Understanding Ireland: THE TRINITY SMART-START PROGRAMME for International Undergraduates

is a week-long programme designed specifically for international undergraduate students. The programme begins one week before Freshers’ Week and it provides the perfect introduction to the academic and social life of your new university and the country you will call home for the duration of your undergraduate degree.

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

If you are an international (non-EU) student embarking on an undergraduate career at Trinity College Dublin, then an exciting part of the journey that lies ahead is discovering a new country with a unique academic, cultural and social environment. Understanding Ireland immerses you in the rich world of Irish history, art, literature and film. You will learn about Trinity College, the city of Dublin and Ireland’s unique cultural heritage.

At the core of this programme is a lecture series - College, City and Country - consisting of three interlinked multi-disciplinary strands. Students receive lectures in each of the three strands as follows:

- **Trinity and its Treasures**: An exploration of Trinity’s history, its architecture and the treasures of the Old Library especially the Book of Kells.
- **Dublin through the Ages**: An exploration of Dublin’s history from Viking town to modern city.
- **Ireland and the Irish**: An exploration of what it means to be Irish as expressed in art, literature and film.

WHO RUNS THE PROGRAMME?

Understanding Ireland is organized and taught by the academic staff of the School of Histories and Humanities, Trinity College Dublin. Full details of the academic content of the programme are available on our webpage: [www.tcd.ie/study/understandingireland](http://www.tcd.ie/study/understandingireland)

ABOUT TRINITY

Founded in 1592, Trinity College Dublin is Ireland’s leading university on the world stage, recognized for its academic excellence and transformative student experience. The historic campus is located in the heart of Dublin city centre. Trinity offers an exceptional educational experience centred on research-inspired curriculum. Through a combination of inspirational lecturers and innovative teaching and assessment methods, the Trinity Education imbues students with the desire to know and tools to discover, as well as with knowledge itself.

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY

‘Understanding Ireland was a wonderful way to begin my education at Trinity. Not only did I get a chance to learn about the unique history and culture of Ireland, but I was also able to talk to other students coming from similar backgrounds. The programme furthered my confidence in my decision to study at Trinity.’ (Keelin Shaughnessy, US Trinity Freshman)

ACCOMMODATION

Trinity College Dublin offers accommodation to incoming non-EU students at Trinity Hall, an official residence for Trinity’s students. Trinity Hall is an apartment-style complex outside the main Trinity campus, which has many recreational facilities including TV lounges, a quiet reading space, games areas, group-use facilities, and music practice rooms. There is internet access in every room and 24-hour security on the complex. Most importantly, there is a vibrant sense of community in Trinity Hall, making it an ideal place for striking up new friendships and settling into Dublin life. Trinity Hall accommodation comprises a modern single bedroom with private shower and toilet within an apartment setting.

For more information and to book accommodation, visit the Trinity accommodation website: [https://accommodation.tcd.ie/StudentBookings/](https://accommodation.tcd.ie/StudentBookings/)

Further information

Academic Director: Professor Peter Crooks
Programme Coordinator: Dr Patricia Stapleton

For general enquiries and further information, please contact the Understanding Ireland coordinator:

E: pstaple@tcd.ie
T: 00 353 1 896 8589
W: www.tcd.ie/study/understandingireland

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

In addition to its core lecture series - College, City and Country - Understanding Ireland: THE TRINITY SMART-START PROGRAMME for International Undergraduates includes a tour of Trinity’s historic city-centre campus, an introduction to our library services, and seminars on the Trinity Education that will give you a head-start in understanding how teaching and learning works at your new university.

You will also go on a field trip to a site of major cultural importance, such as Croke Park, headquarters of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), and visit national cultural institutions and historical landmarks around Dublin, such as the National Museum of Ireland and the Hugh Lane Gallery.

ELIGIBILITY

All non-EU full-time undergraduate students entering Trinity for the first time are eligible to apply.

FEES

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UNDERSTANDING IRELAND

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DISCOVER THE PAST

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE RICH WORLD OF IRISH HISTORY, ART, LITERATURE AND FILM.

The core lecture series with three strands is ‘College, City and Country’:
1. Trinity and its Treasures
2. Dublin through the Ages
3. Ireland and the Irish

MAKE NEW AND LASTING FRIENDSHIPS BEFORE YOUR CLASSES AT TRINITY EVEN BEGIN

Moving to a new country can be challenging. You will thrive during your stay in Trinity having spent time before teaching begins meeting fellow students who are also experiencing Ireland for the first time.

USE THE PROGRAMME AS A LAUNCH PAD FOR DISCOVERING IRELAND WITH YOUR NEW FRIENDS

As well as visiting venues in Dublin such as Croke Park (the home of the GAA), the programme includes excursions to sites of major cultural significance such as the National Museum of Ireland and the Hugh Lane Gallery.

ORIENTATE YOURSELF INTO TRINITY LIFE BEFORE YOUR FIRST SEMESTER BEGINS

The programme includes a tour of our historic city-centre campus, an introduction to our library services and IT induction classes. The teaching staff will also help with your transition to the teaching and learning environment of Trinity.

Learn more at www.tcd.ie/study/understandingireland