



### Program Information

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**Name of host institution:** University of Limerick

**Location:** Limerick, Ireland

**Website:** <http://www.ul.ie/>; <http://www.ul.ie/international/>

**Accreditation/Recognition by:** Forum on Education Abroad

**Number of international students:** 500 European visiting, 1,800 international on campus; 50 US full degree, 240 US STA/semester students      **local students:** 12,000

**Most convenient way to reach host country from Atlanta:** Flights from ATL to Shannon available

**How students reach host institution from airport:** Shuttle pickup from Shannon International airport available on the Tues/Wed prior to orientation each semester; 20 minute drive from airport to university

**Visa information:** N/A for US citizens staying one semester

**Residence permit:** If you are from outside the EU or European Economic Area (EEA), you must register with the [Garda National Immigration Bureau](#) (GNIB) upon arrival in Ireland. This applies to you even if you do not need a study visa to enter the country. The GNIB card costs 300 Euro, and UL staff assist students with this process.

**Point of contact in International Students Office:** Ms. Laura Moloney, Acting Manager, International Education Division, +353-61-213520, [laura.moloney@ul.ie](mailto:laura.moloney@ul.ie)

**# of staff in Visiting Students Office:** 17

**Terms of study:**

fall     spring     summer    \_\_\_ other (explain)

**Approximate dates of terms:**

Fall term: First week of September to mid-December      Spring term: late January to mid-May

Summer: Late May to mid-June (1 class only, this program is designed for US students)

### Application Process

**Application form** (online, paper, how to obtain):

After receiving Berry approval, students may apply

1. directly to UL: <http://www.ul.ie/international/en/home/study-at-ul/study-abroad/> and must submit
  - Completed and signed UL application form
  - Faculty Recommendation
  - Financial statement from bank
  - Letter of consent from parent/guardian
  - Medical Insurance
  - Recommendation from a professor

or

2. through AIFS: <http://www.aifsabroad.com/>

**Requirements for participation** (gpa, references): Minimum 2.9 GPA for semester; 2.5 for summer

**Application fee:** N/A

**Deadlines:** July 31st for Autumn semester and Full-Year.  
December 1st for Spring semester.

**Other:** GNIB clearance process can take up to 12 weeks; passport and UL letter of admission needed

### **Academics**

**Credit system** (e.g. ECTS) & **US equivalent:** ECTS (6 ECTS credits = 3.6 US credits)  
She'll send link, search for STA only coming online

**Language pre-requisites:** UL language center—EFL to students, summer to Teachers (send number of hours required for EDU 222)

**Academic advising** (how do students register for classes): students should select ten modules before arriving to UL (top 5 and 5 additional); they then have two weeks to visit classes and finalize schedule of usually five modules with the international office

**Course articulation** (relationship to Berry curriculum: gen ed fulfillments, major courses; classes especially for international students):

For pre-approved classes, see

[http://www.berry.edu/uploadedFiles/Website/Academics/Majors\\_and\\_Minors/International\\_Programs/\\_Assets/Documents/Ireland,%20Univ%20of%20Limerick\(1\).pdf](http://www.berry.edu/uploadedFiles/Website/Academics/Majors_and_Minors/International_Programs/_Assets/Documents/Ireland,%20Univ%20of%20Limerick(1).pdf)

General Education classes in literature, arts (music). Science classes at the gen ed level might be difficult to find, but upper level classes can be a good fit. Psychology, Kinesiology, Animal Science, Business, Government, among others. Some humanities are not offered.

In summer, modules available in Irish Studies, Architecture and Engineering.

**Are there any courses/departments study abroad students are excluded from?** 4<sup>th</sup> year modules and some Equine Science modules are limited. Students must be ANS majors to take Equine Science modules.

**May students take half of a year-long course?**

**Do any classes require additional fees?** Not at this time

**Is a certain number of students required for a class to “make?”** N/A

**Average courseload** (# of courses & credits): The normal semester course-load is 5 modules (classes/courses), with a minimum of 6 ECTS credits awarded for each module and 30 credits for a semester of study.

**Instruction** (lecture, seminar, tutoring, online): Most are lecture with discussion session (tutorial) component

**Internship opportunities:** Research-based internships would be available to spring semester students in certain fields who would stay on and complete the internship in early summer. Additional costs will be incurred by the student.

**Form of student assessment:** Modules are mostly assessed by means of a 100% end-of-semester formal written examination. In some cases assessment will be done through a mixture of continuous assessment and a written exam. This is a major difference in the Irish and US academic systems and students should be prepared to keep up with studies throughout the semester.

**Support** (“learning center,” etc.): The Student Affairs Division offers various services to all UL students, including arts, chaplaincy/multi-faith services, childcare, counselling, disability support, financial aid, health services, services for LGBT students, student registration, records and graduation.

**Resources** (library, IT):

The University of Limerick’s magnificent library opened in 1998 with more than 140,000 books, 7,000 audiovisual items and subscriptions to 2,000 journals. The library uses online international databases and CD-ROMs. One of the databases, the European Documentation Center, holds almost all official publications of the European Union.

**Major differences in educational system:** Self-sufficient; expectation of work outside of class time is high

**Average size of classes:** 15

**Transcript & grading system** (explain US equivalents, avg. length of time between end of term and issuing of transcript): 4-point grading scale; transcripts are sent within a few weeks of the end of term

### **Student Support & Life**

**On-site orientation** (length, items covered): The international office offers a specific Study Abroad Orientation during “Week Zero” of each semester. The programme begins with a brief overview and welcome dinner, and the rest of the week includes day-time and evening events such as a campus tour, city tour, film, icebreakers with local students, coffees and a bar-b-que

**What challenges might US students encounter in this culture/educational system, etc.?** Assessment is done largely with a single project/paper at the end of each module/class, so the grade depends solely on this assignment.

**What is the English proficiency level of the resident director?** Fluent

**Does institution have crisis management plan? (attach)**

**Give an example of how a situation of misconduct was handled:**

**What is the level of interaction between students and host country nationals?** Because many local students go home on the weekends, this usually takes place during classes. However, the Friday evening international parties have become very popular among local as well as international students.

**Excursions/activities (indicate additional fees):**

The International Office organises a number of off campus activities each semester. These include a special Thanksgiving dinner in the fall and organised trips to Dublin and West of Ireland tourist attractions. They also work with the [International Society](#) at UL to promote other trips and activities which are offered at discount prices to students. There is a book club, an “international power hour” radio program and an international “come dine with me” program. Cost for joining the International Society is €5.

The Irish World Academy of Music and Dance is an internationally acclaimed centre located at UL for innovation and research in music and dance performance and offers numerous programming. For more information on arts programming, see <http://www.ul.ie/ul-campus/music-arts-culture/>

**Health/counseling facilities:** An acute care advisory service is provided to all registered students, free of charge. This service includes a full time nursing service and daily attendance by doctors. The Student Health Centre is open Monday to Friday from 09h00 to 16h00 and can assist with ongoing monitoring.

The Counselling Service is a professional psychological service available to students to assist them on their progress through University life, with all of its incumbent stresses and strains. A consultant psychiatrist and chartered physiotherapist are available through internal referral.

**Are these available in English?** Yes

**Accommodation for students with disabilities:** The Disability Liaison Office welcomes students with disabilities. The Office provides support for students with learning, physical, sensory and other disabilities.

**Required/recommended vaccinations:**

**Student societies:** Many, for example: Aeronautical, Celtic Supporters, Christian Union, Computer, Dance, Debating Union, Drama, Environmental, Folk Group, Outdoor Pursuits Club

**Sport/Recreation (indicate additional fees):** Membership is open to all students, who are actively encouraged to participate in sports while attending the University of Limerick. UL is the national centre for the education of teachers of Physical Education in Ireland and is also home to the Irish National Coaching and Training Centre for elite sportspeople and athletes. Fee included. UL offers state of the art fitness facilities, including an Olympic-sized swimming pool. For more information on sports, see <http://www.ul.ie/ul-campus/sports/>

**Drinking policy:** Promotes safe drinking practices, but the University has bars on campus; students are expected to drink responsibly.

**May students work?** No

**Opportunities for volunteer service:** Included in clubs/activities; a President's scheme for volunteering has been created to assist with placement. Hours appear on the transcript: bronze = 20 hours, silver = 40, gold = 60  
Volunteer—20 hrs/week, SO will talk with students at orientation

**Other:** Fall: Cork trip, voucher to Dublin                      Spring: County Clare  
Access campus

### **Housing**

**Application process:** Apply online with preferences; however, all AIFS students are housed in Plassey Village

**Damage deposit:** 250 Euro, refundable (this is the application fee, which is kept as the deposit)

**Options:** 2 to 8-bedroom apartments on campus; see  
<http://www.ul.ie/international/en/home/quicklinks/accommodation/>

**May students remain in residence hall during breaks?**

**If host family, how are families selected?** N/A

**How many students with the same host family?** N/A

**If residence hall, are intl. & host country students mixed?** Yes                      **Are genders mixed?** Yes

**Is there a curfew?** No

**Internet access:** Wired internet on campus                      **Additional fees:** None

**Furnishings** (linens, pillow, etc.): Full kitchen inventory, linens provided

**Avg. distance between institution and student housing:** Less than 10 minutes

**How do students reach campus from housing:** walking

**Atmosphere of neighborhood where students live:** Safe, patrolled by security 24/7, suburban if in Plassey Village. Plassey has nearby facilities such as a bank, shops and a bus stop across the way.

## **Financials**

**Tuition:** students pay Berry tuition

**Room: UL:** €2,253.00 AIFS: \$3400, includes some meals

**Do students pay additional housing costs during orientation?** No

**Room deposit:** €250 **Is this refundable?** Yes

**Board:** Not charged by school; food must be provided by student

**Other** (lab, materials, computing fees): AIFS charges non-refundable \$95 application fee; health insurance in Ireland \$100/yr.

**Personal expenses** (books, spending money, etc. – approximate): €2,000 for the semester, including food