



Gaeltacht UCD

UCD Global Centre for Irish Language & Culture

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About Us

Gaeltacht UCD promotes the Irish language and culture in Ireland's global university. The centre facilitates all students and staff who wish to engage with the language, and it extends a very warm welcome to the University's global community.

Services

- Courses in Conversational Irish @5 levels
- Award-winning Residential Scholarship Scheme
- Student Mentoring Scheme
- Live Cultural and Recreational Activities
- Translation Services
- International Exchange Programmes
- Global Irish Language Summer School

We welcome queries in Irish, English and German.



Irish Language Courses – FAQs

How do I register for a course?

www.ucd.ie/irish/en/language/languagecourses/

Where are the courses held?

All courses are held on the Belfield Campus.

How much do the courses cost?

Our language courses are free of charge to all current UCD students and employees. There is a registration charge of €10.00 per course. www.ucd.ie/irish/en/language/languagecourses/

How do I choose a language level?

Gaeltacht UCD offers courses at 5 language levels. A detailed description is available on www.ucd.ie/irish/en/language/languagecourses/ If you are not sure which level to choose, you can take the online placement test based on our syllabi: www.ranganna.com/tastail.aspx?id=2&lang=en

What teaching approach is used?

The communicative approach to teaching is used in all courses run by Gaeltacht UCD. There is a strong emphasis on group work and the learner is given every opportunity to play an active role in the class. The emphasis is on useful everyday language, interesting topics, and grammar is taught in context as it is required. The courses cover skills in reading and writing but the main emphasis is on oral communication and comprehension.

Can I obtain a qualification in Irish?

Gaeltacht UCD offers a specific preparatory course for the *European Certificate in Irish*, level B1. Level B1 is the minimum entry requirement in Irish for the Professional Master in Education (PME)-Primary Teaching Course and for a number of posts in the public service. All Gaeltacht UCD language classes, levels A1 to B2 correspond to the *Common European Framework of Reference for Languages* (Council of Europe 2001) and will assist learners who wish to prepare for the *European Certificate in Irish* (teg.ie) at other levels also.

Should I buy a textbook/materials?

There is no need to buy a textbook for Gaeltacht UCD's courses. Your tutor will distribute all the materials you will need.

What can I do if I'm not free to attend the course?

Gaeltacht UCD offers Irish language courses each trimester, if you cannot attend in trimester 1 you can start in trimester 2, alternatively, you may like to join our 1-week immersion course Tionól Gaeilge UCD, a summer school which is aimed at learners in Ireland and abroad who are interested in the Irish language and in Irish culture. It will also suit students, both in Ireland and abroad, who are studying Irish or Irish studies as a subject as classes are offered at 5 levels.

Further information: www.ucd.ie/irish/en/language/internationalsummerschool/

Can I attend private classes?

Gaeltacht UCD does not provide private classes free of charge but if you or a group of colleagues would like to organise private or specialised classes, we can advise you on this.





Language Course Levels

BEGINNER (A1)

This level is aimed at students who have no knowledge of the Irish language or who know only a few words and phrases. The class will not be suitable for anyone who has studied Irish at second level in Ireland. This level is ideal for international students who may have no prior experience of the language.

ELEMENTARY (A2)

This level is intended for students who have an elementary knowledge of the language from previous study or those who already attended a number of courses at beginner 1. Instruction will begin with a revision of key basic elements of the language.

LOWER INTERMEDIATE (B1)

This level is aimed at students who have studied Irish to leaving cert level, perhaps at ordinary level, who understand a great deal of the language but have had a few opportunities to use it in recent years. It is also suitable for those who attended 'Elementary' during the past academic year. Some basic language will be taught initially but the class will then progress at a faster pace than either of the lower level classes.

UPPER INTERMEDIATE (B2)

This level is aimed at students who are reasonably fluent in Irish and who use it socially from time to time. It is ideal for those who may have taken Irish as a higher-level subject in the Irish leaving certificate. Participants will have the opportunity to extend their vocabulary and to learn more about Irish grammar. The range of topics covered will be more extensive than those covered in the lower intermediate class.

ADVANCED (C1)

A course designed for those who have taken a number of courses at upper intermediate level and who wish to focus on grammar and advanced fluency (this level is offered subject to demand).





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Cultural Activities – FAQs

What cultural and recreational activities are organised by Gaeltacht UCD?

Gaeltacht UCD offers a range of cultural, sporting and social activities each trimester, these include activities such as traditional dance workshops, a podcast discussion group, yoga through Irish, Irish folklore workshops and lessons in traditional music and song. These activities provide the opportunity to use the language in a relaxed environment, make new friends and have fun.

Keep an eye on our social media for updates on future events: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram



www.ucd.ie/irish/en/culture/

How can I register for cultural events?

www.ucd.ie/irish/en/culture/





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Teach na Gaeilge UCD – FAQs

What is Teach na Gaeilge UCD?

Teach na Gaeilge is Gaeltacht UCD's Irish Language Student Residence Scheme. This scheme had been at the centre of saol na Gaeilge on campus since 2000 and offers scholars a unique experience. Students from various subject areas have the opportunity to live and work together as Gaeilge, while further developing their individual talents through a range of social and cultural activities.

Where is Teach na Gaeilge UCD located?

Teach na Gaeilge UCD is located in the Merville Student Residences on Belfield campus, just minutes away from the university's lecture theatres, libraries, sports and computer facilities.

How many places are available in Teach na Gaeilge UCD?

Gaeltacht UCD offers scholarships to 24 students – 12 incoming students and 12 continuing students.

What are the requirements to apply for the Teach na Gaeilge UCD competition?

Applicants must be fluent Irish speakers and have the desire and ability to initiate projects which promote the use of the language.

Do I need to be native Irish speakers or attend an Irish language-medium school to apply for the Teach na Gaeilge UCD competition?

No. All students with fluent Irish are welcome to apply.

Do I need to be studying Irish to apply for the Teach na Gaeilge UCD competition?

No. Students from all subject areas may apply.

How can I apply for the Teach na Gaeilge UCD competition?

Application forms will be available on the Gaeltacht UCD website in early March:

www.ucd.ie/irish/en/residencescheme/scholarships/

Do I have to do an interview?

Applications will be shortlisted and a number of students will be invited to interview. Successful candidates will be chosen based on their application form and interview.





Teach na Gaeilge UCD – FAQs

How long does the scholarship last and is it possible to to apply for it again?

The scholarship is for one academic year. Students can enter the competition again in subsequent years. Scholars are required to be actively engaged in the promotion of the language and those interviewed for a 2nd year must prove their engagement in year 1.

What are the advantages of the scholarship?

Scholars live together in UCD's mini-Gaeltacht (through the medium of Irish 24/7). They make friends with Irish speaking students from a range of faculties thus ensuring they can continue to use the language in their lives socially at University and beyond. As language ambassadors they may also have the opportunity to engage with students of other minority languages and/or of other cultures. All Gaeltacht UCD scholars are supported by orientation, training, an accredited module and a mentoring scheme which gives them access to a network of Irish speakers from various professions (2000-2020 alumni). Scholars actively promote the language by drawing on their own unique talents ,thus gaining experience in teamwork, and event management. The Gaeltacht UCD scholarship has a financial value of €1,500 in total, this is linked directly to residency in Teach na Gaeilge and paid in monthly instalments over 7 months. The scholarship is listed on each scholar's academic transcript.

How much does accomodation in the Merville Student Residences cost?

Up to date information and pricing for accommodation on campus is available from UCD Residences: www.ucd.ie/residences/bookinginfo/ratesandpayments/

Can I speak to someone in Gaeltacht UCD about their services?

Yes, email failte@ucd.ie or call 017167387 to speak with Gaeltacht UCD Director Clár Ní Bhuachalla or Gaeltacht UCD Administrator/Coordinator Ashling Hartevelde.

