Student Questionnaire – University College Dublin International Exchange

Part A)

My program of study is International Management and I was required to take six courses at the University College Dublin (UCD) to fulfill the course requirements for the semester. These courses could be either business courses, economics courses, or computer science courses. Out of the courses that were available to me, I chose the following six listed below.

- BMGT30350 – Organizational Knowledge, Creativity, and Innovation
- BMGT30330 – Governing the International Business Environment
- MIS30110 – Computation Modelling for Business
- ECON30180 – Industrial Economics
- ECON30160 – International Trade Economics
- ECON30270 – Behavioural Economics

Each course will be described below. A description of material presented, assignments, and course format will be included.

BMGT30350 – Organizational Knowledge, Creativity, and Innovation

The course title says a lot of about the content of the course. There are three main topics; knowledge, creativity, and innovation and each comes with a set of readings. There is no textbook for this class. Tasks include a group project that is completed midway throughout the semester, visualizations of conceptual readings, an individual book report, and a 2500-word essay due before final exams start. There are no exams for this course. There is only one lecture per week for a duration of two hours and the course is finished before the reading week before final exams.

BMGT30330 – Governing the International Business Environment

This course has three main topics as well; international trade, international finance, and climate change. There are only two major assignments in this course that make up 100% of the grade; They are an academic report and academic essay. The report and essay are specialized to one topic discussed in class and this specialization is up to the student. There is a heavy focus on developing the skills needed for academic research within these two assignments. Knowing how to cite properly is crucial. If you don't know how to do cite, you will learn in this class. There are no exams for this class and no textbook required. Like the previous class, there is only one lecture per week and the lecture is for a two-hour duration.

MIS30110 – Computation Modelling for Business

In this class, you will learn how to program using the Python programming language. The lectures are helpful but you need to put in the work to learn the concepts and understand how to do things. There is one two-hour lecture every week along with an hour tutorial where you can

attend and ask questions about the problem sets given each week. There is a group project due at the end of the semester along with a final examination.

ECON30180 – Industrial Economics

This course is mathematically based. You begin with concepts learned in microeconomics (perfect competition, monopoly) but then move onto more difficult topics as the semester continues. If you do not like mathematical differentiation or creating and understanding basic supply and demand graphs, don't take this course. There are two lectures per week, each being an hour long and there is a midterm and final exam.

ECON30160 – International Trade Economics

This course describes models concerning international trade as well as trade policy. The models are both theoretical and mathematical and you are expected to know both for examinations. I found this course hard because it uses economic concepts I have never heard of and the course builds upon these concepts. I have had to do some extra studying to understand what was being said in lectures because I'm not an economics student. There are two lectures per week, each an hour long and the course has a midterm and final exam.

ECON30270 – Behavioural Economics

There is not a lot of math used in this course. The content uses concepts from the 'soft sciences' (psychology, sociology, anthropology, etc.). I find the content interesting because it is more theoretical in nature and you get to think about things instead of writing down numbers and equations. There is a 2500-word essay due at the middle of the semester and a final exam at the end. There are two courses per week and each is an hour long.

Part B)

This section will give you the dates you need to know concerning the semester. I have only been here for the Fall semester so the information will reflect this.

- **Course Registration** – sometime in the month of August (depends on program and year of study)
- **Registration** begins August 31st
  - o If you have on-campus housing, this is when you can begin to arrive to check-in.
- **Orientation** – September 5th – September 8th
- **Teaching Term** – September 11th – December 1st
- **Revision (Reading Week)** – December 2nd – December 10th
- **Exams** – December 11th – December 22nd

The above dates are concerning the first semester of the year from August – December.

Part C)

When you arrive in Dublin, you have to clear immigration at the airport. You can find what papers you need to bring on the international exchange student University College Dublin

webpage. Customs asked me for my Letter of Offer, my passport, and proof of registration of an appointment with the Immigration Office (see part E). If you have on-campus accommodation, you can only move-in after August 31st. I arrived a little earlier so I stayed in an AirB&B. When I got to the university on August 31st, I was able to move in easily. Just follow the signs to where they will hand you your student card, which is also your key card for your room.

Bus Pass

You will probably want to get your bus pass right away. It is called a Student Leap Card and you can do the application online. After the application is complete, go to the Student Union office inside of the Student Centre building with 10 euros (cash) and they will print off your card. You need to load money onto the card when you want to use it.

Cell Phone

Make sure that before you leave, you unlock your phone so that you can insert another company's SIM card if you plan on using the same phone. A company called "3" sells SIM cards to students along with a plan that gives you calling, texting, and unlimited data in Ireland and Europe for 20 euros a month (I don't know what the plan is exactly). This company sets-up in the Global Lounge in the Restaurant Building and all they need is 20 euros (cash) for the initial set-up and first month of the plan.

Where to Get Information

Make sure to attend the orientation information sessions. They are useful and give good information on things concerning student life, how to get involved, etc. The UCD Global Lounge is where you will go if you have any questions related to student life or life in Ireland. The receptionist will answer you or will refer you to someone who can answer your questions. The Global Lounge also offers events that you can attend to get involved. For academic questions, the Business school has an international coordinator that you would go to if you had any questions. This person is also the person who will be emailing important information in the summer before you attend the university.

Registration and Course Selection

Registration and course selection both occur in the summer months. Registration is around June-July and course selection happens in August. All of the dates will be emailed to you so make sure that you keep on-top of those emails and write down the important dates. You have three weeks into the semester to drop/swap any courses in your timetable. After this, you can't drop courses, to my knowledge.

Getting Involved

To get involved, the UCD Global Lounge, ResLife (if you live on campus), and clubs are the best ways to meet people. There is a club week at the beginning of the semester where you can explore clubs that interest you. ResLife sends emails to you about multiple activities that they are hosting. There are many ways to get out and be social.

Part D)

All of the costs below are estimates and in euros. The Euro is stronger than the Canadian Dollar so keep this mind.

- Plane tickets – Getting to and from Ireland costed me about $2000.00 CAN. This cost depends on the airline and time of travel. I suggest booking your flights as soon as possible. You should also research all of your options.
- Budget:
  - Normal bus ticket cost – 2.70 (good for only one trip, one-way)
  - Online meal ordering – 11.00 – 20.00
  - Phone – 20.00/month
  - Groceries – 35.00/week (contains a good amount of food) – examples of item prices below:
    - Bread – 1.50
    - Milk – 2.00
    - 3 chicken breasts – 5.00
    - 1 kg of minced beef – 4.00
    - Container of berries – 3.00
    - Brand-name chips – 3.10
    - Ice cream – 2.00

Part E)

This section provides details on what you need to do before you arrive in Dublin. My first point of advice is to ALWAYS check your email (inbox and spam folder). The university will send you all of the information you need with the dates along with instructions on how to complete each task. You just have to make sure that you check your email and get the tasks done before the due dates. You will have to register with UCD first using SISWeb (like our uoZone). After you have registered, you must register for on-campus accommodation. It is important to note that you need to physically go onto SISWeb and apply for on-campus accommodation or else you won't be considered for it. Your offer will soon follow. My first offer went to my SPAM folder and I didn't know about it so the offer expired. The offers only last for a few days so make sure you are checking your email folders.

After you get your housing offer, you need to accept it. After this is done, you begin paying for housing fees. You also complete an online introduction to living on-campus and upload a photo for your Student ID Card. Class registration will be next and this occurs in August. You just have to follow the instructions and online prompts as you select your modules (or classes).

If you are Canadian resident, you will **not be needed to obtain a study visa** when you travel to Ireland to study. This is nice because it is one less thing you need to do. Before you arrive, you need to book an appointment with the Irish Naturalization and Immigration Service - Immigration Bureau to register yourself in the country. You can only get in by appointment and slots book-up pretty fast. You want to register as soon as possible. You will want to look into

what is required when passing customs at the Irish airport when you arrive and make sure that you print all of the necessary paperwork. When I got to the airport, I needed to show my passport, my Letter of Offer from the university, and my immigration registration appointment; however, I brought all of my paperwork, including a bank statement and proof of health insurance, just in case. You can never be too careful.

Part F)

I lived on the UCD Belfield campus in Belgrove Residence. It is an apartment shared with three other people. There are two bathrooms and one kitchen/dining area. The bedroom is quite small but big enough for comfort. I didn't bring a lot of things so the room works fine for me. The room also has a built-in wardrobe so the university gives the students a place to put their clothes. There is no need to bring pots, pans, bedding, and other staples of that sort because throughout orientation week, there is an IKEA bus that takes students to IKEA so that they can buy the necessities.

Belgrove isn't the nicest residence that's okay because it is also one of the cheapest. For one semester, Belgrove costs 3666.00 euros. You must pay this fee **before you arrive**. An important note to make is that when you apply for housing, you don't get to choose what residence you would like to stay in. The university gives a room at random, if any room at all. A lot of the European international students live off-campus because there wasn't enough space. I recommend **applying for residence as soon as you can** because the university gives accommodation on a first come first serve basis.

Part J)

N/A

Part H)

The most important thing that you need to do before you leave is to check your email. All of the information that you will need will be sent to you so make sure that you read everything that the university sends and follow the instructions found inside those emails.

Once you get to Ireland, get to the university and check-in when you are able to and then get your bus pass and set-up your phone as soon as possible so that you don't have to worry about these things. After this, you can enjoy your semester abroad in peace.

Part I)

My experience in Dublin has been an amazing one. My first day here, I was forced to walk around the city and try to figure out what to do. I went to some coffee shops and talked with the employees about Dublin. All of the people I have meant are very nice and were always willing to help out. Things are different – cars driving on the opposite side of the road, the architecture, the lifestyle – but it also doesn't feel too different to cause culture shock. It has been a wonderful experience living in Dublin for four months and I definitely plan to come back to Europe soon.