

SU-in Ireland

This document serves as a resource for you to help your student as they prepare to study away. Your student has all of this information.

The semester before your student studies away, they will be provided with information regarding the GO Long Process Overview and a Program-specific resources. These cover the next steps in the GO process including but not limited to how to transfer credit back to Susquehanna and information on applying directly to University of Galway. You will see references to *Ollscoil na Gaillimhe*, which is the Gaelic name for the University of Galway.

The typical semesters timelines are like Susquehanna's. Students should refer to their acceptance documents for exact program dates. Semester One (Fall) runs from September to December. Semester Two (Spring) runs from January until May.

Application Process

Your student needs to apply directly to University of Galway as a visiting student. To ensure space in the program, your student should do this application by **October 1 (Spring), or March 1 (Fall)**.

In anticipation of the application, they should have the following documents ready:

- Official Transcript – ordered online (note: there is a small fee)
- A PDF copy of their passport or birth certificate (if in the process of getting their passport)
- Email a clear headshot photograph (.jpeg format)

The application is started through a link on their GO portal and then completed by sending the supplemental materials to STUDYABROAD@NUIGALWAY.IE.

Take some time to become familiar with the [Ollscoil na Gaillimhe, University of Galway website](#), where students will apply, and where you will find answers to many of your questions.

Galway will email the student their acceptance letter late in the semester – mid-November for Spring, and in Mid-May for Fall.

Courses at Galway

For the semester in Ireland, your student will be directly enrolled at the University of Galway as a visiting student and most of the courses that the university offers will be available. Students should complete the course approval process through GO - there is some information [HERE](#) – in addition to the course selection in their application to Galway.

- Courses at Ollscoil na Gaillimhe, University of Galway are called **modules**.
 - Modules are listed with two letters followed by three or four numbers. The letters (ex. HI for History) tell you which subject area the module is for, and the first number shows the level (ex. HI165) would be a first-year history module.
 - Study abroad students can take modules from 100-level through 400-level.
- **Required Course:** students should take one [Irish Studies](#) course but can choose their other courses based on academic or personal interests.

- **Number of Credits:** It is recommended that students take 30 ECTS (academic credits) which is considered a full schedule. That is the equivalent to 15 Susquehanna credits.
- **Final course confirmation and registration occurs once the students are in Ireland.**

Housing at University of Galway

Study abroad students will likely stay at [Goldcrest Village](#), a university owned and managed on-campus housing facility.

- Housing is all single bedrooms with private bathrooms, in shared apartments with 4, 5, or 6 bedrooms in each.
- Students provide their own towels, sheets, pillowcases, and duvet covers, all other items provided in apartment.
- Information about apartment mates and apartment details will be issued on check in.

Your student may be required to sign and return a lease agreement and a booking deposit, which will be returned if there is no damage or missing items from the living space upon move-out. SU will bill your student's SU account directly for all other fees. It is important that your student fills out and returns all required paperwork associated with your housing accommodations, including paying deposits.

* The housing costs on your budget sheet are confirmed costs. If you choose a more expensive housing option, you will be charged the difference.

Visa Requirements

While there isn't a pre-departure student visa process, students do need to register with the Irish State upon arrival. The International Student Office at the University of Galway will help your student to register with the Garda National Immigration Bureau - There is a €300-500 fee.

To prepare to register with the Irish State, students should have the following documents (some which may only be available after arrival):

- Passport
- Current Ollscoil na Gaillimhe, University of Galway student identity card
- Original letter of offer from Ollscoil na Gaillimhe, University of Galway
- Proof of residential address in Galway
- Proof of comprehensive medical insurance.
 - There is a letter on your student's GO application indicating that they are covered under Susquehanna's emergency international insurance.
- Proof of Funds
 - Students must demonstrate access to sufficient funds to support themselves during their period of study in Ireland. An acceptable form of evidence of financial support is an **original** bank statement which showing a student's name and bank balance.
 - There is a letter on your student's GO application from SU's Student Financial Services indicating that tuition and housing costs are covered and that the only remaining expenses are food and miscellaneous expenses.

*note that visa information is provided based on US citizenship. Students holding a non-US passport should consult with the host consulate for any visa considerations.

After Acceptance:

Students will receive an acceptance letter via email. Do not make tuition/housing payments directly to Ollscoil na Gaillimhe, University of Galway, as SU should be billed. If you receive a bill, please forward it to GO Program (goprogram@susqu.edu) right away.

Updated information should be sent to you from Ollscoil na Gaillimhe, University of Galway. You may also be able to find updated guides online: <https://www.nuigalway.ie/international-students/inboundstudyabroad/pre-arrivalinformation/>

Booking flights and Arrival information:

Students are responsible for booking their own flight to Ireland and back. They should book the flight in advance after receiving the official acceptance letter from the University of Galway and have confirmed program dates.

If you'd like to use a travel agent to assist with travel planning, Student Universe (studentuniverse.com), Travel Time (trvltime.com) and STA Travel (<http://statravel.com/airfare-deposit-program.htm>) have been used by students in the past. If not using a travel agent we recommend booking your airfare directly with the airline rather than a third-party website.

The flight should arrive in Ireland at one of the two main airports: Dublin Airport or Shannon Airport.

Dublin Airport is approximately 3 hours from Galway. Citylink, GoBus and Bus Eireann provide frequent bus departures from outside the Terminal 1 building direct to Galway. The direct bus journey from Dublin Airport to Galway takes approximately 3 hours. You can also take the Irish Rail provides a train service from Dublin to Galway. Keep in mind, you may have to change trains along the way. The Galway train station (Ceannt Station) is located just minutes from Eyre Square in the city centre and is a 20 minute walk from the Galway campus.

Shannon Airport is approximately 1.5 hour from Galway and is a popular option for students arriving from North America. [Bus Eireann](#) operates a regular service from outside the main terminal building to Galway. From the bus station in Galway, you will be able to take taxi to Ollscoil na Gaillimhe, University of Galway.

Other Matters:

Packing: Pack all essential items in your carry-on (medicine, jewelry etc.). Refer to the guidelines for bringing liquids in a carry-on (<https://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/liquids-rule>) as well as the airlines' luggage weight limits. We have additional resources posted in your students' application regarding some tips for Traveling and Packing.

Medication: For prescription medicines, students must either bring enough with them for the duration of the semester. Note that some medications are prohibited by the European Union, including many medications for the treatment of attention deficit disorders. Please reach out to a physician to determine a plan of action. We recommend that your student has a written prescription with them as they may be asked for it by customs officials.

Money Matters: We recommend having some local currency. Most local banks have access to give Euros or your student can convert USD to Euros at the airport. ATMs are also readily available throughout Ireland and they can withdraw Euros from ATMs. Students should inform their bank about all travel plans, and also find out whether the bank and credit card issuers charge international transaction fees.

Health Insurance: Your student is covered under SU's emergency insurance. Should your student need additional maintenance health care, they should contact GO about purchasing additional coverage.

Transportation in Galway: Buses are the main form of transportation around Galway and the surrounding area. The main bus and rail station in Galway is the Ceannt Station, a 15-minute walk from campus. Train travel is common throughout Ireland, with multiple routes to Dublin, Cork and Limerick among other stops.

Travel Day:

Your student should carry their passport, acceptance letter, student travel visa letter (the letter from Global Semesters), Program Contact and Arrival Instructions in their carry-on luggage. **DO NOT CHECK THEM!**

We recommend arriving at least three hours before an international flight is scheduled to board to give time to get through airport security, bag check, etc. If the flight is delayed or cancelled, contact the travel agent or airline where you booked the ticket to be put on the next flight and alert the host program/university of any travel delays.

Orientation: There will be a four-day orientation period to help your student get acclimated to living in Galway. The following topics are covered during orientation: Registering with the Irish National Immigration Bureau, Student Health, Counseling Services, Blackboard, Sports Clubs and Student Societies, Computer Services, Banking, Student Safety, Volunteer Opportunities. A detailed orientation schedule is among the documents sent with the acceptance letter.