

Study Report Trinity College Dublin Autumn 2019

Study Programme

Trinity College offers around 15 modules per semester for Erasmus students to choose from. These are all modules that are a part of the Bachelor's degree of regular Trinity College Students, so the level of these modules is pretty high.

I chose Food Law, Media Law and Torts. Both Food Law and Media Law involved a lot of European Union Law so they were easier to follow for me than Tort Law, which focused mostly on (Irish) case law. In the beginning of the semester I had a hard time following the lectures since I had never studied in English before, but this soon improved.

I had to write essays for all three of the modules during the semester. Although the topics of the essays were quite interesting, most of the deadlines of different modules were in the same weeks so I had to plan really well and work in advance to make the deadlines.

Media Law and Torts also had an exam at the end of the semester.

Language

English

Finance and other conditions

Dublin is very expensive. Especially the rent will cost you a lot of money, anywhere from 750-1100 euros.

Nightlife is not cheap either: a pint costs 6 euros and prices for dinner are similar to Amsterdam prices. However, there are a lot of student deals and happy hours so once you get the hang of it, it is doable.

For groceries I went to Tesco, which is not an expensive supermarket. I would say it is cheaper than Albert Heijn and the quality is good. There are also a lot of euro-shops in Dublin like Dealz and Euro-Giant that offer things like cleaning detergent and kitchen utensils.

Public transportation is quite expensive in my opinion. You can travel by Leap-Card which works similar to an OV-chip card in the Netherlands. I got a student Leap-Card in the fresher's week at the beginning of the semester which lets you travel with a discount. However, I didn't use public transportation that much and walked most of the time: Dublin is not that big of a city, and Trinity is one of the most central spots in the city center.

Preparation and contacts with the faculty abroad

The correspondence with Trinity College before arriving went well. I could see and choose from the available modules before the summer and it was clear what was expected from me.

Housing

Before going to Dublin I had been told that finding accommodation would be very hard and that the rent is very high, so I started looking for accommodation right after I heard I was going to Dublin, in March/April.

I chose to stay in a student accommodation building: they are expensive but worth the money in my opinion since most student accommodations are pretty well located, new, clean and they organize a lot of events to meet new people from your building. I stayed in Aparto Beckett House in Dublin 1, in which around 300 students live.

Aparto has multiple locations in Dublin (<https://apartostudent.com>), as well as Uninest (<https://unineststudents.ie/locations/dublin>).

I booked my room in May, but later found out that a lot of rooms will only be offered from June/July, so don't worry if you haven't found anything before that.

Guidance / reception at host university

The guidance was good. In the first week we had multiple Erasmus meetings in which everything was explained to us very clearly. The Erasmus coordinator responded very quickly via email if I had any questions and I was also assigned three 'student tutors' who emailed me every week with tips and tricks and offered to meet up weekly to explain certain things about Trinity, like how to write essays or how to study for your exams.

Culture, free time and travelling

Dublin is a very nice city. There are many cozy pubs and the Irish definitely like to go there every day of the week. Most students go to Diceys Garden Club to avoid the high prices for beers, as this place offers pints for only 2 euros on certain days of the week.

Although Dublin doesn't have a lot of sights to visit, you will not get bored studying here as there are many trips you can take around Ireland and North-Ireland. Next Adventures Dublin organizes trips around the country especially for international students at low prices and I booked a trip to Galway and Belfast with them.

(https://www.facebook.com/erasmusdublin2019/?eid=ARAYVNplCXrR0TEbcmludTKihnR9TkWSfx48d_p5166pt5spyaNcOWyuspNd-DQ0eeJS6tM5fp8u8gQN)

There are also a lot of nice places to visit closer to Dublin, like Howth, that you can reach by train.