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BASIC INFORMATION

Course Dates: June 6 - June 20, 2015

If you are not traveling abroad before or after your program, you will need to book your flight such that you arrive in Dublin before the program begins (so you will leave the US on June 5th), and you depart from Dublin the day after your program ends.

SPEA accommodations at Glenomena Residence Hall begin on the night of June 6th, though you may check-in at your room and drop off your bags during any time that day. If you arrive in Dublin before June 6th, you will have to arrange your own lodgings until the night of June 6th.

If you are not planning to travel after this program ends, you should book your flight to leave Dublin on June 20th, as you will have to check out of your dorm on the 20th.

Visas:

If you are an international student and/or are not eligible for a US passport, SPEA will provide you with a visa letter that you can use to obtain a tourist visa. You will then need to purchase a tourist visa, as you will not be able obtain a student visa, even though you will be studying in the European Union.

If you are a US citizen, you will not need a visa for the European Union if your stay is less than 90 days.
THE REPUBLIC of IRELAND

Ireland, also known as the Republic of Ireland, is a sovereign state in Western Europe occupying about five-sixths of the island of Ireland. The capital and largest city is Dublin, located in the eastern part of the island, whose metropolitan area is home to around a quarter of the country's 4.6 million inhabitants. The state shares its only land border with Northern Ireland, a part of the United Kingdom.

Following the Irish War of Independence and the subsequent Anglo-Irish Treaty, Ireland gained independence from the United Kingdom as the Irish Free State in 1922. Northern Ireland exercised an option called the Ulster Month to remain in the United Kingdom. Initially a dominion within the British Commonwealth, the Free State received official British recognition of full legislative independence in the Statute of Westminster of 1931. A new constitution was adopted in 1937, by which the name of the state became “Ireland.”

Ireland ranks among the wealthiest countries in the world in terms of GDP per capita. In 1973, Ireland enacted a series of liberal economic policies that resulted in rapid economic growth, coupled with a dramatic rise in inequality. The country achieved considerable prosperity from 1995 to 2007, during which it became known as the “Celtic Tiger.” This was halted by an unprecedented financial crisis that began in 2008, in conjunction with the concurrent global economic crash.

Ireland is a member of the European Union and is a founding member of the Council of Europe and the OECD. It pursues a policy of neutrality through non-alignment and is consequently not a member of NATO.

Irish is the "national language" according to the Constitution, but English is the dominant language. Irish is spoken as a community language only in a small number of rural areas mostly in the west of the country, collectively known as the Gaeltacht. Except in Gaeltacht regions, road signs are usually bilingual. Most public notices and print media are in English only. Most Government publications are available in both languages, and citizens have the right to deal with the state in Irish.

Religious freedom is constitutionally provided for in Ireland. Christianity is the predominant religion, with the Roman Catholic Church as the largest church. In 2011, 84.2% of the population identified themselves as Roman Catholic, 4.6% as Protestant or another Christian religion, 1.1% as Muslim, and 6.2% as having no religion – making them the second largest group after Roman Catholicism.
DUBLIN AIRPORT to GLENOMENA RESIDENCE HALL

From the airport, you can take the “Aircoach” shuttle to the Radisson Hotel on Stillorgan Road and Fosters Avenue, which is about a 7-minute walk from the Glenomena Residence Hall. The shuttle journey takes about an hour, and it is the easiest and cheapest way to reach Glenomena.

The shuttle departs every 15 minutes from the airport, on the :10, :25, :40, and :55 of every hour. Tickets are only €9 for a one-way trip if purchased online at http://www.aircoach.ie, and €14 for a round-trip ticket. Select “Dublin Airport” as the origin, and “Radisson SAS Hotel – St. Helens” as the destination.

If you are buying your ticket from the airport, make sure to select “Route 700: Dublin Airport to Leopardstown/Sandyford.” Get off at Fosters Avenue, which is the 11th stop after the airport.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coach Stop</th>
<th>Estimated Time FROM Airport (mins)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dublin Airport</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drumcondra (Quinn's Pub)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O'Connell Street (Gresham Hotel)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grafton Street (Trinity College)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kildare Street (Dept of Agriculture)</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leeson Street Lower (opposite Stephen's Hall Hotel)</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double Tree by Hilton (formerly Burlington Hotel)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morehampton Road (opposite Hampton Hotel)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donnybrook Road (Old Wesley RFC)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N11 (RTÉ)</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N11 - UCD slip road (opposite UCD)</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N11 - Fosters Avenue (Radisson Hotel)</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stillorgan Park Hotel (N11)</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Once you exit the shuttle on Fosters Avenue, you will have a 7-minute walk to Glenomena Residence Hall.
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Most of your time will be occupied by class excursions, but when you do have to get from one place to another on your own time, the easiest mode of transportation to use is the bus system. Bus 39A is the bus you will use to get around Dublin once you arrive on campus. Bus passes can be purchased in the store adjacent to your dorm.

On most city buses the fare depends on the distance you travel. If you are paying in cash, you tell the driver your destination, s/he tells you the fare, you drop the required coins in the fare-box and s/he prints off your ticket. On most services the driver cannot give change or take banknotes: if you don't have the exact coins the driver will issue a printed change receipt which can only be redeemed at the Dublin Bus Head Office.

The Dublin Bus fleet comprises mainly of modern double-deck vehicles which offer a great view from the top deck. Most buses now have free WiFi and many have electronic signs and announcements which tell you the name of the next stop.

Be aware that even if the bus has two or more doors (everywhere else in the world the front door is normally entrance and the rear one the exit) it is the custom in Dublin that drivers do not open the rear door for passengers to exit. If you want to leave the bus ring the bell and move to the front door for exiting.
RESTAURANTS in DUBLIN

Green Bench Café: Sandwiches, Soup, Salad

- Address: 18, Montague Street
- Hours:
  - Monday – Thursday: 7:30am – 4:30pm
  - Friday: 7:30am – 4pm
  - Saturday – Sunday: Closed
- Very highly rated café, with food under €7
- Also serves hot beverages

The Boxy House: traditional Irish food

- Address: 20/21 Temple Bar
- Hours: Daily, 12pm – 10:30pm
- Serves traditional Irish food like chowder, corned beef, and boxty, which is a northern Irish potato dish. Many people suggest trying the "boxty scratchings," which is potato bread fried into light, thin strips like French fries and served with aioli and ketchup.
- Located in the famous Temple Bar neighborhood

Third Space: Irish Café

- Address: 14 Smithfield Market
- Hours:
  - Mon. – Wed.: 7:30am - 7pm
  - Thurs. – Fri.: 7:30am - 9:30pm
  - Saturday: 9:30am – 5pm
  - Sunday: 10am – 4pm
- Traditional Irish breakfast/brunch, as well as lunch and dinner