



University College Dublin
Ireland's Global University



Parent's Guide

University College Dublin (UCD)





Deciding on a university for your son/daughter to attend is a major decision for any parent/guardian.

At University College Dublin (UCD) we recognize that you may have many questions and we hope this guide summarises essential information that will assist you at each step of the application process through to your son/daughter's enrollment at UCD.

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Why Study Abroad?

Quality of Learning

UCD is one of Europe's leading research-intensive universities and is ranked within the top 1% of institutions worldwide in the *Times Higher Education* rankings.

Career opportunities

Improve career prospects. Studying at a top international university will set their CV apart and also increase their earning potential. Employers today want graduates to have 'global exposure' – business is increasingly taking place across borders and countries.

Communications

Improve language skills. Though distinctly Irish, UCD is Ireland's Global University. Students will have the opportunity to learn alongside students from over 120 different countries, testing how they work independently and also in groups.

Networked and Connected

We believe that education lasts a lifetime. The friends and contacts you meet in UCD will stay with you throughout your career.

Our Overseas Chapters help our alumni reconnect with UCD and their fellow graduates no matter where they are in the world.

Many of UCD's 280,000-strong global alumni network have made their mark across the world in all areas of industry, arts, engineering, science, culture, sport and public life.

New Learning Environment

Your son/daughter will experience a new learning environment and teaching methods. Classes are delivered by lecturers and professors who are at the leading edge of their fields internationally. Importantly our curriculum is constantly updated by the latest research and discoveries.

At undergraduate level, the unique UCD Horizons curriculum provides students with educational depth, breadth and a global perspective. It demands that students acquire expertise in their chosen discipline while also encouraging and facilitating them to gain a breadth of education through its elective system.

Life Experience

In the annual International Student Barometer Survey, our students say they had the best time of their lives on their time abroad at UCD. Beyond this, students also note becoming more independent and self-assured.

Adventure and Travel

Your son/daughter will have the opportunity to travel extensively and immerse themselves in new cultures.

At UCD we prepare our students for whatever the future holds. We equip them with the knowledge and the skills to meet the challenges and seize the opportunities of today's more complex global society.



What can UCD offer my son/daughter?

University College Dublin (UCD) is Ireland's Global University. Established in 1854, UCD is Ireland's largest and most international university with over 26,000 students of which over 6,000 are international (from 127 countries).

A public, government-funded institution located in Dublin Ireland's capital, UCD receives the highest levels of research funding in the country and is ranked within the top 1% of world universities. Five of Ireland's Prime Ministers are alumni of UCD as are 3 former Presidents of Ireland.

UCD offers the widest range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in Ireland in all subject areas including, Business, Science, Engineering, Medicine, Architecture, Agriculture, Veterinary Medicine, Arts and Human Sciences.

Undergraduate courses at UCD provide a wide level of flexibility and choice, while equipping students with broad-based skills, and offering clear career and graduate pathways. There is an extensive range of taught masters programmes across all of the colleges – many of which are one year in duration. The structured PhD programme aims to enable UCD PhD students to achieve the best possible experience of graduate research and training.

Equipping your son/daughter for future careers

UCD's Career Development Centre prepares students throughout their time in UCD. As well as with organised career advice workshops for international students, and students can meet on a one to one basis with our career advisors who will assist him/her with CV and interview preparation. Every year, more

than 500 national and international employers target UCD graduates. Having a UCD undergraduate or postgraduate degree can make all the difference when it comes to starting out on, and progressing, your son/daughters career. Several UCD courses include internships, and many more internship opportunities can be accessed via the Centre. At UCD, we give students the platform to a successful future.

Safe and Inclusive Campus

UCD has the largest urban campus in Europe (350 acres). It is a safe, modern campus with 24 hour security and offers extensive on campus accommodation options.

World Class Facilities - UCD investing in the Student Experience

UCD continually invests in the facilities and resources available to our students. Some of the university's learning, sport and social facilities include:

- Sports Center, including Olympic sized swimming pool, cinema, theatre and debating chamber
- Student Health Center which provides a confidential service to all registered students and students can make appointments to see doctors and nurses when necessary
- UCD O'Brien Centre for Science - the leading facility for teaching and learning in Sciences in Ireland
- UCD Sutherland School of Law – the first purposely built university Law School in Ireland
- Ireland's largest library - the UCD James Joyce library





Céad Míle Fáilte go hÉireann A Hundred Thousand Welcomes to Ireland

Why choose Ireland?

“Ireland has it all. From the haunting beauty of the pure, unspoiled landscapes and the drama of the coastline, to the urban buzz of the country’s dynamic cities mixed with the magic of thousands of years worth of culture and history, Ireland is a country that never fails to surprise (Tourism Ireland).”

- Ireland, an English speaking country, is an island on the west of Great Britain and Europe and was voted the 6th safest country in the world. The island is divided into two parts – the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, part of the UK. The population is approximately 4.5 million people. Ireland is a member of the EU and is a Eurozone member country.
- Almost **one thousand overseas companies** use Ireland as their European base including Google, Intel, Yahoo, Adobe, Microsoft, Hewlett Packard, Apple and Amazon.
- Ireland is well known for its stunning scenery and varying landscapes – from rugged coastlines, to inland lakes and rivers, to impressive mountains and flat pasture farmland. Ireland was recently **voted by Lonely Planet as the friendliest country in the world!**
- Ireland has a well-established reputation for education - **ranked in the 10 best educated countries in the world** (24/7 Wall St/OECD Education at a Glance report)

Career Opportunities in Ireland

Over 1,000 overseas companies have chosen Ireland as their strategic location in Europe. Ireland is the internet and games capital of Europe and is known as the “silicon valley of Europe.” Most global players in the ICT sector - from Google, Facebook, eBay, Twitter, Intel, Dell, Microsoft, Yahoo and PayPal to smaller specialist companies - have chosen Ireland for major operations focused on international markets.



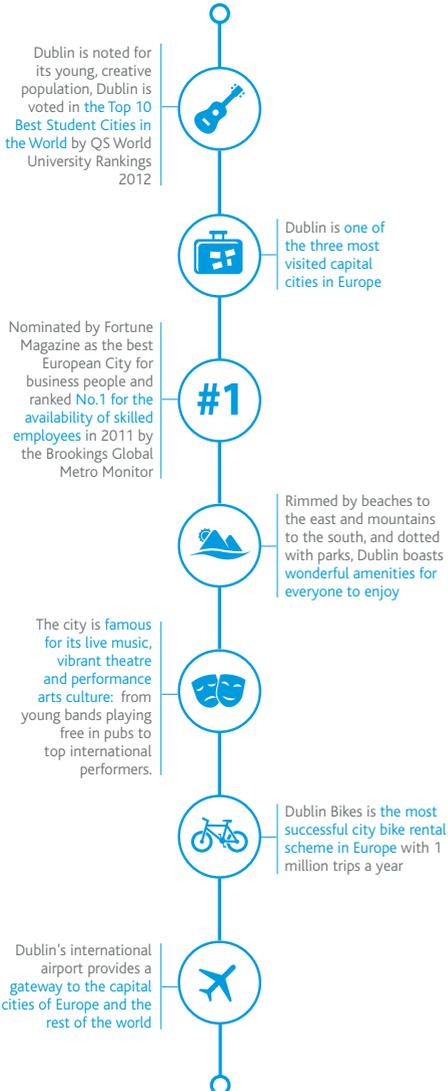
The Life Science sector in Ireland (including medical devices and pharmaceutical companies) also includes a large majority of the top global players including Pfizer, GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson and Genzyme.

More than 50% of the world’s leading financial services firms also have operations in Ireland. Forbes magazine’s 2013 “Best countries for business” report rates Ireland as best in Europe and fourth in the world for doing business.

Working in Ireland After Graduation – One Year Postgraduate Visa

The Third Level Graduate Scheme offers non-EEA graduates of Irish higher education institutions, a period of 12 months (after issue of examination results) in which to remain in Ireland and seek work experience.





Why Dublin?

- One of **Europe's youngest**, vibrant and most lively cities – it has the youngest population in Europe, with over 30% under 30
- Ireland's capital and one of **Europe's most navigable city centres** – it is easy to walk around the heart of the historic city, to view classical buildings, museums and art galleries, to stop for a cup of coffee in any of the little restaurants and coffee houses sprinkled along every main and side street
- One of **Europe's oldest cities**, Dublin was established as a Viking settlement in the 9th century
- Voted one of the **QS Best Student Cities in the World**
- UNESCO City of Literature
 - Four Nobel Prizes for Literature have been awarded to writers associated with Dublin
 - Dubliners author James Joyce (UCD BA 1902) is considered one of the fathers of modern literature





Applying to UCD

What are the entry requirements?

Entry to UCD is competitive and we recognize many different qualifications from around the world. Entry requirements information can be found at www.ucd.ie/international

What is the application process?

Entry requirements vary by programme. The following materials will be considered as part of your application:

- Personal/Academic statement
- Up-to-date transcript
- Two letters of recommendation (College Counsellor and Teacher)

Students can apply directly to UCD at www.ucd.ie/international/apply

Applications are made online and you can upload your documents directly to our system. The admissions team will assess applicant's credentials and contact applicants promptly with a decision. Applications open each year on October 1.

Timeline for applying to UCD

September

Research

Begin researching options; look at the UCD and other institution websites to gather information.

October, November, February, March

Education Fairs

Attend various education fairs to meet with the university representatives (note: UCD applications open on October 1).

June

Finalise Decision and Prepare for moving to Ireland

Once applications are finalized ensure that all necessary documents are included in your son/daughter's application. Students should begin preparations in relation to moving to Dublin if offered a place in UCD.

Students should ensure they have accepted their place in UCD, paid fees, applied for a visa if necessary, applied for on campus accommodation, and connected with incoming students online.

September

Orientation Week begins the first week of September and classes start the following week.



Practical Considerations

Fees and Cost of Living

Tuition fees are based on the course of studies chosen. Please see www.ucd.ie/fees for full fees list. In general it is estimated that the cost of living (excluding programme fees) in Ireland for one year is between 8,000 and 12,000 euro.

Scholarships

At UCD we believe in creating an environment where students with exceptional ability, creativity and drive will be motivated, challenged and inspired.

To award outstanding achievement and to attract students of the highest caliber from around the world, University College Dublin is pleased to offer a number of scholarships to international students.

These scholarships are competitively awarded based on academic merit and offered by country and/or by discipline.

Please see www.ucd.ie/international/study-at-ucd-global/coming-to-ireland/scholarships-and-funding/ for further information.

Home Sweet Home – UCD Accommodation/Housing

Student Accommodation varies from halls type accommodation (Blackrock & Muckcross) which consists of a single room, shared kitchen and bathroom facilities, to apartment living with 3-4 single rooms, a shared kitchen and bathroom & shower room (Belgrove & Merville), to our ensuite apartments (Glenomena, Proby & Roebuck Hall) and catered accommodation with breakfast and dinner provided (Roebuck Castle & Muckcross). Campus accommodation is guaranteed to all first year non-EU undergraduate International Students, providing they book by July 15 each year.

For further information and virtual tours of the residences please see www.ucd.ie/residences.

If you are looking for information on **off-campus** options, and information on rented, private and family-based accommodation, please visit www.ucdaccommodationpad.ie. Off campus accommodation is not administered by the university, however services are available to ensure students are well informed of their best options.

Staying on campus in the first year should be recommended because it offers amongst other things:



Proximity to class



24 hour support from security personnel and residential assistants, as well as campus services.



Great facilities and services including wifi, on site laundry, restaurants, shops, gym, sports centre & swimming pool



Peace of mind to the parent



No travel costs to and from college



Welcome to
Student Life
in UCD



If your son/daughter is offered a place in UCD we have a number of supports in place to assist with moving to Ireland and studying in UCD.

The International Student Handbook and Graduate Offer Pack are available to all incoming students to provide information on registering at UCD and also general information in relation to the university and living in Dublin.

The UCD International website offers advice before and after moving to Ireland and connects students through social media before classes begin in September.

UCD Orientation and Airport Welcome

In order for students to feel at home as soon as they arrive in Ireland, an airport welcome is available during Orientation Week for students arriving in Ireland.

UCD follows this up with a welcome reception and orientation sessions during Orientation Week in September, as well as a Welcome Reception hosted by the UCD President.

There will also be games nights, movie nights, Dublin walking tours and campus tours as part of the Orientation schedule. Student Ambassadors are on hand to offer assistance and answer questions from new students around campus too.

Academic welcome sessions take place during this period, too which enables students to meet other classmates before teaching commences.

This supportive and welcoming atmosphere created by the university allows students to feel relaxed and prepared for the approaching academic year in UCD.

A rounded, holistic experience

Life at university is not just about lectures and study: there is so much more to being at UCD. You will find that sports, societies and an active social life are vital ingredients of your university experience.



The Student Centre and the UCD Sport & Fitness complex are the home of student life on campus.

The recently completed development provides our students with the most diverse student facility of any university in Ireland.

Student Centre

facilities include:

3D Cinema

State-of-the-art 3D cinema which screens the latest blockbusters and classics

Drama theatre

Debating chamber

600-seat auditorium

Meeting rooms

for student clubs and societies

TV studio

Radio pod

Seminar room

Medical centre

Pharmacy

Barber

Newsagent

The UCD Clubhouse

(bar and function room)

Great places to eat or just chill out

Sporting

facilities include:

50 metre swimming pool

Gym, dance and spinning studios

Sauna and jacuzzi

Three multi-purpose sports halls

Four squash courts

Handball/racquetball alley

Climbing wall

Changing facilities

For indoor and outdoor sports

Performance and squad gyms

17 natural grass pitches on campus

Including the UCD Bowl, home ground to both UCD RFC and UCD AFC

Six synthetic 5-a-side pitches

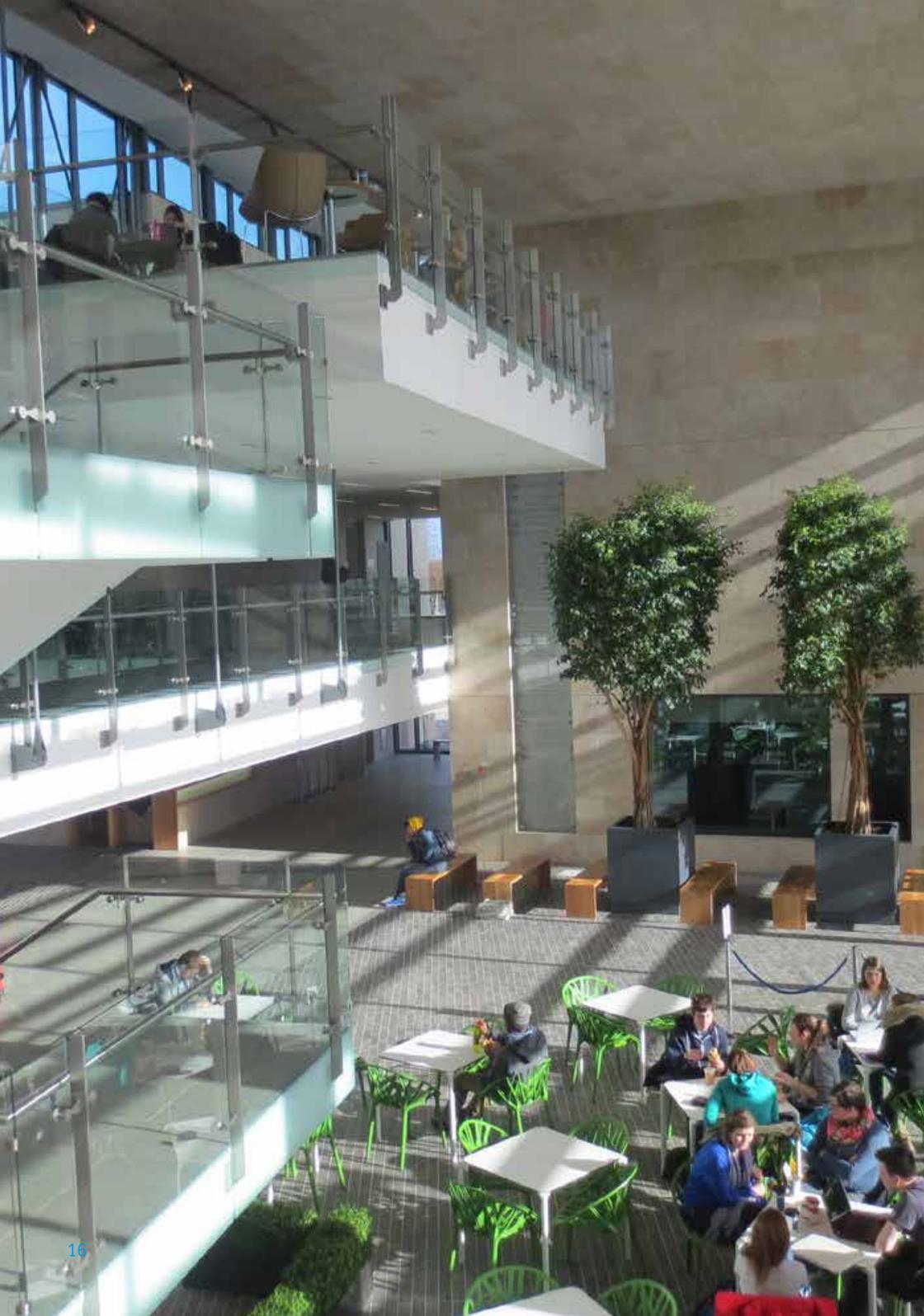
A sand-based hockey pitch

A synthetic rugby pitch

A synthetic Gaelic sports pitch

A synthetic 11-a-side soccer pitch

The National Hockey Stadium





Supporting our students

UCD knows that moving to a new country is an exciting experience for students but also understands the challenges associated with such a significant transition.

In order to ensure that our students settle into university life, UCD provides ongoing support throughout your son/daughter's program.

UCD Student Advisors are available to advise your son/daughter on personal, social or practical matters in addition to any visa/immigration queries also.

UCD International staff also offer support to incoming students and act as points of contact for international students.

Still have questions? Find out more:

UCD representatives are always available and delighted to meet with parents/guardians during any of our recruitment trips around the world.

Please see ucd.ie/international/study-at-ucd-global/meet-ucd for our travel schedule.

Below are additional UCD web resources for parents/guardians:

www.ucd.ie
www.ucd.ie/international
www.ucd.ie/fees
www.ucd.ie/residences
facebook.com/UCDInternational

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions/queries about UCD programmes or student life.

Email: internationaladmissions@ucd.ie

Phone: +353 1 716 8500









UCD International

Gerard Manley Hopkins Centre,
University College Dublin,
Belfield, Dublin 4 Ireland.

- +353 1 716 8500
- internationaladmissions@ucd.ie
- www.ucd.ie/international

- Facebook: UCDInternational
- Twitter: UCDInternat
- Youtube: UCDDGlobal