Galway

Galway city itself is very compact and walkable, for the surrounding areas, there are two bus services

Bus Éireann, City Direct

Some students also opt for a bike to get around.

Bike Shops

- An Meitheal Rothar, The Old Handball Alley, Unit 54, Earls Island, University Road, Galway. H91 EF83 — **bikeworkshops.ie**. Community bike shop and workshop based on the University of Galway campus, offering bikes for sale and repair services.
- Halfords, Galway Retail Park, Unit 6, Headford Rd, Galway, H91 W92P — **halfords.ie**
- Kearney Cycles Terryland Retail Park, Headford Rd, Galway, H91 CH7W — **kearneycycles.com**
- Richard Walsh Cycles, 10-12 Headford Rd, Galway, H91 XT22
- West Ireland Cycling, Unit 1, Bridgewater Court, Fairhill Rd Lower, The Claddagh, Galway, H91 E2X5 - **westirelandcycling**. Bicycles can be hired or purchased second-hand. West Ireland Cycling also buy back bicycles when you have finished with them.
- West Side Cycles, Westside Business Centre, 4 Old Seamus Quirke Rd, Galway, H91 DRK0 — **westsidecyclesgalway.com**. West Side Cycles offer a student bike hire service.

Keep an eye out also for advertisements in the Galway Advertiser - **advertiser.ie/galway**

Alternatively, you can rent a bike from the TFI Bikes. There are 23 stations with 195 bikes around Galway City. See here **bikeshare.ie/galway** for more information.



3.4 Setting up a Leap Card in Galway

There are two types of Leap Cards available to students of University of Galway – Student and Young Adult, depending on age. Both Student and Young Adult Leap Cards offer discounts to students on Bus Éireann, City Link, Go Bus, Irish Rail, Luas and Dublin Bus.

If you are aged 16 – 18, inclusive, or over 24 you are eligible to apply for the **Student Leap Card**. The application must be completed and paid for online at leapcard.ie. Students have 14 days to collect their Leap Card from the Students' Union Síbín in the library basement (from September).

Anyone aged between 19 – 23, inclusive, will apply for the **Young Adult Leap Card**. This card has the exact same fares as the Student Leap Card. Apply online at leapcard.ie. This card will be posted directly to the applicant's address.



3.5 Shopping and Eating

Affordable Food Shopping

The 4 main grocery stores in Galway are Aldi, Lidl, Dunnes and Tesco. Here you will find the basic groceries you might need. These supermarkets are located across the city centre but also in most suburbs.



- Western Distributor Rd, Knocknacarra, Galway, H91 K8W8
- West City Centre, Park Old Seamus Quirke Rd, Galway, H91 TK5R
- Galway Retail Park, Galway, H91 R704



- Eyre Square, Galway, H91 PPY1
- Terryland Shopping Centre, Headford Rd, Galway, H91 WYF9
- Gateway Retail Park, Bóthar Stiofáin, Knocknacarra, Galway, H91 A00V
- 14 Westside Shopping Centre, Seamus Quirke Rd, Galway, H91 C791



- The Plaza, Headford Rd, Galway, H91 RX58
- Doughiska Rd, Galway, H91 Y57F
- Unit 5 & 6, Wellpark Retail Park, Wellpark Rd, Galway, H91 YX50



- Tesco Super Store, Father Griffin Rd, Galway, H91 KRC5
- Tesco Super Store, Galway Shopping Centre, Headford Rd, Galway, H91 E7R2
- Tesco Express, 21 University Rd, Galway, H91 DX52
- Tesco Express, Tornóg, Ballinfoile, Galway, H91 C524

Most supermarkets have their own brand products which are cheaper and complement a student budget.



Most supermarkets offer international ranges; however, we suggest checking out the below:

- Aroma Foods (Asian) (Halal), Unit 8, West City Centre, Old Seamus Quirke Rd, H91 H7PR
- Asiatic Manila (Asian), 50 Abbeygate Street Upper, Galway, H91 XW6D
- Asialand, Unit 6, Westside Business Centre, Seamus Quirke Rd, Westside, Galway, H91 ET97
- Asialand, Liosban Industrial Estate, Tuam Rd, Galway, H91 X201
- Carnival Asian Supermarket, 27 Eyre St, Galway, H91 E4W6
- Green Chilli Asian Foods (Halal), 21 Mulvoy Park, Sean Mulvoy Road, Galway, H91RX63
- Jasmine Asian Grocery, 8 Mary St, H91 X3V5
- Moldova Stores Galway, Unit 14 Centrepoint Liosbaun Retail Park, Tuam Rd, Galway, H91 VF61
- Polonez Foodland (Polish), Unit 2 & 3, Liosban Industrial Estate, Tuam Rd, Galway, H91 E63V
- Polonez Westside, Unit 7, West City Centre Office & Retail Park, Old Seamus Quirke Rd, Galway, H91 HP8Y
- Polonez Doughiska, Doughiska Rd, Galway, H91 VY70
- Super Asia Foods, Corner Retail unit, Terryland Retail Park, Headford Rd, Galway, H91 WR6K
- Super Ketones Ltd (African), 76 Prospect Hill, H91 N24E
- Terryland Asian Food Market (Halal), 6a, Terryland Retail Park, Headford Rd, H91 HE2F

You will regularly come across small, corner shops. These normally have longer opening hours but are generally more expensive than a supermarket.

A must see is The Galway Food Market, open on Saturdays and Bank Holidays 8.00 am to 6.00 pm and Sundays 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm. The market is located on Church Lane by St Nicholas' Church. The market is filled with stalls selling fresh and local produce. You will find a wide variety of cuisines such as Madras curry, crepes, Japanese Sushi, vegetarian Indian food, doughnuts and handmade chocolate, to name a few.

Clothes and Utilities Shopping

For affordable clothing, rain clothes and general household items we suggest checking out Dunnes or Penney's. In both of these stores, you will find almost everything you might need during your stay.

Discount Stores

Dealz, Hibernian House, Eyre Square, Galway, H91 XYE0 or Anchor 3 Galway Shopping Centre, Galway, H91 P3KX – dealz.ie

EuroGiant, Mainguard Street, Galway, H91 W02W or Eglinton St, Galway, H91 XF3X – eurogeneral.ie

Mr Price, West City Centre, Old Seamus Quirke Rd, Galway, H91 R52X or Terryland Retail Park, Headford Road, Galway NE2 - mrprice.ie

Outdoor Clothing

Booleys, Eglinton St, Galway, H91 YK63 – booley.ie

Elverys, Unit 3/4 Barrick Lane, Edwards Square, Galway, H91 HN93 or Galway Retail Park, Headford Rd, Galway, H91 C3N1 – elverys.ie

JD Sports, Unit 128 Eyre Square, Centre, Galway, H91 D527 – sportsdirect.com

Life Style Sports, Galway Retail Park, 5 Headford Rd, Galway, H91 W92P or 2 - 3 Shop St, Galway, H91 WR23 – lifestylesports.com

Portwest Ireland - The Outdoor Shop, 20 High St, Galway, H91 N8F1 – theoutdoorshop.ie

Regatta Great Outdoors, Eyre Square Shopping Centre, Galway, H91 F5KW – regatta.com

River Deep Mountain High, 6 Middle St, Galway, H91 E5RR – rdmh.ie

Trespass, 30 Eglinton St, Galway, H91 C8NH – trespass.com

Second-Hand Shops

As Good as New Second Hand Shop, Liosban Industrial Estate, 3 Kilkerrin Park, 3 Tuam Rd, Galway, H91 X6P5

COPE Galway Charity Shop, St Augustine St, Galway, H91 FP4F

Enable Ireland Charity Shop, 3 Cross Street Lower, Galway, H91 K5V0

Galway Simon Furniture & Fashion Shop, Unit 11/13 Mulvooy Commercial Centre, Sean Mulvooy Rd, Galway, H91 EAY0

Irish Cancer Society Charity Shop, Mayoralty House, Merchants Rd, Galway, H91 DDT2

Oxfam, 9 Abbeygate Street Lower, Galway, H91 W1XA

St. Vincent De Pauls Curiosity Shop, 17 Merchants Rd, Galway, H91 YYD8

The Simon Shop, 18 Sea Rd, Galway, H91 YRC8

Thriftify – Online charity shop - thriftify.ie

NO.8, The Cornstore, 8A, Cross ST, Galway, H91 P6W2

Always ask if there are student discounts available. An International Student Identity Card (ISIC) offers 150,000 student discounts and can be used. worldwide.



3.5 Student Friendly Restaurants

Galway city has a vibrant and diverse food scene, with a whole host of options to choose from. For more information on dining on a student budget, check out Student Friendly Restaurants on galwaytourism.ie or thisisgalway.ie.

There are also 16 cafes and restaurants on campus at University of Galway with something to suit most tastes, [view map](#).

Food Delivery Options

There are 3 main food delivery services in Galway. All are relatively similar and often provide meal deals and discounts.

If there is a student discount available, always have your student card with you, most places will insist on seeing it!



3.6 Finding a Job

The best way to find part-time jobs is to take your curriculum vitae (CV) to shops, cafes, restaurants or pubs. You can also look at our local free newspaper The Galway Advertiser. Casual jobs are advertised in the 'Situations Vacant' section of the Classified pages. Visit the website advertiser.ie to download the e-paper or search the job section online.


EU/EEA and UK students do not require a work permit to work in Ireland.

Students from beyond the EU/EEA and UK must be enrolled in a full-time course of one year to seek casual employment. Casual employment allows you to work up to 20 hours per week during the term and 40 hours during holiday periods.

One semester students (from beyond the EU/EEA and UK) are not entitled to seek employment.

Some other sites where students find jobs:

For casual employment in Ireland, employers prefer shorter CVs. The Career Development Centre on campus have extensive resources on how to build your CV and prepare for interviews.



Educate yourself on your employment rights

3.7 PPS Number & Tax in Ireland

PPSN

To work in Ireland, you will need a Personal Public Number Service Number (PPSN). You are required to obtain a PPSN for tax purposes and for any formal interaction with state agencies.

You can apply online for a PPS number using **MyWelfare** if you are living in Ireland and you are at least 18 years of age. You will also need to sign up for a basic **MyGovID** account..

Apply online through the Department of Social Protection website: services.mywelfare.ie

To apply, you will need the following:

- A copy of your passport,
- Insert 'Education' as evidence of why you need a PPS number.
- Student registration statement with Galway address.

Tax

The tax system in a new country can be a little bit confusing. If you do not register with the Revenue Commissioners in Ireland, you will pay high amounts of emergency tax.

You will need to register with the Revenue Office and apply for a Tax Certificate.

How to apply for a Tax Certificate?

- You can apply online or in person by completing a 12A form. You can download that form here: www.revenue.ie
- You will need your employer's PAYE Registration number, which your employer will be able to provide.
- In the section titled "Details of Residency" state that you are here as a student on a temporary basis.

We have created some videos to help you understand and determine your Irish tax position. These videos include practical steps to get your Irish tax affairs in order.

3.8 Student Services

Student Services aim to make your time in University of Galway a rewarding learning, personal and professional experience. Friendly, approachable staff provide a range of services and initiatives whose goal is to support and encourage you through every step of your university journey, these include:

- Student Counselling Service
- Student Enquiry Centre
- Student Advisors
- Access Centre
- Career Development Centre
- Sports and Recreation
- Health and Wellbeing
- Chaplaincy



3.9 Health

Did You Know?

The **Student Health Unit** provides on-campus medical, psychiatric and physiotherapy care to all registered University of Galway students. However, there are charges for certain ancillary services

Pre-existing medical conditions

If you have any pre-existing medical conditions, please let us know by emailing healthunit@universityofgalway.ie. You need to ensure that all your medical needs can be met as some overseas medications are not licensed for use here in Ireland.

The Student Health Unit is located in Áras na Mac Léinn, upstairs beside the Students' Union.

Opening hours: Monday -Friday from 9.30-12.30 and 2.30-4.30pm.

Disability Service

The Disability Office provides a professional, confidential, responsive and approachable support service to all students who require assistance. Details of the supports provided by the Disability Service, including dyslexia support can be found here:

universityofgalway.ie/disability/

Students who have a disability/specific learning difficulty and who require particular supports should notify the Disability Support Service in advance of admission to the University.

Student Counselling

There is Student counselling available to all full and part-time students, undergraduate and postgraduate. If you would like to book an appointment, please email: counselling@universityofgalway.ie

The Student Health Service does not offer a dental service. See here for a comparison of dentists in Galway whatclinic.com

Click here for resources available by the student counselling services.

[See here](#)

Emergency/Out of Office Hours

Weekends are covered by City Doc located in Bon Secours Hospital:

Daytime Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays
8am-6pm contact 091 758008

Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings from 6pm -
Galway City GP Rota contact 087 7744430

In Ireland if you attend A&E (Emergency Room) without a referral from a GP (Doctor) you will be charged. Always visit student health unit first, unless it is an emergency.



3.10 Students' Union

The University of Galway Students' Union (SU) is the representative body for all students. Once registered you are automatically a member of the Students' Union, and you have access to advice and representation from the Students' Union officers. See here su.nuigalway.ie for a full list of officers.



Some of the other services offered by the Students' Union include:

- Bookstore
- SU card
- Student Enterprise Award
- Skills Register
- Smokey's Café
- SU on campus lockers
- CÉIM
- SU cloakroom
- SU on campus shop
- Travel; Student Leap Card
- SULT; Colledge Bar



The Students' Union also offers a programme of Life Skills courses which are offered to students at a discounted price. The types of classes available include sign language, first aid, self-defence, financial resilience, mental health awareness, Gaeilge, disclosure training and Pilates. More information can be found here.

<https://su.nuigalway.ie/su-services/su-life-skills/>.



3.11 Clubs & Societies

Clubs

There are now over 45 active and vibrant sports clubs at University of Galway. Joining and participating in a sports club will provide you with lasting memories of college life. Active participation in sport keeps you healthy and gives you a great social outlet, discover more at sport.universityofgalway.ie/clubs/.

Societies

No matter your interests, with over 120 societies on campus you will be sure to find the right fit for you. Joining a society is great way to meet others and immerse yourself in university life. The societies organised over 3,500 fun and engaging events last year for their members. Visit socs.universityofgalway.ie to find the right society for you. You can join Societies and so much more by logging onto your extra-curricular portal yourspace.universityofgalway.ie.

The International Student Society aims to welcome, integrate, and help students adapt to their new adventure in Ireland. Membership is made up by hundreds of international students as well as domestic students in all levels of education. The society aims to immerse international students into the Irish culture through trips around Ireland, social events, and partnering with other societies on events that promote intercultural exchanges. Events include game nights, tavern tours, potlucks, an annual trip to Belfast, and so much more! The society provides a space to share one's own culture and experiences through social media groups on Facebook, Instagram, and Discord. The society wants to make sure that international students get the most out of their time in Ireland, by providing experiences which ensure that they have fun and meet many new people from all over the world.



3.12 Volunteering in Galway

Volunteering as a student has many benefits. It provides an opportunity to meet others from diverse backgrounds, develop your professional and personal skills, contribute to positive change and gain some real-life experiences.

Luckily, University of Galway has its very own ALIVE (A Learning Initiative and the Volunteering Experience) programme.



As a University of Galway student, you have a huge number of opportunities to volunteer for amazing causes, such as:

- Children and youth
- Environmental and animals
- Health and well-being
- Art and culture
- Sport and education
- Disability and elderly
- Social Justice

Contact details for volunteering:

Email: alive@universityofgalway.ie

Phone: +353 91 495346, Ext 5346

Or visit: www.studentvolunteer.ie

Documents you will need to volunteer:

- Background Police Record.
- Reference from past experience in work, volunteering or education.



3.13 Safety While Living in Galway

Galway is an extremely safe and welcoming city. However, in any city you must be vigilant and follow safety precautions.

Top tips for remaining safe

- Never walk alone at night. If you must, take the busiest and well lit up route. Always look out for the group you went out with and double check everyone got home ok.
- Never leave a drink unattended.
- If you live in a ground floor apartment do not leave your windows open when you are not in your apartment. Do not give your key to anyone. Don't leave your apartment keys where anyone will find them. Do not leave your door open for a friend. When leaving your apartment, check to ensure that all windows and doors are locked.
- If you think you are being followed, call the Garda (police) at 091 538000 or in an emergency dial 112 for emergency services. **Remember, you don't need phone credit to call 112.**
- You can input "emergency contacts" on your Iphone. In case of an emergency, hold the side button 5 times to activate the alarm and your emergency contacts will be notified.
 - 1 Open the Health app and tap your profile picture.
 - 2 Tap Medical ID.
 - 3 Tap Edit, then scroll to Emergency Contacts.
 - 4 Tap the add button to add an emergency contact.
 - 5 Tap a contact, then add their relationship.
 - 6 Tap Done to save your changes.
- Always get a taxi with a friend. If for some reason you can't, remember to download the TFI Driver Checker App.
- Never hitch hike.
- Keep your money hidden and never leave your property unattended in libraries, lecture halls, changing rooms, restaurants, bars, anywhere.
- Be very wary of phone scammers. They might ring seeking personal details including residential address, DOB, and email over the phone.



You should never give out your personal details like this in a text or phone call. Even if the phone number looks legitimate. Should the authorities need to contact you they will do so in a secure manner.

- If you are leaving for a few days, inform a trusted neighbour.
- Use your door chain.
- Don't leave valuables in your car. If you must, then keep them out of sight in the boot.
- Use a good locking device for your bike.
- When you purchase a bicycle, make sure you keep a receipt showing ID details.
- Sea swimming is a popular activity in Galway. Water accidents are common so please be vigilant and educate yourself on the risks see **Here**.

There is a Campus Watch Service who are here to ensure our campus is a safe one.

If you notice anything suspicious contact security staff at 091 493333 (Ext.3333) or email securityo@universityofgalway.ie.

For further safety information log on to Garda Crime Prevention Advice at www.garda.ie.

The Garda Síochána is the national police force in Ireland.

News

To stay up to date on current events in Ireland, we suggest referring to the following news outlets:

Most have apps that you can download. Set up alerts so that you are informed of major news and updates.



4. Key Contacts

Health Unit

Emergency Queries: + 353 91 492604

Emergency Services Ambulance/Fire/Gardaí: 999/112

Emergency Services

Ambulance/Fire/Gardaí: 999/112

Accommodation Advisory Service

Email: accommodation@universityofgalway.ie

General Enquiries

Email: international@universityofgalway.ie

Email: internationalmarketingrecruitment@universityofgalway.ie

Registration Enquiries

Email: reghelp@universityofgalway.ie

Fees Enquiries

Email: fees@universityofgalway.ie

International Admission Queries

Email: internationaladmissions@universityofgalway.ie

Incoming Erasmus

Email: incomingerasmus@universityofgalway.ie

Study Abroad/Exchange

Email: studyabroad@universityofgalway.ie

Shannon College

Sarah O'Mahony

Marketing Manager, Shannon College

Email: sarah.omahony@universityofgalway.ie