Congratulations on considering UL as a prospective university for your studies. UL is one of the finest third-level institutions in Ireland, and we are extremely proud of our university campus and student community. By choosing UL, you will become part of Ireland’s friendliest educational institution and will gain a highly valued degree that will be internationally recognised. This handbook shows you how you can enjoy the unique experience of our university and guides you through all you need to know about studying in Ireland and living in beautiful Limerick.
Study in Ireland

Ireland

- Among the best education systems in the world
- A safe place to live and study
- English speaking with close cultural, economic and educational links throughout the world
- Endless opportunities and internationally recognised qualifications
- Land of welcomes, unrivalled hospitality and vibrant social culture
- Stunning landscape, a rich musical tradition and enthralling literature
- Home to some of the world’s leading companies, including Apple, Facebook and Google
“Ireland has a worldwide reputation for hospitality, a vibrant culture, a stunning landscape, a rich musical tradition and enthralling literature...”
Capital of the country’s mid-west region, Limerick is one of Ireland’s most culturally diverse and inclusive cities. It is a bustling and vibrant city noted for its shopping, dining, entertainment, cultural and historical significance and its contributions to the arts. Conquered by the Vikings in the ninth century, Limerick has a rich medieval past. Today, Limerick is home to more than 200,000 people, of whom almost 50 per cent are under the age of 30, making it a fast-moving and cosmopolitan city in which to live and study.

In the past number of years, Limerick has witnessed many positive developments, such as the addition of Ireland’s tallest hotel – the Clarion – and the River Point building, which have changed the city’s skyline. Situated just five kilometres from the city centre and adjacent to the University of Limerick (UL), the National Technology Park is home to many internationally renowned companies and indigenous firms. If sport is your thing, Limerick offers a wide range of activities and team sports, including Ireland’s national games of hurling and football and Limerick’s favourite sport, rugby, which is played in the iconic Thomond Park Stadium, home ground of the famous Munster rugby team. UL houses Coaching Ireland and hosts many national and international sporting events.

“Limerick is a vibrant, living, cosmopolitan city.”
UL is an independent, internationally focused university with 12,000 students and over 1,300 staff.”
The UL community comprises 12,000 students, of whom 13 per cent are international. We realise that each student has unique ambitions and motivations, which is why UL offers a wide range of undergraduate and taught postgraduate programmes across four faculties: Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; Education and Health Sciences; Kemmy Business School; and Science and Engineering. We are proud to say that UL is a progressive, dynamic, modern and internationally focused university that enables students to realise their full potential and exceed their ambitions.

The easy-to-navigate university campus is located five kilometres from Limerick city and 20 kilometres from Shannon International Airport. With the River Shannon as a unifying focal point, UL is situated on a state-of-the-art 133-hectare campus. Our unrivalled recreational, cultural and sporting facilities further enhance the UL experience, which makes our university environment among the very best there is anywhere in the world.

Choose UL

Erasmus and International Exchanges

With over 260 partners, UL has the largest Erasmus (European exchange) programme in Ireland. Destination countries include Austria, Cyprus, Hungary, Norway and the United Kingdom. UL also has a number of exchange agreements with universities outside the EU. There are active student exchanges with institutions in the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, China, Singapore, Thailand, South Korea and Mexico. The Erasmus and international exchange programmes are open to all full-degree students.
Cooperative Education

The University of Limerick has an unrivalled reputation for working with industry leaders, something that is hugely beneficial to our students. UL pioneered the first ever Cooperative Education programme in Ireland, which is now one of the largest undergraduate internships in Europe. The programme places 2,000 students annually with over 1,500 employers/corporations located throughout Ireland, Europe, the USA, Canada, Latin America, Asia and Australia. Students gain vast experience in a wide range of sectors, including industry, not-for-profit, IT and banking.

Graduate Employment

With a graduate employment rate that is consistently higher than the national average, UL’s graduates find employment in all sectors of the economy. In 2011, over 85 per cent of UL graduates successfully gained employment or chose to continue with further studies, and this is something we are hugely proud of.

The Careers Service provides information and support to help students to develop and implement effective career plans in preparation for graduation and beyond. Services include careers advice and information, career planning seminars, careers fairs, company presentations and interviews, and vacancy notification.

UL Voted No. 1 by International Students

UL has been voted by international students throughout seven Irish universities as number 1 for providing the best student experience and support as well as the warmest welcome. UL ranks in the top five universities internationally across the four surveyed categories of ‘Living’, ‘Support’, ‘Arrival’ and ‘Learning’. The International Student Barometer™ survey was undertaken by independent research group i-Grauduate and involved 238 institutions worldwide, including the seven Irish universities.

Support at UL

At UL we welcome students from all around the world. This means we have vast experience in supporting you and ensuring that you settle in easily to your new life and studies in Limerick.

The UL rate of retaining students is nine per cent higher than the majority of Irish institutions (HEA: 2010). The UL First Seven Weeks programme provides targeted and individual support for first-year students. All support centres operate on a free drop-in basis and include the Maths Learning Centre, Writing Centre, Science Learning Centre and Information & Communications Technology Centre.

The International Education Division’s student support officer helps international students to settle into life at UL and supports them in specific areas. Initiatives organised for international students include the Buddy Programme, International Cultural Week, language training and study skills.

Our International Office offers ongoing advice and support throughout your time with us at UL.
Key research strengths at UL include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Area</th>
<th>Key Research Areas</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Materials &amp; Surface Science</td>
<td>Composite materials; nano-materials; solid-state pharmaceutical materials; catalysis and clean technologies; and bio-mimetic materials</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information &amp; Communication Technologies</td>
<td>Software engineering; telecommunications and networks; and energy efficiency and thermal energy systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bioengineering &amp; Biosciences</td>
<td>Micro-fluidics and biomedical engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture, Diversity &amp; Social Change</td>
<td>Social identities; class, ethnicity and gender inequalities; historical processes; applied languages; comparative literatures; law-in-action; and public policy and democratic performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>Biomass and biofuels; materials for energy; energy storage and generation; and evaluation and support of energy systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applied Mathematical Sciences</td>
<td>Mathematical modelling of fundamental problems in science, engineering and industry; and financial mathematics</td>
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</table>
Ireland’s Sporting Campus

Sport is an essential element of life here on campus, and UL boasts a diverse range of state-of-the-art sports facilities at the University Arena, the Outdoor Activity Centre and the University Boathouse. Facilities also include a 50-metre swimming pool, sprint track, suspended jogging track, indoor courts, cardio-fitness centre, powered rowing tank, 400-metre track and the University Pavillon. The University Arena offers a packed schedule of fitness classes. With over 36 sports clubs on campus, students are never short of activity.

Clubs and Societies

Joining one of our many clubs and societies is one of the very best ways to integrate into student life in UL. With over 60 clubs and societies to choose from, students can take advantage of learning new sports such as archery, diving, windsurfing and much more. Our societies cater for all students and include, to name but a few, photography, drama, traditional music and politics. The International Society is popular with many students and offers great opportunities to travel to different parts of Ireland during the year.
“Outstanding recreational, cultural and sporting facilities further enhance this exceptional learning and working environment.”
Living on campus offers:

- Integrated accommodation
- An extremely comfortable and secure environment with an onsite manager
- Private bedroom/study and shower room
- High-speed internet access at all times
- Opportunity to mix with other Irish and international students
- Shops, laundry and bus service, all within walking distance
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Student Villages</th>
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<tr>
<td>Plassey Village</td>
<td>Because many of the houses sleep eight people, Plassey Village is a great place to make friends. The village’s 4-bedroom houses are ideal for postgraduate and senior students. Terraced houses are grouped around landscaped courtyards, which helps to create a friendly communal atmosphere. Shops are located very close to the village, and a regular bus service to Limerick operates every 20 minutes from a stop directly opposite the village.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kilmurry Village</td>
<td>Kilmurry Village is a complex of terraced houses in landscaped grounds, close to the Sports Arena and all the other sports facilities within UL – the ideal place if you want to be on the track or in the pool before breakfast. Tennis courts and playing fields are all close by. Houses sleep six to eight students and have spacious living room/kitchen facilities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomond Village</td>
<td>Thomond Village offers 2/4/6 bedroom apartments with stunning views of the River Shannon and the Errina Canal. All bedrooms include en suite bathrooms. Thomond Village is located on the North Campus, which is linked to the South Campus by means of a spectacular bridge across the River Shannon.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cappavilla Village</td>
<td>Also located on the North Campus, Cappavilla Village is an attractive apartment-style residence. Built on the highest point of the campus, the views of the surrounding counties and the River Shannon are superb. Offering 2/4/6 bedroom apartments, all en suite, the village has its own launderette and games room.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dromroe Village</td>
<td>Dromroe Village is an attractive apartment-style complex bordering the Mill stream and overlooking the River Shannon. Its apartments sleep six people and include large and en suite facilities. The village has a communal hall with seminar rooms and an excellent convenience store.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Quigley Residence</td>
<td>Exclusively for postgraduate students, the Quigley Residence is the newest development on the North Campus and houses 120 students in comfortable 4-bed and 2-bed apartments. Located adjacent to the new Graduate Medical School Building, the Quigley Residence provides modern facilities in attractive landscape surrounds. The complex is operated from Cappavilla Village and shares management and reception services with Cappavilla Village residents.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Programmes on Offer for International Students

Undergraduate Programmes

UL offers over 60 four-year primary degree programmes and one five-year programme in the areas of arts, business, education, engineering, health sciences, humanities, informatics and electronics, social sciences, and science. For further details, see the undergraduate prospectus on the UL website (www.ul.ie). The academic year runs from September to May, and intending students can apply directly to the International Education Division at UL.

► Academic Requirements

Undergraduate candidates must have attained an educational qualification equivalent to the Irish Leaving Certificate, A levels (UK system) or International Baccalaureate. Applicants must have certification in mathematics, English and another language.

Enquiries on the equivalence of overseas qualifications can be directed by email to the International Education Division at international@ul.ie.

► Application Process and Deadline

July 1st is the application deadline for September entry – processing time is approximately five working days. Application forms should be returned to the International Education Division, University of Limerick, Limerick, Ireland by July 1st for September entry and should be accompanied by certification of all educational qualifications and certification demonstrating a high level of proficiency in English.

"UL offers over 90 taught postgraduate programmes..."
Postgraduate Programmes

UL offers over 90 taught postgraduate programmes and an extensive range of graduate research opportunities across the university’s four faculties. Taught programmes range from graduate diplomas to professional doctorates. The postgraduate prospectus is available online through the UL website www.ul.ie

▶ Academic Requirements

Applicants to a master’s degree are generally required to hold an honours primary degree in a relevant discipline.

The range of equivalent overseas qualifications are too numerous to cover here – enquiries to the International Education Division can be made by email to international@ul.ie.

▶ Application Process and Deadline

July 1st is the application deadline for September entry – processing time is approximately five to seven working days.

Students must apply online for taught postgraduate programmes through UL’s Graduate School website www.graduateschool.ul.ie.

What to include with your application:

• Certified results for all examinations mentioned on your application form and/or confirmation of the award of your qualification(s)
• Evidence of English language proficiency
• Certified translations of your award, and transcripts if they are not in English
The Study Abroad programme at UL is open to international students who are already in college/university and who wish to take one semester or one academic year at undergraduate level at UL. Participants in the Study Abroad programme include students from the USA, Japan, China, Europe and South America.

**Programme highlights**
- Campus-based university
- Fully integrated programme and accommodation
- Choice of modules across all four faculties
- Two-week ‘try-out’ on all classes
- Modular/credit system
- Two-semester academic calendar
- 6 ECTS = 3 US credits
- 4-point scale GPA
- Organised field trips

**Design your own programme**
A significant advantage of the curriculum here at UL is that students can select modules from all four faculties of the university, thereby meeting their own personal major, minor or general elective course requirements. Over 1,200 modules (classes/courses) are offered each semester.

**Classes**
Study Abroad students at UL are fully integrated into the domestic student body and take the same lectures, seminars, tutorials and assessments as other students. A full listing of modules (classes) on offer for Autumn and Spring semesters is available on the Study Abroad page of the International Education Division website (www.ul.ie/international).

**Study Abroad Application Procedures**
Students may apply directly to UL, thorough their home college/university or through a number of USA education agencies. Up-to-date programme costs, entry requirements and application details are available on www.ul.ie/international.
Summer Schools Programme

UL’s summer schools offer students a worthwhile learning, social and cultural experience. Students choose one course option from the six areas of Irish literature, history, sociology, media, law and creative writing. The course is taken on a full-time basis over a three-week period and is worth three academic credits (six ECTS credits). Social outings and trips are planned to give students a taste of life in Ireland and the chance to see some of Ireland’s breathtaking scenery. Trips to Dublin and to the spectacular County Clare coast are included, and the summer school concludes with a barbeque. By combining academic rigour with opportunities to experience contemporary life in Ireland and witness Ireland’s dramatic landscape, we believe international students will find our summer schools to be both challenging and enjoyable.

The programme includes:

- Transfer from/to Shannon Airport (SNN)
- Lunch and dinner every day
- Free e-mail account at UL
- Three excursions with qualified tour guides
- Assessment and transcript
- B&B on-campus accommodation
- Membership of the University Sports Arena
- 45 hours of class tuition
- Attendance certificate
- Receptions

▶ Summer School Application Procedures

Admission is either by direct application or through an approved source (e.g. home college/university or study abroad agency). A recommendation from a home college/university professor or instructor is required. Application forms are available online through the International Education Division website.

“Trips to Dublin and to the spectacular County Clare coast are included...”
Information for International Students

► Health Insurance
Non-EU nationals must hold medical insurance for the duration of their study in Ireland. Students can purchase an insurance policy in conjunction with UL at [www.ul.studentfees.ie/studentregistration.aspx](http://www.ul.studentfees.ie/studentregistration.aspx).

► Visa and Immigration
Most non-EU students entering Ireland must show airport officials a valid student visa. Where a student visa is not mandatory, an offer letter from UL is required.

► English Language Requirements
Students whose first language is not English must show evidence of a high level of proficiency in spoken and written English.

Acceptable qualifications include:

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<th>Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL):</th>
<th>550  (paper-based)</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>213  (computer-based)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>80    (internet-based)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>International English Language Testing System (IELTS):</th>
<th>Minimum score of 6.5 for Arts, Humanities, Business or Education programmes.*</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Minimum score of 6.0 for Science, Engineering, Informatics or Electronics programmes.*</td>
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<td></td>
<td>*with no less than 6 in any one component</td>
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Full details of other English language qualifications accepted by UL are available from the International Education Division website [www.ul.ie/international](http://www.ul.ie/international)