

Erasmus Radiography in UCD

Information for Incoming Students

When useful web resources are available, they are linked throughout this document.

Why choose Radiography in UCD and Erasmus in Dublin?

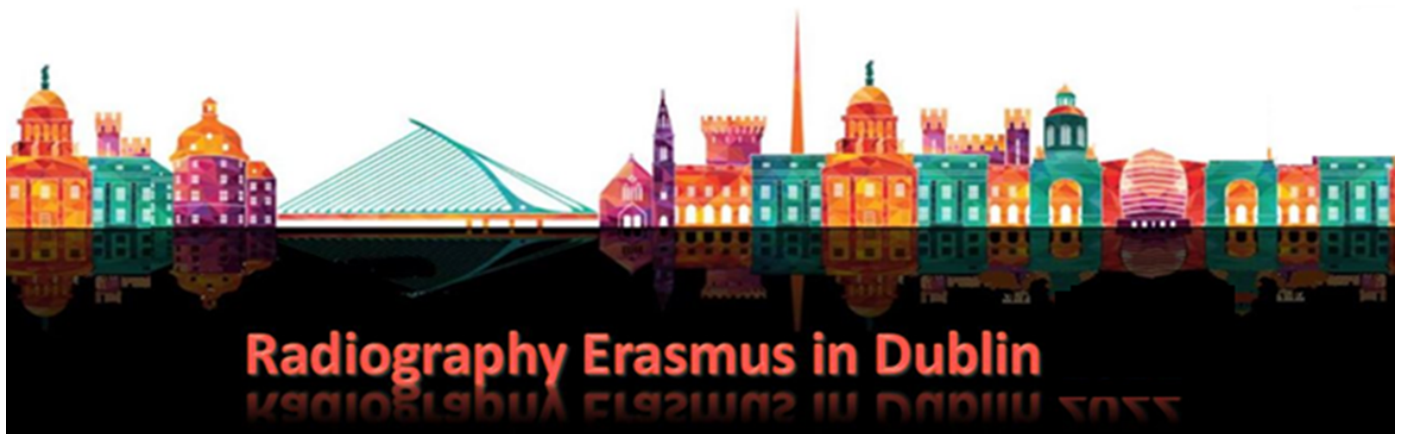
Everyone has different reasons for choosing their Erasmus destination, and every Erasmus destination has something different to offer.

Radiography in UCD is the longest established degree level programme for radiographers in Europe, and we are proud of the standard of our teaching and learning. In 2020 we installed a Virtual Reality room for learning technique, along with a newly installed X-ray room. Your programme will be coordinated and taught by experienced and friendly lecturers, and you will also have classes from radiologists, nurses, clinical radiographers and physiological technicians.

UCD itself is the biggest university in Ireland, and possibly a lot bigger than some of your home centres. The large campus is just over 7kms from the city centre, and occupies an attractive landscaped site with many facilities including a 50 metre swimming pool, gym, climbing wall, sports facilities, drama facilities and a huge range of student facilities and clubs.

Dublin is a capital city dating back to Viking foundations in 1088. You can find ancient buildings, cultural relics, art and folklore amidst a buzzing, busy, cosmopolitan city with great social opportunities. There really is something to suit everyone's interest.

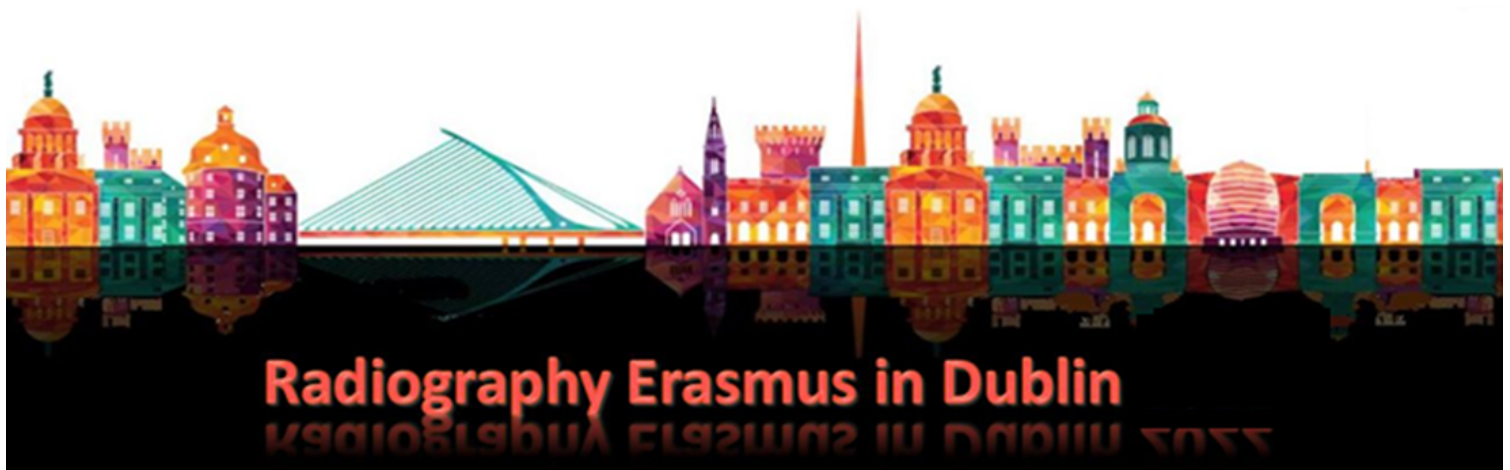
Ireland is a small country, the "land of the thousand welcomes", where people are friendly and with diverse scenery from traditional towns, sheltered grasslands, barren moorlands and coastal areas that offer everything from broad stretches of sandy beach to tumultuous Atlantic storms crashing in on rocky cliffs. Over the Erasmus period you should be able to see a good proportion of it through a series of weekend visits.



Before you arrive

Once you know that you are going to come to UCD for the Erasmus programme, you will have to complete a few pieces of paperwork and get yourself registered for the correct modules. More explanations will be provided to you soon, but for information, here are just some snapshots of what is involved.

- Registration with UCD is an online process that you complete in October / November before you travel. You will receive details and explanation from UCD International Office very soon.
- All travelling Erasmus students have to complete a Learning Agreement (OLA). This form is important because it is the official notice that your home university accepts the credits you gain in your host university towards your degree. In UCD we use the online process that has been put in place by the EU because that is the easiest way to get everyone's signature onto the document. Ask in your university how to access the OLA, or search the site: <https://www.erasmus-dashboard.eu/>. Instructions about the details you need to put into the OLA will be mailed separately.
- You will spend approximately five weeks in hospital clinical practice, and therefore you have to provide information about your training, health and vaccination status. Required vaccinations are Hepatitis B, Tuberculosis, Rubella for females, Tetanus. There is a form that you complete and get countersigned by relevant people which will be mailed separately.
- Again because your clinical placements may bring you into contact with children or vulnerable adults, UCD requires Irish students to undergo Garda Vetting, and non-Irish students to provide a Police Clearance certificate from their own country. You will need to contact the policing body in your own country for details and to obtain the certificate. You should start this process as soon as your place in UCD is confirmed, because Police Certificates can take some time and you won't be allowed into clinical placement without one. Some helpful information will be mailed separately.



Accommodation

Finding reasonably priced accommodation in Dublin isn't easy, and you will all find the availability and price a little different from in your home university cities. It is up to each visiting student to search for somewhere to live. There is no facility in UCD to provide or find accommodation for you. You need to start your search early, because the good rooms in convenient locations will likely be booked out by then.

Once students are accepted for a place in the UCD Radiography Erasmus programme, we will send links to reputable estate agents and housing facilities to guide your search. We also have a scheme where UCD Radiography students who are travelling away during Erasmus offer their rooms for rental to incoming Erasmus students. This is a cost effective option for both students, and offers a good opportunity to integrate with other students living in the same sites. Details will be shared through a Facebook group in a short while.

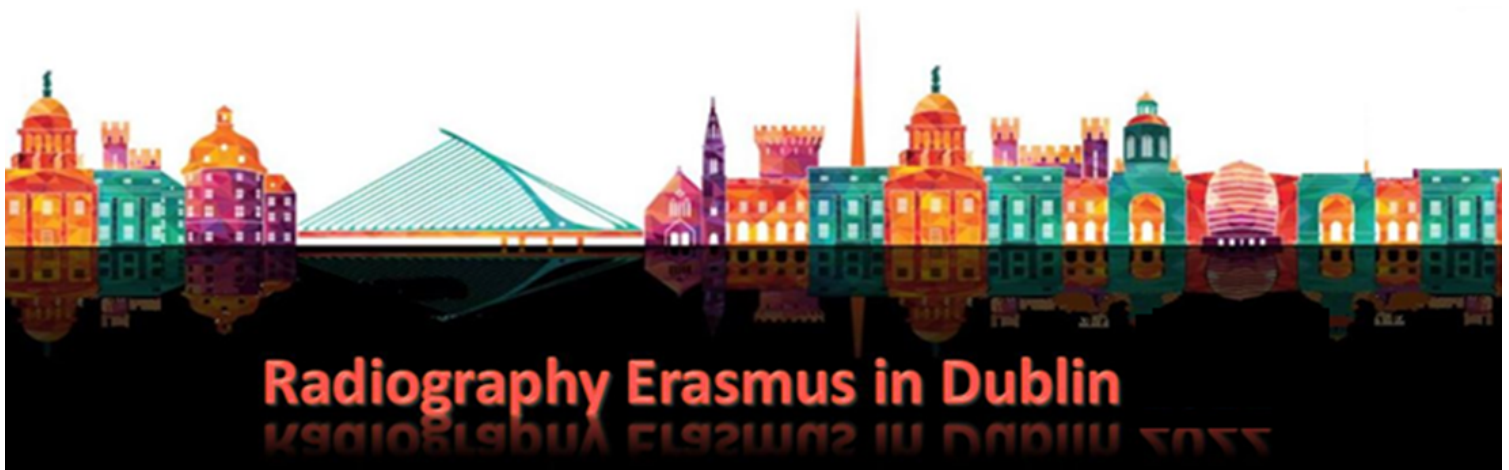
Other Stuff to plan in advance

Any EU citizen can avail of health care services in Ireland on the same basis as they enjoy in their home country, provided they have an [EHIC card](#). Since private health services in Ireland are quite expensive, you should make sure to get your EHIC card before you travel.

As you pack you'll be thinking of the weather, and probably the best one word to describe Irish weather is "changeable". Between January and April you are likely to experience cold, hot, rain, dry, wind and calm. Have a look at the National Weather Service [advice on climate](#), and take the advice to pack layers of clothes and a waterproof.

Everyone in Dublin and most of Ireland speaks English as their first language, so use of the "cúpla focal" of Irish is more about tradition and fun than every day use. We won't routinely offer Irish language classes unless students have a particular interest, in which case something can be set up.

An important part of extended travel is having sufficient funds to enjoy all the activities you'd like to do. Dublin isn't a cheap city, but like anywhere, students have learned ways to make their euros go further, and your assigned buddy will be more than willing to show you the cheapest ways to travel, eat and socialise. As a rough guide to planning your wallet, UCD International offer a [guide to the cost of living](#) here.



Dublin is a major international airport with connections to many European cities. Ryanair is an economy airline flying into Dublin that offers [fare discounts](#) to registered Erasmus undergraduate students.

Dublin is the national port with ferry connections to Liverpool in England and Holyhead in Wales as a potential land bridge to Europe. The only European ferry sails from Cherbourg to Rosslare in the south of Ireland.

Getting from Airport to Dublin

Taxis are frequent but can be expensive if you are alone.

The AirCoach is a fast, efficient and economical coach service. Route 700 stops right outside UCD. Other routes might be closer to your accommodation. You can look at routes and book tickets on the [AirCoach site](#) before you fly, or buy them as you get on the coach.

Dublin Bus offers [route 747](#) direct to the city centre.

Buddy System on Arrival

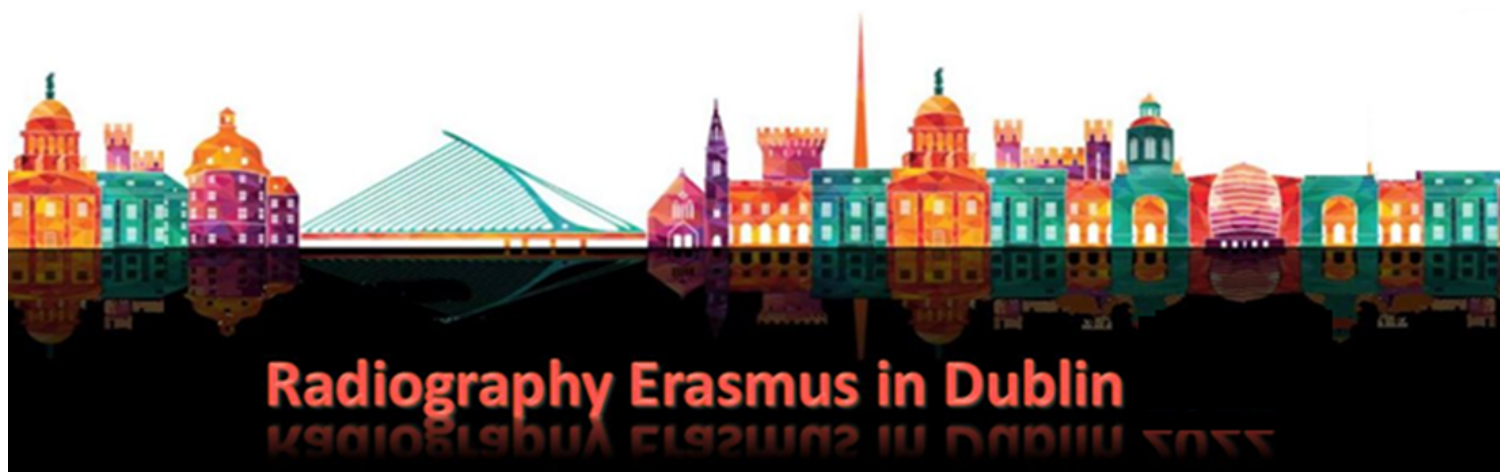
An Irish student from the host class will be in contact with each visiting student in advance of the exchange period. When possible, on arrival your buddy will either meet you at the airport, or meet you at a pre-agreed drop off point for one of the airport buses.

Your Irish buddy will make sure you find your accommodation, know how to get to the university, and know where to find banks, shops etc. Later in the programme, your buddy will make sure you know how to get to your clinical sites and what to expect in hospital placement.

Your Irish buddy will probably help you with a whole lot more than this, but the general idea is you won't be arriving into the unknown without some help.

Getting around

Public transport in Dublin is quite good. There are frequent buses, trains (DART) and trams (LUAS). You can buy a [Student Travel Card](#) called a Leap card that firstly makes travelling easier, and secondly gives you discounted fares with a daily cap on how much you spend. Strongly advised to get a Leap card.



Induction

On the first day of the Erasmus programme you will hear a series of information talks about support services and what to expect in the university and in clinical placements. You will meet the Erasmus students visiting from other countries and the UCD Radiography students who have chosen to stay at home during the period. You will be sent a schedule for the day by e-mail in advance of your arrival.

Calendar

The Erasmus Calendar will be shared with successful candidates but starts early in January and runs for 13 weeks.

Clinical Placements

When you are in UCD you will spend five weeks in clinical placement in one or more major teaching hospitals. The travel time using public transport between the UCD campus and the various Dublin hospitals is between 20 minutes and 1 hour 20 minutes. Students pay their own travel costs. There is a small possibility that some incoming students may be in clinical placement outside of Dublin. Your assigned hospital(s) will be mailed separately.

You must bring your own uniforms with you for this clinical period, and it may really surprise some of you that here in Ireland radiographers and students have to launder their own uniform. UCD students wear blue scrub trousers and short-sleeved top, and flat, closed toe, comfortable shoes that are not too bright or dirty from sports. Sweatshirts, jumpers and cardigans are completely discouraged, as is jewellery. You should bring something similar.

When you go into clinical, we will provide you with your radiation monitoring badge. You will have to pay a €15 deposit on this, which will be returned in full when you return your dosimeter. We can arrange to send your monitoring record back to your home university at the end of the exchange.

You must wear a name badge in clinical and if you don't bring your own we can provide one. Again you will have to pay a deposit, of €5, refundable when you return the badge.

You will need right and left aspect markers for clinical. Bring your own, or again we can provide these on a refundable deposit of €10.

So if you don't bring anything, you must plan for a €30 deposit which will be refunded when you return all the items.

