

## **Study Report - National University of Ireland Galway**

### **My study programme**

During my semester in the National University of Ireland Galway (NUIG), I had the opportunity to take a great variety of courses, which include Criminal Law I, International Protection of Human Rights, Evidence I, Irish Legal System, Banking Law and Thinking Differently: European Women's Studies.

Criminal Law I was a great course, very interesting and engaging, in which we studied the basics of criminal law in Ireland and other common law countries. The examination method is a written exam, which won't prove too hard if you attend all the classes and take notes. I would absolutely recommend this course to any future students.

International Protection of Human Rights was also a fantastic course. Written exam, too. Very fast paced classes with a lot of individual participation. The content of the course is mainly International Human Rights and the organs in charge of their application, a topic that for a third year LLB student from Groningen will not be too difficult. I definitely recommend this course too.

Evidence I was a very interesting course in which we learned how to use evidence in Court in Ireland: what is allowed, what is relevant, etc. The content is certainly very new and not like anything we might study at RUG, and the professor happens to be a very important and well respected lawyer and scholar, but the classes are a bit slow-paced. I do recommend this for the novelty of its content.

Irish Legal System is a good introductory course for the legal system in Ireland in particular, and common law countries in general. This class sometimes felt a little tedious, but it is not very hard and I learnt a lot, so I still recommend. The examination is also done through a written exam.

Banking Law is a class for the kind of people who are interested in financial law and its ins and outs. The examination is made through two written essays, no exams. I personally did not like this class very much because I was not very interested in the topic, but if you are someone who does like the financial world I think you can learn a lot.

European Women's Studies was my choice for a non-law course during my exchange. I liked it a lot, it was a very simple introductory course geared towards exchange students, and the professor is fantastic. I definitely recommend this course for something different that you probably would never get in Groningen.

Something that was new to me that I liked very much was that the professors would tell you exactly what you had to study for the exams and what type of questions to expect. In general, the professors were very helpful and invested, the classes were engaging and interesting and I enjoyed my time there a lot.

### **Language**

As this university is in Ireland, everyone spoke English. There is a very cheap Irish course offered by the university, for those who like learning new languages!

### **Finance and other conditions**

As an European student, I did not have to get a residence permit or expend any extra money in any university applications.

Housing will not cost you less than €450 per month due to the housing crisis. The cheapest bus fare would be around €55 per month. For food, I recommend getting everything from Aldi or Lidl for the best prices, but for a quick meal near the university, the university canteen has a great variety of delicious and healthy meals for under €7. In total, I think you would need around €800 per month.

### **Preparation and contacts with the faculty abroad**

The university's webpage has all the information you need, but specifically for disabled and LGBTQIA people, I would recommend you contact the Student Union for any questions or

requests (medication, hormones, assistance, accessibility, etc.). They are very good at their job and will help you with anything you need.

### **Housing**

There is quite a big housing crisis right now all over Ireland, and Galway is one of the worst places. Finding housing is very hard and once you do find it, chances are the room is incredibly expensive. You probably will not be paying under 450 euros per month for rent, and you will likely have to live a bit far from the university. Most of my friends and I lived a 20 minutes bus ride away from campus. I recommend you look out for scams (as they are very common) and use the University housing services. One of the most common situations that I observed was DIGS, where you live with a family or the owner of the house and they cook and clean for you. Also, be ready and open minded to maybe have to share a room, like I ended up having to do.

### **Guidance / reception at host university**

The university organizes a very full first week of activities for you to get acquainted with the campus layout and all the activities they have to offer. I recommend you attend as many events on that first week as possible, as chances are you will be able to meet the people you will end up spending the most time with for the rest of your stay.

Follow the Student Union in social media and check out their webpage, as they are incredibly helpful to find your way around and get all the information that you need as a student in Galway.

There is an affordable healthcare service within the university and there is a hospital right next to the NUIG campus. The university also offers a free therapy service if you need it, which includes 6 free therapy sessions.

### **Culture, free time and travelling**

NUIG is full of student societies and activities that will welcome you and offer free or cheap activities to do in the evenings or during the weekends. Cinema, veganism, baking, feminism, LBTQIA, hiking... Your best bet is to join as many as you can and find what suits you best.

Some of these societies, like the hiking society, organize cheap excursions every Sunday for you to travel and see Ireland, which is the best way to discover Ireland and meet locals.

There are also plenty of small pubs with live music in the evenings all over the city that are worth checking out.

### **Other**

Avoid the center of Galway in sunny weekend if you are not a fan of large crowds.

Invest in a good raincoat and quality rain shoes before going, it rains as much as you think it does.

Have a great time!