



## Exchange Reports

### Trinity College Dublin

### Dublin, Ireland

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#### Teaching and Learning Environment

- I took 3 modules in the LLM program. There were many international law courses available to exchange students. I took: International Humanitarian Law, Law and Risk, and International Aviation Law (which was my favourite and a unique opportunity). All courses were taught by highly respected professors in each field in seminar style. All three modules I chose were assessed mainly by final essay--one also involved an essay proposal and presentation--but there were some courses that were assessed by final exam available to exchange students.
- I took 3 courses at TCD. All of their LLM courses were taught in English. The quality of the instruction was very high, but it was typically more of a lecture style than a discussion/seminar style. The lack of discussion may have been due in part to the measures put in for covid that required us to be placed in very large classroom despite the number of people in the class being small. The smaller the classroom, the more discussion we had. Assessment was typically done through at-home essay. Some courses split up the assessment requiring a presentation (10%), a proposal (30%), then a final essay (60%). Another had discussion posts on an online forum (10%) and an essay (90%), and another had a final exam worth 100% that was released 2 weeks ahead of the due date. Overall, professors were very fair in their assessments. There were no surprises, and they were always eager to help answer questions.

#### Quality of Administrative Support for Students

- Registration for courses happened late in the summer. We were advised to find housing through one of the third-party residences off-campus. This was organized in July. I would advise future students to contact the housing company as soon as possible. We stayed at Kavanagh Court,

which was in Dublin 1 north of the river, and would recommend this location over the other residence offered to exchange students (Binary Hub), as it was more central and convenient. There were two orientation weeks, but as we were visiting students and graduate students, we found a lot of the orientation either geared towards visiting students (typically undergraduates) or graduate students (non-visiting), there were not many events that applied to us.

- Registration was quite stressful. Post-graduate studies start a week after undergraduate studies, and the administration is in no rush to register post-graduate students. Registration and enrollment is done separately for exchange students and they are not given priority. I was only able to select my courses a few days before classes started, which is done through an email sent to law exchange students, not through the portal used by LLM students. They are flexible with changing your classes after as long as there is space. I ended up arriving in Dublin weeks before I was registered as a student, and so was not able to get my student card and access many of the services until a couple days before classes started. From the conversations I have had, this is typical of the administration's approach: they will get it done on time, but don't expect it done early. The staff was very friendly throughout every interaction.

Affordable housing in Dublin is difficult but not impossible to find. The school has some on campus residences that must be booked quite early, but they also have some associated student accommodations that typically have more space. I stayed in a student accommodation to avoid apartment-hunting on arrival, which ended up being much more expensive but provided peace of mind. Rooms in student accommodation must be reserved in advance. Kavanagh Court is about 20 minutes from campus. It is in a bit of a sketchy area, but not dangerously so.

The school provided an orientation week for post-graduate students. It mostly focused on researching and publishing, and so was not particularly relevant to exchange students since we don't have to write a thesis. Because of covid access to the libraries was restricted at the beginning of the year, and tours of the library booked out very quickly, so it was difficult to get oriented on how to use the libraries. It was also initially difficult to find out which building is which on campus because the "Trinity Live" app, which has a searchable map, can only be accessed once you are registered, which happens very last minute.



1 - Submitted by Krysten Z.

## Campus Facilities

- Since we were placed with the LLM students, our classes were in the main library buildings, which were central in the main campus. We were given access to the Trinity College gym and me and the other Queen's exchange student took part in a learn to play Gaelic football course.
- The campus is gorgeous. Many of the buildings at the front half of campus are incredibly beautiful, while the ones at the back half are newer builds that focus more on utility. The law school building itself is in the very middle of campus and can only be accessed by using your student card, but classes are spread out throughout different buildings. The older buildings are prettier, but do not have outlets or good sound, while the newer buildings have more amenities. The on-campus gym is included in tuition and can be accessed once you get your student card and activate it with the gym. The Trinity gym app is very helpful for registering for classes or seeing the schedules. They have a pool and lots of different gym equipment. Sports, classes, and certain rooms (such as booking a gymnasium for a football game) require additional payment. There are a few libraries on campus. Three of them have the same entrance and are just different parts of the same building, which was confusing at first. They each have a different atmosphere and there are a lot of seats.

## Student Accommodation and Food

- Again, I would recommend contacting housing as soon as possible and requesting Kavanagh Court (rather than Binary Hub). We were told that finding housing outside of residence is near impossible and incredibly expensive. These were the two residence options available to us and based on location, Kavanagh Court is highly preferable as it is in the north tourist area with lots of shops, grocery stores, food, and a movie theatre nearby. Binary Hub was more isolated and in what seems to be a less safe area. We had to continually poke the residence people to ensure our space in the residence, so the students should be prepared to contact them several times before confirmation. The residence is quite expensive (we paid 4500 euros + a 300-euro deposit), but Dublin is generally expensive. I was in a 7-bedroom flat. The building was very clean and modern. We had our own rooms with ensuite bathroom (with shower). We shared a kitchen with the other flat mates. The residence will place you with people who share your living style (e.g., cleanliness). I cannot stress that students should contact residence as soon as possible and stay in contact until they receive confirmation. If staying at Kavanagh Court, there are tons of different grocery stores up this way.  
As for food, I did not eat on campus, but there was a cafe in the main library building and in the nearby touristy area near Grafton Street, there are lots of cafes and food places. There is a great vegetarian place on Wicklow Street called Cornucopia that offers a hearty soup and bread/crackers for under \$10 and is a nice place to study overlooking the touristy streets. Food generally is pretty expensive in Dublin, so this was a good find. There is also a salad/bowl place called Sprout & Co just outside the entrance to campus near the library. Expect to pay about \$15. As for coffee, I would recommend the Dublin Barista School on Anne Street. It is a hole in

the wall but has a bit of space for doing work and the cappuccinos are great. As for a chain coffee place, I would recommend Cafe Nero, and for good study space specifically, the cafe on Dawson Street. It also looks like it's tiny but has a huge interior library-like back room with a sky light that offers a good vibe. There is also a good fish and chips place on O'Connell Street called Beshoffs.

- I stayed at Kavanagh Court on Gardiner Street. It's a 20-minute walk from campus and from the downtown area. I had a private room and a private bathroom, with a shared kitchen. The accommodation comes with nothing in it. The room has a desk, a chair, a bed frame, and a mattress. You must provide your own sheets, pillows, blanket, and anything else. Similarly, the kitchen has a stove, an oven, a toaster, and a microwave but it is stripped bare before new tenants move in so do not expect any utensils, plates, mugs, appliances, etc. to be left over. Some residences have a "lost and found" room with stuff left over from previous tenants, but Kavanagh does not. The residence is great for social life because a ton of students live there and there is always something happening. There is a courtyard where people gather, and some people have had an issue with having their room on the first floor facing the courtyard, because it can be noisy and a bit awkward to have your blinds open with people right there. Campus has a lot of food options. There are also grocery stores nearby and a lot of restaurants and pubs throughout the city.

## Travel to Downtown and Environs

- I did not use the bus system (wasn't necessary). I walked everywhere. If staying at Kavanagh Court, this is in Dublin 1, north of the river. You can access a decent grocery store in 5-10 minutes by foot, or larger grocery stores within a 15-minute walk. Campus is in Dublin 2, south of the river, and about a 25-minute walk (which was really nice!). I imagine it can be accessed by bus, but I prefer to walk anywhere. I would get the student Leap Card (cost \$10 and provides a discount for transit and works like a loadable Presto card). This was offered during the first week in the lobby of the library building. There is also the DART, which connects Dublin central to the outskirts. It is similar to the GO train system in the GTA. You can take it north or south to two hiking locations on either end of Dublin Bay. We travelled to Howth, and hiked around the side of the bay (this is a pretty open trail, so not for people who don't like heights), and also to Bray, where you can do an cliff walk from this DART station to the next (Greystones). It is about 7 km and well insulated (by walls and a fairly good trail-so better for those who aren't a fan of heights). The Bray cliff walk ends in Greystones, where there is a great plant-based restaurant called The Happy Pear. I would recommend a



2 - Submitted by Krysten Z.

buddha bowl when finished the trek!

As for outside of Dublin, we traveled all around. There are many tour companies. I would recommend Wild Rover to see the Cliffs of Moher (or anything else). If you want to travel to Galway, you can take a coach bus for about 10 euros and it's about 2.5 hours. You can also take a train to Belfast for about 10 pounds if you book ahead of time. Paddy wagon offers some day trips out to some places far to the west (e.g., Dingle, Ring of Kerry). I would recommend seeing as much of Ireland as possible. The weather is variable but nicer in August/September, so if possible, go see these places before it gets too dark and rainy!

As for general travel, you can access a 24/7 express bus to the airport for 7 euros or 12 euro roundtrip, or if living at Kavanagh Court, there is the 41 bus which goes straight to the airport from right across the street at about 2.40 euro with the student discount and runs from about 5 am until late. When coming back, you can also take the 16 to the main O'Connell Street. We traveled using a variety of airlines. Ryanair is very cheap if you book at odd times and ahead of time (like \$15 to fly to London). I would recommend looking at their cabin baggage size restrictions and bringing a carry-on sized knapsack or roller bag that conforms to their size. If you bring one this size, this should work for all airlines you will encounter. I traveled mainly around the UK and Ireland. I would recommend Rabbits tours in Scotland if you want to see the north. I did a tour of the Isle of Skye and it was absolutely beautiful.

- I mostly got around the city by walking, but there is a lot of public transportation available. Travelling outside of Dublin is fairly easy and affordable by train. School societies very often organize weekend or day trips that are a convenient way to explore Ireland beyond Dublin. For the buses, you need to flag them down or they will not stop. Once you get your student card, you can sign up for a public transit pass that reduces the cost for students.

## City Life Highlights

- As mentioned above, the cost of living is quite high, so budget to spend \$7-8k just on accommodation. Groceries were not bad, I found that some fruit and vegetables were cheaper than home. Eating out is more expensive. Do not let that deter you though. There are some wonderful places to enjoy in the city. I used a home plan with roaming, but you can get a phone plan with a number of providers for cheap (~\$30/month).
- Dublin is a very social city. There are pubs everywhere so even on a very busy night you can always find space somewhere. The Celt, close to Kavanagh Court, always has a good atmosphere. The Temple Bar area has a lot of good pubs, but the pints are more expensive there. The further you get from downtown, the less expensive the drinks get. There is also a very good pub on campus called the Pav where you can get very cheap beer. Setting up a cell phone typically means getting a new sim card. I got one from the 3 store that gave me unlimited text and data for 20 euros per month. Calling and texting did not always work, and it doesn't let you pay online if you do not have an Irish postal code on your billing address, so I had to go pay in person every month. Not the most convenient, but fairly cheap.

Cost of living is pretty high in Dublin, but it's possible to save money if you prepare food at home or have some house parties instead of going to the pub.

## Student Life

- I tended to engage only with students in class but spent most time traveling and exploring with my flat mates who were in undergraduate exchange programs or local students.
- There are a ton of different clubs that host events throughout the year. They organize a lot of trips to explore Ireland, pub nights, career fairs and more. There is a club's week at the beginning of the year where you can see what's available. Joining clubs costs approximately 2-3 euros each, but some of them can save you money. The food and drink society, for example, gives you discounts on restaurants in the city. The law society hosts some cool events, but they tend to sell out so quick that you can't actually go to them, probably since you're competing for space with the undergrad law students.

## Additional Comments

- No responses given.