

#### A) Program of study (Courses, assignment, format)

While I am an Accounting student at OttawaU, I took a variety of different business courses during my semester at UCC.

##### MG2201 International Management and Marketing with Special Focus on the EU

This class was great, one of my favorite! It was worth 10 ECTS. It was taught by 2 different lecturers, one who focused on Marketing and one on Management. It is a very small class, usually around 10 students which makes it easy to participate and get to know other students. In total, we had one two-hour lecture per week and also two full-day field trips during the weekend. The assessment consisted of a group project which included a short presentation (10%) and a written report (20%) and an in-class test (70%) which happens during the last class of the semester.

Overall, I would highly recommend this class. It was very interesting, there was very little homework or reading to do outside of class and the field trips which are fully paid for by UCC give you the opportunity to visit some cool things in Ireland (What we visit during the fieldtrips is chosen based on the interests of the class).

##### EC2211 Economics- Production & Cost

This class was worth 5ECTS and what assessed based on a multiple-choice test which happened around the middle of the semester worth 20% and a final exam worth 80%. It consisted of 2 one-hour lectures and weekly one-hour tutorial which began about 3 weeks after the beginning of classes. The tutorials are similar to the DGD's we have at OttawaU where the class is broken up into smaller groups and the lecturer goes over practical applications and problems relating to the material covered in-class.

There is no required textbook to buy for this class, the professor emails you coursepack with notes for the whole semester. It also includes sample questions that are very helpful when preparing for the tests because it is VERY similar to these questions.

##### MG4045 Marketing & Society

This class was worth 5 ECTS and consisted of one two-hour lecture per week. There was no textbook for this class and very little work to do outside the classroom. It included some very interesting lectures on topics such as globalization, fair trade, environmental sustainability, marketing to youth, etc. and also a few great guest speakers. This class included a lot of discussion and participation which helped make it interesting. As far as assessments, there was one mid semester report on marketing's impact on society (1000 words) and one final report on the marketing for an industry in particular (3500 words).

##### AC1104- Accounting for Partnerships and Companies

This class was worth 5ECTS and consisted of two one-hour lectures per week along with a one-hour tutorial every second week. The material itself was not difficult however, the professor was quite monotone and failed to make things interesting. The assessment is a 100% final exam.

##### MG4402- Leadership & Organizational Dynamics

This class was worth 5 ECTS, it was quite interesting but involved a lot of reading of research papers. The class consisted of one two-hour lecture per week. The assessment is a final paper worth 100% of your grade. If you are looking for an easy class to take, I would recommend something else, of all my classes this one required the most of my time and effort.

#### B) Timetable

Prior to the beginning of the semester, we had 2 days of orientation on January 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> and classes began on Monday January 15<sup>th</sup>.

As for holidays, we had a long weekend for St Patricks Day (No classes Monday March 19<sup>th</sup>), a two-week Easter break from March 24<sup>th</sup> to April 8<sup>th</sup> and a study week from April 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>. Exam are from April 30<sup>th</sup> to May 11<sup>th</sup>.

NOTE: At orientation, they will tell you to wait until you receive your exam schedule to book your flights home. However, it is now the end of March and I have still not received my exam schedule. Therefore, I recommend buying them as early as possible for a date after the end of exams and if you happen to finish early you will just have some extra time to travel/enjoy Ireland because it is much cheaper to do it this way.

#### C) Procedures upon arrival

Registering for classes is done prior to arriving in Ireland therefore, there is not very much to do upon arrival. At orientation, they will give you the information you need to open a bank account (If you choose to do this) and what you will need when registering with Immigration.

To register with Immigration, you will be given a specific appointment time a few weeks into the semester in order to be able to avoid waiting in line.

As most people from Canada, I flew into the Dublin Airport rather than Cork. It is not a huge airport and is easy to get around. From Dublin, I took the Aircoach bus to Cork, I would recommend this, it departs directly from the airport every hour, has Wi-Fi on board and is a cheaper alternative to the train. The journey takes about 3 hours.

Because of a storm and delays with my flight, I only ended up arriving in Ireland the day before orientation however, I would recommend arriving 3-4 days before to get to know the city and get settled in.

At orientation, you will also get your student card.

For any other things you need (ie. Pillows, blankets, things for your room, etc.) you can find these easily and quite cheaply at stores such as Dealz, EuroGiant, Penneys, etc.

For mobile phone, I used a company called three, which I think is the best way to go. You buy a SIM Card and top it up with 20euros per month, this allows you unlimited data, calls, texts throughout Europe.

For meeting people, getting to know the city, etc., the International Students Society is really great, they organize events, trips, etc. not only in the first few weeks but also throughout the semester.

#### D) Budget

Flight to Dublin	800\$
Bus Dublin to Cork	20 Euros (Approx 31\$)
Accommodation (Includes utilities, WiFi, etc.)	2 700 Euros (Approx 4 292\$)
Groceries	320 Euros (Approx 508\$)
Public Transport	75 Euros (Approx 119\$)
Personal Expense	1600 Euros (Approx 2543\$)
Basic household items (Bedding, pillows, etc.)	30 Euros (Approx 47\$)
Immigration fee	300 Euros (Approx 476\$)
Mobile phone plan	80 Euros (127\$)
Total:	8143\$

#### Things to note about my budget:

The budget included in the UCC information packet includes expenses for Textbooks however, very few classes have associated textbooks and when they do they are easily available in the library so it is unlikely you will have to spend money on this.

Transportation costs: Most of the time I walk to and from class, the gym, grocery store, etc. therefore I was allocated very little to public transport however if you plan on taking the bus a lot, a monthly bus pass is 67 euros so your transportation expense will be significantly higher.

Groceries: Groceries are a little cheaper here than they are in Canada but note that this figure is based on very basic meals, store-brand products, etc. If you like fancier meals, plan to spend more.

Personal Expense: I spent a fair amount of money on going out and travelling, it is possible to budget much less than I did for this.

Lastly, I have not included the price of my flight back to Canada because I have not bought it yet.

#### E) Application procedures

All of the course registration is done in about November, it is quite different from the process at OttawaU and includes multiple steps. All the information you need will be emailed to you and while it is a little complicated and different to what I was used to, I had no problems completing the registration. Note that their system does not allow you to see all your classes together in a single timetable and allows you to register for multiple classes at the same time. Therefore, I recommend creating your own Excel file to keep track of your schedule and also having a few extra classes pre-approved because when you make your initial selection, you do not know the times of the classes. This will make things easier in case you need to make changes.

All the Immigration things are done when you arrive in Ireland, therefore no need to do anything about this before leaving.

For housing, I paid the entire amount before leaving Canada, I did an International bank transfer. As these transfers cost approx. 45\$, I would recommend making one complete payment as opposed to a deposit and then another payment for example.

#### F) Address and description of housing

I lived in Edenhall on Model Farm Road. I had 3 roommates, we each had our own room and our own bathroom. Overall, the apartment was fine, nothing spectacular however, it is definitely not as bad as the reviews I was beforehand made it sound. In case of any problems, the people

working at the reception are very friendly and helpful. Therefore, if you get placed here, don't worry too much!

However, note that this accommodation is quite far from UCC and the city center (About a 40 minute walk). There is a bus stop right outside the building however, public transport is quite expensive and pretty unreliable, my recommendation would be to get a bike or to plan to walk.

G) Work Term

N/A

Note : Temporary resident card you receive for the semester does not allow you to work at all.

H) Other comments or recommendations

Being so far away from home is pretty terrifying at first but don't worry, you will have a great time! Everyday won't be perfect but overall, it will be an amazing experience! There are so many opportunities to get involved in different societies, clubs, etc. Make sure to participate in as much as you can, this is the best way to meet people and have fun! Also, sports teams are very laid back and not too competitive so don't worry about your level of ability.

For housing, I would recommend not waiting for UCC to give you an offer of accommodation, they sent out these offers at the last minute, at which point it is too late to begin looking for an alternative on your own if you are not satisfied. There are several student accommodations (Marydyke Hall, Arcadia Hall, Castlewhite Apartments, Farranlea Hall, Victoria Cross, Victoria Lodge, Brookfield, etc.) that are in much better locations, I would recommend contacting these places on your own. Feel free to contact me if you need any help with this.

I) 5-7 sentence description summarizing your experience

Overall, my experience at UCC and in Ireland in general has been amazing. UCC welcomes many international students each year so they have a well-established society that plans an orientation week and several activities and trips for us which makes it easy to make friends. They also organize a few trips around Ireland which is a cheap and easy way to see the country. Additionally, it is quite easy and affordable to travel around Europe from Ireland so my time here has allowed me to visit a few different countries. I also found that my work load regarding school was much lighter than what I was used to in Canada. This allowed me to take part in many clubs and societies and to travel. This is also what made my experience great.



Kerry, Ireland



Irish Pub



Cliffs of Moher



Cobh, Ireland