

Studying in Limerick, 08/09

I spent two semesters at the University of Limerick in Ireland and I have to admit that I don't regret it. Those two semesters have been the most exciting and interesting semesters of my studies so far. I got to know many different nationalities as well as an insight into Irish culture and I really recommend studying abroad to every student of the English language.

Anyway, let's start at the beginning. It's fairly easy to get to Limerick because it's near Shannon airport, which is a "Ryanair destination". It takes you two hours by flight with Ryanair from Weeze to Shannon and I never paid more than 30 Euros per flight. Once arrived at Shannon airport you take either a bus to the city centre of Limerick (7 Euros) or you take the private JJ Kavanagh bus which will take you directly to the University of Limerick. This is the best and cheapest way to go (5 Euros), but check the timetables on the Internet (jjkavanagh.ie).

Irish student accommodation can't be compared to living in a German "Studentenwohnheim". In Limerick, there are five student villages provided by the university. They are really expensive and differ in comfort! If I were you, I wouldn't book a room in [Plassey](#) or [Kilmurry](#) village. The better and nicer ones are [Thomond](#), [Dromroe](#) or [Cappavilla](#) Village, but they are very expensive. I think that you pay app. 2500 Euros for one semester here.

The easiest way of finding an accommodation is living on campus because the international office provides accommodation forms and you just have to fill them in. I decided not to live on campus because off-campus accommodation is cheaper and I wanted to save some money. In the first semester I lived in an off-campus student-village. The off-campus accommodations are of the same standard as the on-campus accommodations but are a bit remote from the university campus. Mostly there is a bus shuttle running between those villages and the university.

Those villages are [Courtyard Student Village](#), [Brookfield Hall](#), [Troy Student Village](#) and [Groody Student Village](#) as well as [Parkview Hall](#), but Parkview Hall is in my opinion too far away from campus but it has the advantage of being near to the city centre.

I really liked living in Courtyard. I shared a nice little house with three other Irish girls who were really nice and helpful. Every person has his/her own little bathroom, which is part of the room; you share a living room and a kitchen. Unfortunately, the girls went home every weekend which made me move out in the second semester.



In the second semester I shared a house with four friends from different countries. This was the cheapest way of living and there were always people around. At the weekends we did trips together or had parties.

I would recommend staying with Irish students at the beginning. You can still move house in the second semester and live together with people of other nationalities.

There is one thing to say about Irish flatmates: they are really nice and helpful and they take you to parties and sport

clubs, but when it comes to cleaning, they suddenly disappear... Just to warn you! After a while I learnt to ignore the fact that cleanliness didn't exist and just enjoyed my time...

The university was a really good choice. The staff of the international office were friendly and helpful; all university lecturers were willing to help when there were difficulties. It wasn't hard to follow lectures as most of them were interesting and manageable.

There is a week off after the lectures to study for the exams; this is enough time to revise.

Afterwards there are two exam weeks, during which all your exams take place.



The campus is outside the city centre, a beautiful green place near the river Shannon. Many modern buildings show that the University of Limerick is a modern university. The campus even contains a supermarket, three pubs, a bank and a bookshop.

In my free time I mostly travelled with my new friends. We visited all the places in Ireland we wanted to see and I can definitely say that Ireland is a beautiful country! You shouldn't miss out on travelling everywhere since travelling in Ireland is cheap and comfortable; there are buses going almost everywhere! If you book online you even get 10% off the ticket charge.

I visited the Cliffs of Moher, Galway, Cork, Dublin, the Ring of Kerry, Dingle, Belfast, the Giant's Causeway, Conemara, Bunratty, and the Aran Islands (this was the best trip ever!).

Moreover, I joined the Trampoline Club and the International Society to make friends from Ireland and all over the world.

If I were you, I would join as many clubs and societies as possible. You have to pay a fee of 5 Euros for the whole year and you can choose between various sport activities and societies. Check <http://www.clubsandsocs.ul.ie/>.



Moreover, you can spend some time in the city, Limerick. But known as "stab city", Limerick is said to be a dangerous place. I never felt uneasy; at night we decided to share a taxi so we were always on the safe side. Anyway, I can state that Limerick isn't beautiful at all... I'm sorry. Limerick seems to be the only place in Ireland that can't be described as being beautiful. Nonetheless, I really like the city. It's a small town offering everything you need, especially various bars, pubs and clubs! We never had problems finding a place to go out!

I could continue writing more, but I simply want to give you some tips what to do and what not to do...

Dos:

- Buy a bike from the student's union in the first or second week of the semester. It's app. 100 Euros but you can sell it back after a year. I got back 80 Euros.
- Join as many clubs and societies as possible.
- Save as much money for your year abroad as possible since Ireland is a lot more expensive than Germany!



- Travel, Travel, Travel...
- Bring an umbrella. No joke.
- If you want to send back a box home after your stay, take GLS, not the Irish post! The shop is on Little Catherine Street in the city centre. A big box (app. 30 kilos) is about 40 Euros.
- Enjoy your stay

Don'ts:

- Don't panic. This is the Irish way of life.
- Don't stop at red traffic lights or you will be taken for a tourist.
- Don't expect living in a tidy and clean flat. Really, forget about this.

If you are the one going to UL, congratulations! You will have a wonderful time in Ireland, I'm sure! I made so many friends from all over the world, I even visited three of them in their home countries over the summer.

Ireland is a very friendly and hospitable country. I'm sure you will enjoy your stay and I promise you:

Time will be flying and soon (perhaps too soon) you will be back at Wuppertal University.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to [contact me](#)! It's hard to put all information in one report!

All the best for your year at UL!

Dorothee Bräuer

Links:

Accommodation:

On campus:

<http://www.ul.ie/campuslife/>

Off campus:

Courtyard Student Village: <http://www.student-lettings.ie/>

Brookfield Hall: <http://www.brookfieldhall.com/>

Troy Student Village: <http://troystudentvillage.com/>

Groody Student Village: <http://www.groodyvillage.com/>

Parkview Hall: parkviewhall.com

Travelling:

Buseireann.ie

Ryanair.com

Jjkavanagh.ie

University:

ul.ie