

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

Overall, I had a really good experience living in Limerick and if I had to go back in time, I would choose the same destination. We met a lot of students from numerous nationalities, and we lived a full Erasmus experience in terms of friendship, culture and academic matters.

GRADE: 5/5

=> 0 (I do not recommend this semester abroad to my best friend) - 5 (I totally recommend this semester to my best friend)

II. Before the travel

A. Preparation

1. Visa

Ireland is part of the European union, so you don't need to have a visa or a passport. The identity card is enough.

2. The flight

We took a Ryanair flight from Carcassonne to Dublin and then caught a bus directly from the airport to the University of Limerick, which took approximately 2 hours. Another option is to take a line from Beziers to Shannon. The prices vary significantly depending on the time of year, but in January, I paid around 70 euros, including luggage.

3. My luggage

One essential item to consider is a pair of shoes that you don't mind getting dirty since there tends to be a lot of mud in Ireland.

4. Bank account

I didn't need to switch banks as there was no difference compared to France.

5. Insurance

We didn't have to subscribe to any insurance. The only thing we had to do was to ask for the European health assurance card. The process is quite easy, you just have to contact your insurance and ask for it.

B. Housing

1. Where to live

I lived in Kilmurry village, and I think it was the best choice I could have made among the different villages on the campus. Its location was convenient as it was in close proximity to the center of the campus where the majority of our classes were held.

Additionally, it was situated near the sports facilities and the bus stop (5 minutes walk). The village itself is also very nice.



- Circle in green : Kilmurry Village, which I think is the best choice.
- Circle in red – number 4 : Plassey village. It is the less expensive, but it is far away from everything.
- Circle in red – number 34: Thomond village. It is the most expensive village (probably because every student has his own bathroom) but I don't think it's worth the price difference with Kilmurry and the localization is less practical. I would not recommend.

2. Find a flat or a room

I resided on the campus and secured my accommodation through the university. There are five villages situated on the campus. I'm not certain about the complexity of finding a flat outside the campus. To reside on-campus, you need to submit an online request to the student accommodation service, which is a relatively straightforward process. However, it's important to note that there is currently a shortage of student housing in Ireland, so immediate acceptance of your application cannot be guaranteed.

3. Cost

Housing costs in Ireland are generally high. On-campus, the more affordable village is approximately 650 euros/month (Plassey Village), while the most expensive one is around 850 euros/month (Thomond Village). In Kilmurry Village, where I resided, I paid 750 euros per month. I don't have much information about the cost of living in flats outside the campus, but I believe it tends to be more expensive compared to prices you might find in Montpellier, for example. However, living on the campus is a great experience and I recommend it even if the expensive prices need to be taken into account before.

III. When I arrive at the university

A. Inscription at the university

To register at the university, we only had to complete online forms before coming in Ireland. The process was quite easy to follow. The documents required for registration were similar to those needed for applying to the Erasmus program at MoMa, which made the process quicker. The administrative team is reactive in case of any problem or questions. When we arrived, we had an integration week which included meeting the Erasmus team responsible for assisting us throughout the semester. When it comes to the administrative aspects of the semester, we received support and assistance at every stage.

B. Information on the university

1. Class

To get the 30 ECTS, we had to take 5 classes. We didn't have a really large choice because even if there are a lot of different subjects, we had to select the ones that didn't have prerequisites, which narrowed our choices considerably. I took the following classes:

- Principles of Organizational Behavior
- Marketing Communications
- Psychology
- Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- Broadening by Understanding and Confronting Crisis and Risk

I really liked all of my classes. I would particularly recommend Principles of Organizational Behavior and Psychology. Both of those classes had great teachers and were really interesting. In the Principles of Organizational Behavior class, we could rediscover concepts we had already dealt with in our sociology classes at MoMa, but it also allowed us to apply this knowledge to organizations. It also dealt with the issues at stake in companies working on an international scale and the weaknesses and strengths that cultural diversity can bring.

I would recommend all of my classes except, maybe, the class of Entrepreneurship and Innovation. I was hoping to learn more in this module, and I had the feeling that the teacher was repeating herself and that I did not learn a lot.

2. Organization of the Class

For each class, we had two hours of lecture every week. In some cases, it was two consecutive hours, while for others, it was divided into two one-hour sessions. Additionally, we were supposed to have one hour of tutorial for each course, but in reality, it only applied to three out of my five classes. In total, I had between 10 and 14 hours of classes per week which was great because we had the time to do a lot of activities and to discover Ireland in our free time.

In terms of workload, it was significantly less demanding compared to France. We had minimal assignments throughout the semester, with most of our assessment being based on final exams. I had only two projects to work on during the semester: one in psychology, which involved organizing an event to raise funds for a charity and writing a report about it, and one in entrepreneurship and innovation, which required creating a report on an invention in three different stages.

The professors were all very nice and we could ask for their help if necessary. Academically speaking, the Erasmus students are well-integrated and welcome in the university which was reassuring for our studies.

3. List of courses and recommendation

- **Principles of Organizational Behavior**
 - Easier than courses at MoMa.
 - Really interesting; I would recommend it.
 - 2 hours of lectures each week and 1 hour of tutorial to explore the more complex aspects of the course (every week). We had to read one chapter of a book every week and take quizzes on it.

- **Psychology**
 - Easier than courses at MoMa.
 - 2 hours of online lectures each week and one hour of tutorial to prepare for our semester project (creating an event that supports a charity dealing with mental health issues).
 - Really interesting; I would recommend it.

- **Marketing Communications**
 - Easier than courses at MoMa.
 - 2 hours of lecture each week and one tutorial every two weeks to assist us with our semester project (creating an advertising piece for the city of Limerick and writing a report on the process and its connection to the class).
 - Interesting; I would recommend it.

- **Broadening Understanding and Confronting Crisis and Risk**
 - Easier than classes at MoMa.
 - 2 hours of reading each week, no tutorials.
 - Interesting but less interactive than my other courses. I would recommend it, although the presentation required for the final grade was a lengthy and challenging task.

- **Entrepreneurship and Behavior**
 - Easier than the classes at MoMa.
 - 2 hours of reading each week, 1 hour of tutorial with some evaluated assignments.

- I would not recommend it; it wasn't as interesting as the other courses, and the grade heavily depends on the group you are assigned to (which you cannot choose).

4. Exam

- **Principles of organizational behavior:**
 - final exam MCQ with negative marks. (1 hour) - **90%**
 - Online quizzes every week on the chapter of a book we had to read. - **90%**
- **Psychology**
 - Final exam, MCQ online without negative marks (2 hours) - **42%**
 - Participation to survey for psychological studies online - **8%**
 - Report about the charity event - **50%**
- **Marketing communications**
 - Group project (report about the creation of a piece of advertisement) - **50%**
 - Final exam (questions about the course and MCQ) (1 hour) - **50%**
- **Broadening by understanding and confronting crisis and risk**
 - Presentation PowerPoint on a case study we had to work on all semester. - **100%**
- **Entrepreneurship and behavior**
 - Group report and video about an innovation - **60%**
 - Tutorial activities (individual) - **15%**
 - Attendance - **5%**
 - Final exam (MCQ online without negative marks) (1 hour) - **20%**

IV. When I life there

A. Safety

I would say that the city of Limerick is not the safest, but it wasn't too dangerous either. I didn't feel a significant difference in terms of safety compared to how I feel in Montpellier at night. Overall, you have to be cautious, especially if you are a girl. As for the village on campus, I generally felt safe because we were well surrounded by friends. However, I did have two or three negative experiences where Irish boys in cars would stop and honk at us when we were alone or in a group of girls.

B. Phone and Internet

On campus, you can connect to the Wi-Fi network "eduroam," which is available in universities across Europe. It works excellently on campus, including in the villages. The villages also offer an internet cable connection at your desk, but I never used it because the Wi-Fi was sufficient.

As for calls and mobile data, I didn't need to switch my mobile operator since my package covered Europe. However, I'm aware that some of my friends had to make adjustments, so it's advisable to check beforehand.

C. Events

The events were mainly communicated through social media, particularly on Instagram under the "student life" account. I would recommend following it as it is the easiest and quickest way to access information. However, important events are also communicated via email. And, of course, living on campus with other students, you can't really miss any information.

D. Sports

The university of Limerick have a large choice of club and societies that you can join whenever you want during your semester. I personally joined the surf club and the members were really nice, I really recommend it.

E. Eating

There are several places to eat on campus (pub, student restaurant, Subway, etc.) but it is less expensive to cook at home. I was doing my groceries at Lidl, and it is less expensive than in France. The Lidl is 15 minutes away from Kilmurry village, but it is quite far away from other villages on campus.

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

As I lived on campus, it never took me more than 10 minutes to walk to my classes. To reach the city center, there was a bus stop located on the campus, just five minutes away from our village. I would recommend getting the "Leap card" as it offers significant transportation discounts for students.

G. Travels

Different visits were organized by the university every Sunday for Erasmus students, allowing us to explore Ireland. We had the opportunity to visit iconic destinations such as the Cliffs of Moher, Dingle Peninsula, and Killarney Park. The cost of each visit was 37 euros which is sometimes more interesting than other. I also went to Dublin a couple of times. (Only 10 euros by bus if you have the leap card)

I also took a trip to Belfast in Northern Ireland, and I highly recommend it as it offers a unique experience compared to other cities in Ireland. The countryside is beautiful also.

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

There is a card called the ESN card that allows Erasmus students to get discounts on flights with Ryanair. It's a very appealing offer, and I would strongly encourage you to look into it before your Erasmus experience.

V. After your semester abroad

A. What are you planning do to?

I still don't know what I'm going to do next year as I didn't receive all the responses for the master I applied to. But if I have the opportunity to do another Erasmus program during my master's degree, I would love to live another experience.

B. Did you apply for master?

I applied to several master's degree in international business, but I didn't received responses yet.