

# Travel Newsletter



## Ireland Summer 2011

May 12, 2011

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### Last-Minute Reminders

Before you get on a plane, make sure you have your **student validation document** and **passport**. If you don't have them with you, immigration will turn you away at the airport when you land. **Your student validation document is included in this mailing.**

Make sure you have paid your program fee and/or taken care of your financial aid. We can't place you in housing if you haven't paid your fee.

E-mail your travel plans to [dpraul@ifsa-butler.org](mailto:dpraul@ifsa-butler.org) as soon as possible, if you haven't already done so. We need to know when to expect you so that we have a way to track you down if you don't turn up on time. If you miss a flight or change your plans, call IFSA-Butler at 800-858-0229 and **let us know**.

### Checking In for Your Flight

You should plan to arrive at the airport three hours before your international flight. That allows you enough time to get checked in, get a boarding pass and make it to your gate.

You must check in for your flight. Otherwise, the airline can give your seat to someone else.

Ask if your domestic carrier has an agreement with your international carrier. If so, the domestic airline may be able to check your bags all the way through to your final desti-

nation and give you your international flight boarding pass at your domestic departure airport.

If your bags can't be checked to your final destination, you'll have to leave the gate area and claim your luggage, then recheck your luggage at the check-in desk of your international airline carrier. They will issue you a boarding pass for this leg of your journey. Once you have rechecked your luggage and received your new boarding pass, you will have to proceed through security in order to re-enter the gate area.

Get to the gate in plenty of time so you don't miss your flight.

### Running Late?

If you are delayed and it looks like you may not make your flight, you'll need to make alternate arrangements with the airline (not your travel agent!) to get on the next available flight. **You must call us at 800-858-0229 to let us know about your change in plans.** We will then inform our Ireland office of any delays on your behalf.

Be sure to leave your name, location, airline, old flight numbers, new flight numbers, and departure and arrival times. Also include the name, number and room of the hotel if you have to stay overnight. You should also call your parents to let them know about your flight change.

We monitor messages on flight days, so if no one answers the phone, be sure to leave a message with the above information. **Be sure to call IFSA-Butler on our general line at 800-858-0229 to ensure that the correct person gets the message. Please do not leave a message about travel problems on your program advisor's voicemail or e-mail.**

### Baggage and Backpacks

Most airlines allow two pieces of checked luggage and one carry-on bag. Contact both your domestic and international carriers for more information on baggage limits.

If you exceed baggage limits, the airline can require you to buy new luggage and repack right there in the airport. Do not overpack. You may be required to pay a fee for extra or oversized luggage.

If you lock your luggage, make sure the lock is Transportation Security Administration-approved in order to lessen damages to your luggage. If your bag is searched, officers may cut the lock off, damaging your bag in the process.

Please do not bring sporting equipment such as skis and bikes. If you feel you must bring your own, call your domestic and international carriers for information about packing and excess baggage fees.

### Packing Your Carry-on Bag

Remember to pack:

- Your passport
- Your student validation document
- Your tickets or e-ticket confirmations
- *Preparing to Study Abroad*
- Your newsletters
- List of contact names, addresses, phone numbers, fax numbers and e-mail for:
  - Academic advisor at your home college
  - Study abroad advisor at your home college
  - Parents and relatives
- Course descriptions from your home college (only if you must take an equivalent course overseas)
- Rules of transfer credit from your home college

You might also want to bring:

- Travel-size toiletries that meet airline specifications/restrictions (i.e., liquids in containers no larger than 3.3 ounces, all sealed in a clear, quart-size plastic bag).
- Something to read
- Something to listen to
- Spare clothes in case your luggage is lost or delayed
- Any medications and prescriptions
- Camera

According to FAA regulations, you are not allowed to bring in your carry-on the following items:

- Knives (including pocket knives)
- Cutting instruments of any kind
- Metal knitting needles (plastic needles are acceptable)
- Lighters
- Metal scissors (plastic scissors are acceptable)
- Baseball or softball bats
- Golf clubs
- Ski poles
- Hockey sticks

You can get the most up-to-date list of prohibited items from the Transportation Security Administration website at [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov) (click on "Travelers and Consumers" and then on "Air Travel").

Airlines have stringent security measures and any items described above will be confiscated and not returned. Remember that metal objects, even pocket change and pen caps, can set off the airport's security alarms.

Carry-ons are subject to inspections. If you need to take a syringe on the airplane, you must have documented proof of medical need.

If you intend to bring a laptop computer, iPod or a hand-held electronic game, follow your airline's instructions. Cell phones must never be used while an airplane is in flight.

### Security Check

Security is likely to be tight at all airports. Do not joke about hijacking, weapons or explosives—you can be arrested on the spot and sent to jail. Be patient and cooperative with all airport personnel.

You may be required to turn on electronic equipment to prove that it works. Be sure that your equipment is fully charged and include the power cord and/or batteries in your carry-on.

### In-flight Comfort

For comfort during the flight, wear loose-fitting clothes and comfortable shoes. Your feet might swell during the flight. You'll probably find that the cabin feels cold, so don't give away your blanket.

### Beating Jet Lag

During the flight drink plenty of water and sleep as much as you can. Try to eat something, but avoid drinking alcohol.

If you don't adjust your internal clock right away, jet lag will hit you harder and last longer. Set your watch to local time, and eat and go to bed at normal Irish times.

### Landing Card

As your plane descends into Ireland, your flight attendants will hand out a few forms with customs and agricultural declarations. These forms include a landing card that you must present when you clear immigration. You'll be required to enter an Ireland address on the card. Ireland addresses are listed in the "Lost Luggage" section below.

Customs limits the amount of alcohol and cigarettes that you can bring into the country (duty-free goods valued up to €175 or £145, one liter of spirits or two liters of wine and 200 cigarettes are allowed). Do not bring explosives or flammable fluids. Remove the price tags and wrappings from any new purchases; you don't want to pay customs charges on any new belongings.

If you have nothing to declare, go through the green channel.

If you have a question about declaring goods, declare them. It's not a problem to declare something you don't have to. However, if you neglect to declare something customs considers dangerous to their agriculture or against their laws, they may fine, deport or imprison you.

## Lost Luggage

If your luggage doesn't come out of the carousel, see the airline officials to file a lost luggage claim **before you leave the baggage claim area**. Please give them your forwarding address:

### University College Cork students:

Brookfield Holiday Village  
College Road  
Cork  
Telephone: 021-434-4032

### NUI Galway students:

Gort na Coiribe  
Headford Road  
Galway  
Telephone: 091-746-400

### University of Limerick students:

Cappavilla Student Village  
University of Limerick  
Telephone: 061-237-500

### Queen's University, Belfast students:

Elms Student Village  
78 Malone Road  
Belfast BT9 5BW  
Northern Ireland  
Telephone: 028-9097-4525

If you lose your luggage, let our IFSA-Butler Ireland staff know.

## Phone Home

**Please call home as soon as you get to Ireland.** Your family will be worrying about you. Check with your long-distance carrier for instructions on calling home from Ireland (and anywhere else you plan to travel) **before** you leave. Sometimes instructions for calling internationally with a calling card can be complex, so be sure to write the information down and bring it with you in your carry-on bag.

## Clearing Immigration

When you go through immigration, the officials will ask the purpose of your visit. Tell them that you are a student and present your **passport, landing card** (from the airplane) and **student validation document**. The student validation document verifies your status as a full-time student and confirms that your program fees are being paid.

If the official asks for your address, remember to use the address provided above (in the "Lost Luggage" section). Alternatively, you may also use the following addresses:

### Republic of Ireland students:

Institute for Study Abroad  
46 Merrion Square  
Dublin 2  
Ireland  
Telephone: +353-1639-4608

### Northern Ireland students:

Institute of Irish Studies  
53-67 University Road  
Belfast, BT7 1NF  
Northern Ireland  
Telephone: +44-28-9097-3386

## Where Is Orientation?

During the IFSA-Butler orientation, students studying in Cork, Galway and Limerick will be staying at O'Callaghan Mont Clare Hotel in Dublin. IFSA-Butler Ireland staff will meet students in the hotel lobby upon arrival. Please arrive at the orientation hotel by 2 p.m. on the program start date. Dinner is provided that evening in the city.

O'Callaghan Mont Clare Hotel  
At Merrion Square  
Dublin 2  
Telephone: +353 1 6073800

Students studying in Belfast will stay at Jury's Inn in Belfast for orientation. IFSA-Butler Ireland staff will meet students in the hotel lobby upon arrival. Please arrive at the orientation hotel by 2 p.m. on the program start date. Dinner is provided that evening in the city.

Jury's Inn  
Great Victoria Street  
Belfast  
Telephone: 028-9053-3500

You are responsible for transportation to the hotel. We recommend taking a taxi from the airport. A taxi ride will take about 20 minutes and will cost about €35–€40 in the Republic, £20 in Belfast.

Tipping is not generally required in Ireland, but you might tip 10 percent if your driver has been particularly helpful with your luggage. If you experience any problems or have questions once you arrive in Ireland, our Dublin office telephone number is +353-1639-4608.

## Currency

You can exchange currency at the airport. If you arrive late at night or on a weekend, you should definitely exchange your currency at the airport. Banks give a better rate of exchange, but they are not open on weekends, holidays or at night. Some post offices have currency exchange windows. They generally give good exchange rates and have few fees.

Republic of Ireland students should have some euro currency; Northern Ireland students will need pounds sterling. If you cannot get currency or traveler's checks in euros or pounds sterling, you can exchange U.S. dollars and traveler's checks at banks in Ireland for a small fee. You might also be able to use your U.S. ATM card to withdraw money from your account in euros (in the Republic of Ireland) or pounds sterling (in Northern Ireland). Check with your bank prior to departure.

Banks generally are open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. See more about currency, banks and ATMs in the "Managing Money" section of *Preparing to Study Abroad*.

### **If You Arrive Early**

#### **Hostels**

**IFSA-Butler cannot accommodate early arrivals.** If you plan to arrive in Ireland before the orientation, we recommend that you purchase one of the books listed in the recommended reading section of *Preparing to Study Abroad*. These books provide a variety of information about where to stay and what to do in Ireland.

#### **Luggage Storage**

Neither IFSA-Butler nor your host university have luggage storage facilities. You can store your luggage at the airport or at some train stations for a small fee.

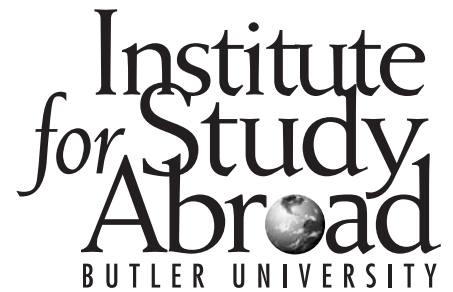
### **Last-Minute Tips**

- Sign up for frequent flyer miles.
- Reread the housing and health insurance sections of *Preparing to Study Abroad*.
- Photocopy your passport and tickets and give a copy to your parents.
- Give your parents the numbers of your credit cards and traveler's checks in case they are lost or stolen.
- Double your budget.
- Buy a travel guide or rent a video of Ireland.

**Questions? Call us at 800-858-0229 or check our website: [www.ifsa-butler.org](http://www.ifsa-butler.org).**

# Program Calendar

## Ireland Summer 2011



	<b>National University of Ireland, Galway</b>	<b>Queen's University Belfast</b>	<b>University College Cork</b>	<b>University of Limerick</b>
Arrive in Ireland	June 19	July 15	July 1	May 23
Program Starts	June 19	July 15	July 1	May 23
IFSA-Butler Orientation	June 20	July 16	July 2	May 24
Move into Housing	June 21	July 17	July 3	May 25
University Orientation	June 22	July 18	July 4	May 25
Classes Begin	June 22	July 18	July 4	May 26
Program Ends	July 21	August 6	July 30	June 15

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**These dates are correct as of January 28, 2011, but must be regarded as provisional given the mutability of host university calendars.**

Upon arrival at your host university, check the program end dates for changes before confirming your return travel plans. End dates vary from department to department, and you must complete all course obligations prior to departure. In addition, you should not make plans to travel on the final day of class, as there may be exams on that day.

All students must move out of program housing on the program end date.