

1. Your program of study (courses, assignments, course format). Add the exact number of class hours per course.

I took 6 business-related courses, each worth 5 ECTs, for a total of 30 ECTs. There are a lot fewer assignments due than at uOttawa, but they can catch up to you quickly. Make sure to read the assignments well before they are due so you are not stuck with too much due at once. My professors formed all my groups, so do not stress about making your own group. The class sizes are much smaller than uOttawa but generally run the same. Each course consisted of a professor presenting a slide show and discussing the content. For smaller classes, they may ask you to discuss some information with your group members or the people around you.

I enjoyed my “Marketing Communications” and “Enterprise and Innovation” modules. The group assignment for Marketing Communications has been super interesting, and I feel like I’ve learned a lot. The professor for Enterprise and Innovation is an amazing lecturer and makes classes enjoyable. The content for both classes has been interesting. I am also enjoying all my food business (FE) courses, as we have nothing similar at uOttawa.

1. FE 2003: Introduction to Sustainable Livelihoods Analysis

- 1 Class per week, 2-hour class
- Assignment 1: Literature Review; 50% of Grade
 - 1200 words
- Assignment 2: Group Case Report; 50% of Grade
 - Written: 1500 words
 - Unmarked Oral Presentation: 10 minutes. You need to present for the assignment to be graded.

2. FE 3009: Development Management and Organisations

- 1 Class per week, 2-hour class
- Assignment 1: Literature Review; 40% of Grade
 - 1200 words
- Assignment 2: Case Study; 60% of Grade
 - Written: 1000 words
 - Unmarked Oral Presentation: 10 minutes. You need to present for the assignment to be graded.

3. FE 3203: Food Market Research Methods

- 1 Class per week, 2-hour class
- Assignment 1: Case Study; 40% of Grade
 - 1000 words
 - 5 Questions

- Assignment 2: Group Assignment; 60% of Grade
 - Presentation: 10 minutes; 15% of Grade
 - Report: 2500 - 3000 words; 30% of Grade
 - Individual Elements: Executive Summary, Interview Transcript and Audio Recording; 15% of Grade
 - Need to conduct a consumer interview on a group member

4. FE 3317: Co-operative Business and Sustainable Rural Economies

- 1 Class per week, 2-hour class
- Assignment 1: Individual Report; 70% of Grade
 - 2500 words
- Assignment 2: Newspaper Article; 30% of Grade
 - 400 - 500 words
 - Based on an aspect of your Individual Report

5. MG 3012: Enterprise and Innovation

- 2 Classes per week, 1 hour per class, 2 hour total
- Final Exam: 100% of Grade
 - Professor provides practice questions

6. MG 3013: Marketing Communications

- Assignment 1: Group Report; 50% of Grade
 - 3000 words
 - Create a brand and make a portfolio for it
 - Portfolio includes market gap research, logo, ads, target market, mood board, tagline, etc.
- Assignment 2: Individual Essay; 50% of Grade
 - *Assignment information not released yet*

2. The timetable (academic calendar, registration dates, orientation, beginning and end of classes, exams, holidays, number of semesters, etc.).

You need to take 2 hours of classes per week. Some classes are two 1-hour lectures; others are one 2-hour lecture. I had 7 lectures a week and no lectures on Fridays.

There are different orientation groups; you only need to attend for two days. The school will email you information on your orientation group, dates, and times.

Important Dates	
<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
August 22 - 28, 2024	Course Registration Round 1
August 28, 2024	Arrived in Cork
August 29, 2024	Moved into Accommodation
September 04 - 06, 2024	Orientation
September 06 - 17, 2024	Course Registration Round 2
September 09, 2024	Semester 1 Classes Start
October 28, 2024	Public Holiday, no lectures
November 29, 2024	Semester 1 Classes End
December 02 - 08, 2024	Exam Study Period
December 09 - 20, 2024	Exam Period
December 22, 2024	Flight back to Canada

3. Procedures to follow upon arrival. List and description of services offered by the International Exchange Office of the host institution. Registration and course selection. Social activities.

Immigration

Canadian citizens do not need a visa to study in Ireland, but you do need an Irish Residence Permit (IRP) to stay in the country for more than 90 days. When you arrive in Ireland, you have 90 days to contact immigration to make an IRP appointment. I could not book this appointment until I arrived in Ireland and had an Irish phone number. The number is toll-free, so it will not work without an Irish number or outside of Ireland. In October, they opened up an online website for appointment booking. I do not have experience with the website since it was published after I booked my appointment. You will receive Stamp 2A.

Book as soon as you arrive to ensure you get an earlier appointment. I called during orientation week at the beginning of September and got an appointment in mid-October. People who called before orientation got their appointments mid to end of September. You will not get kicked out of the country if you cannot get an appointment before you leave. Ex. Your flight out is December 21, but you could not get an appointment until January, that is okay. Check the immigration website for specific information needed for each document. You will also need to attend the appointment in Dublin.

Required Documents for Stamp 2A:

- Proof of address
- Passport
- Proof of Enrolment at UCC
- Proof of University Fee Payment (UCC will provide this to you)
- Medical Insurance for Duration of Stay
- Bank Statements
 - Need 585€ in your account per month your staying
- Registration Fee: 300€

Travel

I flew into Dublin airport instead of Cork as it was cheaper and easier. To get to Cork, you can take either a bus or train. For busses, the most common is AirCoach as it departs directly from the Dublin Airport every hour. It costs 18€ - 21€ and is 3hr and 30 minutes to Cork City Centre. I took the train as I stayed in Dublin for a few days to explore. The train costs 20€ - 35€ and is 2 hours and 30 minutes from Dublin City Centre to Cork City Centre.

Once you have your official address in Cork, order a TFI leap card. This is your bus card. It works in most major cities in Ireland, including Cork, Dublin, Limerick, and Galway.

Others

For data, I used a company called Three and did the "Three Connect Complete" plan. It costs 25€/ month, and I have unlimited data in Ireland, 27GB in the rest of Europe (including the UK), unlimited texts and minutes and 100 international minutes.

You must submit your student card photo beforehand (the school will send you a link). Once the photo is accepted, you will make an appointment to pick up your card on campus.

I bought my bedding at Penneys (Primark), but there are other cheap places to buy bedding and necessities, such as Dealz and Guineys. The main shopping street is St. Patrick's Street. There is a "swap shop" on campus open at the beginning of the semester where you can pick up essentials for cheap (e.g., bedding).

The International Student Society is super helpful, so make sure to follow all their Instagram accounts and join the international student group chat. They do activities before school starts

and throughout the year to meet people. They also plan trips around Ireland throughout the year.

Course Registration opens mid- to end-August, but if you miss it, it will reopen in September.

4. Budget outlining the cost of studying abroad (i.e. airplane tickets, housing, vacation and daily travel costs, textbooks, meals, etc.).

Aspect	Cost (CAD)
Flight to Dublin	\$740
Train to Cork from Dublin	\$30 - \$50
Aircoach Bus to Cork from Dublin	\$27 - \$32
Flight back to Canada from Cork (connection at Heathrow)	\$960
Textbooks	N/A
Groceries (2 weeks' worth from Lidl)	\$50 - \$90
Leap Card Initial Purchase	\$23
Leap Card Fare per Trip (90 min Transfer)	\$0.97
Accommodation	\$5820
Weekend Flight - Cork to Brussels - Return	\$45
Weekend Flight - Cork to London - Return	\$45
Weekend Flight - Cork to Venice - Return	\$45
Weekend Flight - Cork to Edinburgh - Return	\$51

5. Application procedures before your arrival (visa deadlines, documents required for visa, course registration, housing deposit, etc.).

Immigration

To enter Ireland, they tell you to bring your passport, proof of school enrollment (acceptance letter), confirmation of your accommodation plan, bank statements for the past six months, and proof of insurance. When I arrived, the only document they asked for was my acceptance letter.

Course Registration

Course registration is different from UOttawa but not hard. Classes here are much smaller and less competitive, so you do not need to worry about classes filling up. It is not first-come, first-serve. You will need to take 30 ECTS. Course Registration opened on August 22, 2024, and closed on August 28, 2024. However, it re-opened September 6 - 17, 2024.

Housing Deadlines

There are two options for getting housing: applying through UCC or applying to places yourself. There are UCC campus accommodations, private apartment complexes, and house-renting or sharing options. It is a bit harder to find fall-semester single-semester housing, but it is still possible. Many places offer winter-semester housing.

To ensure you get housing, apply as soon as you are accepted to UCC. If applying through UCC, fill out the housing application form as soon as they send you the link. They will offer you either campus accommodations or partner private apartment complexes. Housing is competitive in Cork, so do not leave it to the last minute. Check the UCC accommodation website for private apartment complexes you can trust.

6. Address and description of housing. Cost of housing.

I stayed at Edenhall Student Accommodation on Model Farm Road. This accommodation is a bit farther from campus but one of the most affordable. It is nowhere near as bad as the reviews made it seem, and the reception is very helpful. Maintenance normally came within a few hours, so we had no issues with this. There is a gas station about 5 minutes away for essentials.

I had 2 other roommates (3 of us total), but there can be between 3 - 5 people in each apartment, depending on what rooms people choose. I had a Single Room, which was the most traditional option. The other options are the Twin Room or Deluxe Single. Each room has an ensuite bathroom. The kitchen and living room are shared with your roommates. The apartment comes with kitchen essentials such as cutlery, pots, pans, plates, and dishes. The property has a laundry room, and you must buy washer and dryer tokens from reception. The laundry room is small, so it can take a while to get a free machine, but it is easier at night on the weekends.

It is approximately a 45-minute walk to campus but only a 15 - 20-minute bus ride. There are two bus options: the 220 and 205. The 220 is the most reliable and is scheduled to arrive every 15 minutes, although one or two an hour are often late or cancelled. The 205 is a 10-minute walk from Edenhall but will also bring you directly to campus.

There is a nature walk behind the apartments, which makes the walk pretty nice, so my friends and I have chosen to walk back many times. It is also very good if you like running. There are wild horses on the trail sometimes, but they're used to people.



Accommodation Cost Breakdown	
<i>Component</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Room Rental	€3150
Security Deposit	€200
Electricity Deposit	€290
Service Charges	€240
<i>Total Cost</i>	€3880

Other places to stay include the Spires, Bottleworks, Nido Broga, etc.

7. Other comments or recommendations.

Busses

I recommend ordering a TFI leap card as soon as you arrive at your accommodation. Mine took 4 business days to arrive. With the Leap Card, buses cost only 0.65€ but 1.90€ in cash fares. Download the TFI Live App for bus arrival information and the Leap Top-Up App to top-up your leap card. The TFI Go app allows you to buy online tickets, so you do not need to use cash, but I do not have experience with the app. However, my friends used it, and it worked for them.

Busses here are not very reliable except for the 220 and 205. The 220 arrives every 15 minutes, but check the TFI Live App to see if a bus has been cancelled or is late, as this happens often. I normally aim to catch a bus from Edenhall 1 hour - 45 minutes before my class starts and have never been late.

Groceries

There are a few grocery options, including Tesco, Lidl, Centra, and Aldi. Lidl is probably the most affordable option. From Edenhall, the closest grocery store is the Tesco Express on Dennehy's Cross or Centra on Victoria Cross, both accessible through bus routes 220 or 205. The Wilton Centre is only about a 30-minute bus away and has a Tesco Superstore, Lidl, and Aldi. The Wilton Centre is accessible by bus 208, which is directly from the school or Victoria Cross.

Common Grocery Options:

- Tesco Express - Dennehy's Cross
- Centra - Victoria Cross
- Lidl - City Centre
- Tesco Superstore - City Centre
- Lidl - Wilton Centre
- Tesco Superstore - Wilton Centre
- Aldi - Wilton Centre

Other

If you like art, there is a small art gallery (The Glucksman) on campus. Some places to study or wait on campus between classes include Boole Library, the Hub and the Student Centre. There is a main restaurant/ cafeteria and plenty of cafes on campus.

8. Add a description of about five to seven sentences summarizing your experience.

Overall, I am having an amazing experience at UCC and Ireland. The international support has been amazing and it was easy for me to make friends and meet other internationals. I have had the opportunity to go on different trips around the country, including the Ring of Kerry, Cliffs of Moher, and Galway. The professors are supportive and seem passionate about teaching, making classes enjoyable. I've made some amazing friends and met so many interesting people who are both international and Irish locals, and I hope to keep in contact with them. This experience has been one of the best of my life and I would definitely recommend UCC to anyone looking for a friendly and supportive school for their exchange.



Horses Behind Edenhall



Ladies View, Killarney



Cliffs of Moher



Inishmore, Aran Islands