

[Ireland] – [University of Limerick]

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¹ To update the agenda just click right on your moose

I. Your overall feeling after your semester abroad

Help : How was your experience abroad? If you could go back I time, would you go to this university and why ?

Without a doubt, I have been and am happy here in Ireland. I am currently in my last month here and after several months of living here, I can say that this is one of the best experiences I have had so far. A very rewarding experience, both personally and professionally.

Although the weather is not ideal, as you can imagine, I would choose the University of Limerick a thousand times over for my mobility. I can't describe in words the feeling of living on a campus of this size, and especially living the university life we are used to seeing in American movies. The Irish people are really wonderful and super friendly, I would almost go so far as to say that I leave feeling that they are one of the friendliest nationalities I have ever met. As for the classes, the teachers are top notch and the classes are very interesting, and what could be better than being able to study the subjects you want to study.

Honestly, the Erasmus life is great!

II. Before the travel

A. Preparation

1. Visa

Help : Do I need a visa ? If yes, what is the process ?

No need it for Limerick.

2. The flight

Help : what flight did you take (the company name, airport etc.) and when did you take your flight ticket

I travelled from Barcelona (I'm originally from there) with Ryanair and bought my ticket about a month before, as soon as I had the official start date of the semester and especially the dates when the university would provide us with transport from Dublin airport to campus.

3. My luggage

Help : what to not forget in the luggage (what was useful and what you would like to have taken)

Definitely winter clothes and even though you hope that at the end of the semester the weather will improve and it will be "warm", for them the warmth is 15 degrees... so bring some less warm clothes and some t-shirts just in case.

If there is one thing you must not forget and that will save you every day of Erasmus, it is a good warm and WATERPROOF jacket. Until the last day, I appreciated having bought a good jacket.

However, I brought an umbrella which I never used because the rain here is different from France, it is lighter and more constant. The weather in Ireland is very unstable, you can experience all the seasons of the year in the same day and there is no day when it doesn't rain. A waterproof jacket will be your best friend.

It is important not to forget your adaptors as you are in the UK.

If you are living on campus, the university will provide you with sheets but not towels. However, if you find you don't have much space in your suitcases, there is a Primark (Penneys) in the city centre that will save your life.

As you can imagine, party clothes are a must, don't forget you are on Erasmus 😊.

PS: I came with two suitcases of 20kg each and a sports bag which counts as a 10kg suitcase you take on the plane.

4. Bank account

Help : did you have to change bank? To respect some amount requirement on the bank account etc.

I used both my French and my Spanish account and no problem as everything is in Euros. However, I had to increase the amount I could use each month to €1500 as the rent is only paid in 4 large instalments (depending on which residence you are in).

5. Insurance

Help : What insurance did you subscribe to ?

European Health Insurance Card and repatriation and liability insurance. Apart from my private health insurance in Spain, which covers the whole EU.

B. Housing

1. Where to live

Help : Do a google maps capture and circle the area you recommend to live in (and the one you do not recommend)

100000000% recommendable to live on campus if you can get a place as this is where university life is lived. It is important to keep in mind the deadlines and above all to be attentive to the day the registration opens as it is first come first served.

The campus has 5 different villages where you can live and each one has a different price and facilities.

Plassey: is the one closest to the entrance of the campus. It is the cheapest and consists of 2-storey houses shared between 8 people with 2 bathrooms (one per floor) and a communal kitchen/dining room.

Kilmurry: is the next to Plassey and is located just behind the UL Sport Arena. In this case the houses are two-storey as in Plassey with shared bathrooms but this time they are for 6 people.

Dromroe: is the most expensive of all and is located in the middle of the campus. I would say it is the closest to the main buildings. In this case they are flats for 4 or 6 people with individual bathrooms in each room and then a communal kitchen and dining room.

Thomond: it's a bit cheaper than Dromroe but it's exactly the same (4 or 6 people flats with individual bathroom in each room). Important point: newly renovated flats.

Cappavilla: is the last residence and is located just after the Living Bridge and next to the area of the medical buildings and the Pavillon. Exactly the same price as Thomond and the same facilities but much older.

I stayed in Thomond and it is the BEST DECISION I could have made. In my case I am in a flat of 6 people and I chose to be only with girls. It is definitely worth paying more money but having a private bathroom. During my three years of my degree I have lived in a flat and I have shared a bathroom but we must not forget that in this case we are on Erasmus and we will be living with people from all over the world and not all of us respect the common areas in the same way. Dromroe, Thomond and Cappavilla all three offer rooms with private bathrooms. However, as mentioned before, between Thomond and Cappavilla, I would definitely choose Thomond. Cappavilla is much older. For example, Thomond has a vitro hob, Cappavilla has a cooker, Thomond has parquet flooring, Cappavilla has carpet...

2. Find a flat or a room

Help : How did you find your flat? Do you have any recommendation

University campus.

3. Cost

Help : How much should I plan for a room?

It depends on the village. For example, Thomond was 790€ 4 times (usually paid at the end of the first 4 months. Plassey, the cheapest one is around 600€.

III. When I arrive at the university

A. Inscription at the university

Help : How was the process, what did you have to do?

The registration at the university was all online before arrival (be aware that once MoMa confirms that you have been allocated a place, you will receive an email from the university confirming that you can register. And above all, register during the deadlines). Once you arrive you will have to choose your courses and modify the Learning Agreement if necessary. You will also have to ask the host university to sign the document confirming your arrival so that you can receive the Erasmus+ scholarship.

B. Information on the university

1. Courses

Help : List the different courses, and for each course, describe the format, the content, the exam, what did you like and not like, would you recommend it for the next student?

The organisation of the classes is quite similar to MoMa's. You will have classes called "Lectures" which are equivalent to "CM". Most of them are not compulsory and there are approximately 300 students (although the Irish don't go to class very often 😊). And on the other hand, the "Tutorials" which are equivalent to the "TD" in France. They are usually in small groups of about 30 people, but unlike MoMa, in most of them you will not deal with the same topics as in the Lectures. Lectures do take place every week, but Tutorials are usually held every two weeks.

The reality is that at the beginning it will be a bit complicated to move around the campus, to find the classes (since the campus is huge), and even to understand the accent. But don't worry, as time goes by you will get used to it and if you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask. There are staff everywhere to help you with anything you need.

In my case I have chosen these modules:

MK4017: Marketing Leadership

Fourth year class and undoubtedly the most demanding in terms of workload. The teacher is very good and the classes are of a high standard, but the level of demand and workload is enormous.

The content of the module can be summarised as follows:

- Develop a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the strategic role of marketing in the organisation
- Critically analyse the role of marketing both within the organisation and in society at large
- Critique the challenges of integrating marketing with other organisational functions and activities
- Develop the skills to prepare a marketing plan through participating in a team-based project for a real organisation
- Engage proactively and creatively to generate marketing ideas to assist the challenges faced by a real organisation
- Apply marketing theories to contemporary international cases and examples and propose creative solutions to complex marketing problems
- Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical and social dimensions of marketing and to critically reflect on the impact of marketing on society

There are 4 evaluations:

- 10% weekly reading and completion of the quizzes corresponding to each module for each Sunday. At the beginning of the semester, you will have to buy the professor's book electronically (Foundations of Marketing) which consists of a platform where each week he will provide you with the chapter and the quiz that you will have to complete before the following Sunday.
- 10% Meta Blueprint Certification. In this module you will follow a Facebook course based on the topic of ads and how to market on Facebook and finally take an official exam to obtain the certification. If your goal is to pursue a career in marketing this qualification will be a plus on your CV. Apart from the fact that it is the university who will pay for it.
- 50% group work. In groups of 4 people that you will do yourselves, you will have to carry out a marketing study for a company that the teacher will choose and make a report as well as an oral presentation in front of the CEO of the company presenting him or her either a modification of the current Business Model or a completely new one. If you manage to win, it will be a plus on your CV.
- 30% final exam in person. Final written exam that will cover all the notions seen during the semester and the content of the book.

Opinion: very interesting class even though many things I had already seen. The workload should be considered. Very positive point: Meta Blueprint Certification.
RECOMMENDABLE

PM4054: Applied Organisational Behaviour

Very interesting second year class. Personally, I had always wanted to do a subject more related to psychology at work, and this is exactly that.

The purpose of this module is to enhance students' understanding of key concepts and issues associated with behaviour in work organisations. The focus is on the role of individual behaviour and group dynamics and how they influence important outcomes such as performance and organisational commitment. Participants will become acquainted with key theories and will examine the extent to which they are supported by relevant empirical evidence. Discussions will be focused on the application of these theories and concepts to the workplace.

2 evaluations:

- 70% Individual or in pairs essay: choose 3 theories seen in class and applied them to the problematic that the teacher will give you
- 30% 3-4 group Project: case study with 3 questions (2000 words).

Opinion: TOTALLY RECOMMENDABLE. Very interesting course and an amazing teacher. Even if the 70% essay is hard.

PM4064: Employment Relations

Second year class based on industrial relations in Ireland. I would say it's a mix of history and law.

This module aims to develop your understanding of the theories and processes at work in contemporary employment relations.

2 evaluations:

- 30% group project: group poster about an employment relations issue.
- 70% final exam on campus: multiple choice exam (25 questions, 2h, correct answer +3, incorrect answer -1). One hundred per cent theoretical examination.

Opinion: NOT RECOMMENDABLE. Personally, I would not repeat this class. On the one hand because everything is based specifically in Ireland and therefore most of the things you can't apply to other countries unless you decide to work in Ireland. And on the other hand because the classes were in asynchronous, which made them very boring and hard.

MK4004: Consumption and Consumer Culture

Second year class.

The module explores the domain of consumer behaviour and the links between identity and consumption in a consumer society. In doing so, you will examine a range of key topics, including culture, self-concept, (sub)cultures of consumption, motivation, purchase behaviour, gift giving, and group consumption.

2 evaluations:

- **50% weekly blog:** weekly blog on Sulis (like Moodle in MoMa) about different topics the teacher will post related to the week's content.
- **50% group music project:** by groups of 6, realisation of a video about a music genre explaining the history, characteristics, how consumers behave, how consumers consume this music genre...

Opinion: RECOMMENDABLE. The classes were not extremely interesting, but the assignments were. I liked both the blog and the group work.

EP4003: Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Second year class.

This module aims to introduce the importance of innovation in enterprise to its students, with a focus on the importance of innovation in developing new ventures. Students will engage with industry role-models as guest speakers and engage in self-directed learning to discover the importance of, and competencies required to develop the innovators/entrepreneurial mindset. Students will work collaboratively in teams to experience the design thinking process and develop early-stage venture concepts.

Interesting: guest speakers.

3 evaluations:

- 35% individual work. Innovator profile. research on an innovator from your home country and produce a report in the format of your choice (I made a magazine) describing the person and their innovation.
- 15% individual worksheets. The teacher presents 20 challenges and you have to choose one for which you have to find a solution (ex: create a product, a service, an app...). Each week in the Tutorial you will have to fill in a worksheet with the stages of creation.
- 50% group project: Choose one of the challenges and make a report on the solution by groups.

Opinion: VERY RECOMMENDABLE. Very interesting class. Especially the innovator's project as I learned a lot of things. As well as the creation of a product that solves a problem.

NB 1: Luckily all my classes were face-to-face except for those with more than 300 students which were online (in my case 2/5 modules).

NB 2: recommendation: choose 2-year courses so that it is not so complicated to follow the classes. In my case I chose one fourth year class and four second year classes. Erasmus students did not have the right to choose third year classes.

2. Advice on "contrat d'étude"

Help : would you recommend for a student when picking its courses

Think long and hard about the classes you are going to take and take advantage of the opportunity to choose what you like best. In my case, I decided to leave numbers aside and focus more on other subjects that caught my attention and that I hadn't taken before.

Bear in mind that the contrat d'études that you'll take before you arrive and that you'll have to hand in to MoMa is not the definitive one. Personally, when I arrived, I changed most of the courses I had previously chosen. On the one hand, in some cases you will have two subjects that overlap or maybe when you go to the first class you see that you don't like it.

Positive point: as an Erasmus student you can create your own timetable. Recommendation: try to leave Mondays and Fridays free to be able to travel.

NB 1: during the first week of classes, you have the opportunity to attend as many classes as you want without having to be registered in order to see which ones you are really interested in and make your final decision. **Important:** consider the deadlines of the host university to submit the final list of modules.

NB 2: one of the biggest changes you will notice will be the class schedules. Unlike MoMa, at the University of Limerick the timetable is from 9am to 6pm. And being Erasmus, you will only have to choose 5 modules, so you will have approximately 15 hours of class per week maximum.

IV. When I life there

When I say that the campus is like a city, this is not an exaggeration. You will find more than 400 cafeterias distributed in the different buildings (among them Costa, Starbucks...), restaurants (ex: subway), bars (ex: stables), a wonderful library, UL Sport Arena (with all the facilities you need to play sports, even a giant swimming pool), a doctor, a cinema, a concert hall...

Life on campus is very lively. Student Life organises events every week. For example, on Fridays there is the International Night in the university bar (Stables), or for example week 7 and 11 is Rag Week (a week where most of the classes are cancelled and there are only concerts, activities, food stands... all over the campus).

A. Safety

Help : Is it safe? Is there areas or times I should avoid

I have never felt as safe as I did on campus. Throughout the semester, going home or going home alone was not a problem. This is one of the things I will miss the most.

B. Phone and Internet

Help : How to be able to call and have internet

There is Wi-Fi throughout the campus and on buses and bars in the city. With a European rate, you should be able to call and have normal internet as at home with the same French phone number and company.

C. Events

Help : How to know about the events?

They are very active on social media, especially on Instagram, and plan events on a daily basis. Breakfasts, lunches, parties, concerts, air mattresses, paint wars... you won't be bored and it's hard not to make friends.

D. Sports

Help : What sport can I do ? and how?

The facilities on campus are amazing and you have free access to absolutely everything. I personally went to the gym and the pool. It's amazing that I've been able to use all these facilities for a whole semester.

E. Eating

Help : Any recommendation? Or good tips (e.g. an international house buffet)

The solution that will change your life: the university provides a bus every Monday at 6.25pm that takes you to Lidl, gives you an hour to do your groceries and brings you back to your residence.

The campus is the size of Montpellier (no exaggeration), so everything is far away. This bus will change your life.

For last minute or sporadic shopping, there is a Spar on campus, and an Aldi just outside the campus.

Otherwise, in the center, you'll find Tesco (recommended for branded goods you like and can't find at Lidl).

For weekly shopping, I would definitely recommend Lidl, the products and prices don't vary much from France.

F. Go to the university : bus, car, bike

Help : How did you get access to the bus, car or bike

Within the campus, although the distances are long, you can easily get around on foot. Both to go to the university and to go to the other villages.

To go into town, you have to apply for a card called the Leap Card (you can order it online and they give it to you at Student Life on campus) which allows you to get discounts on buses (highly recommended otherwise the bus is expensive).

To get home from the clubs in the evening, there are no more buses, so you get a taxi (there is no uber, they use Free Now). It's an application you download onto your mobile phone, it's secure.

Also, if you live on campus, each residence has bikes that you can borrow for free for 3 hours as a resident.

As for getting to the airport, if it's Dublin Airport, there's a company called Citylink that will take you from the campus to the airport for €32 round trip. To get to Shannon Airport, there is a bus from Limerick city centre for €5, otherwise a shared taxi is cost effective.

Finally, the 300 bus, which leaves from within the campus (stable), takes you to Dublin city centre for €20 return.

G. Travels

Help : What do you recommend and what do you not recommend

Every Saturday, Student Life organises day trips to different places in Ireland. The cost is around €30 but some of these are highly recommended. The Cliffs of Moher, Cork, Galway and the Aran Islands for example.

Personally, I was lucky enough to make a great group of friends and with them we had the opportunity to travel to different places during Erasmus. Ryanair, being from here, offers very cheap tickets to different places in Europe and then we took hostels. I went to London and Berlin.

H. Any other information you would have liked to know about

Help : What would I liked to know if I could have gone back in time

That it was going to be one of the best semesters of my life !!

V. Photos



View from
My window



Campus



Kemmy Business School



Campus



Limerick
Castle



Campus



American breakfast



Campus



UL Sports Arena



Campus beach
(good sunsets)



Red Hen (really good pub)





Berlin



London



Cliffs of Moher



Living bridge on campus



Dublin



Limerick Center

PD: good clubs: Molly's, Angel Lane and Black Rabbit. Good pubs: Red Hen, Hurlers, The Old Quarter, 101, Mother Mac's, Charly Chaplin.

