CAMPUS GUIDE
SELF-GUIDED CAMPUS TOUR
Welcome to the University of Limerick (UL). Centred on the majestic River Shannon, the University is set on a magnificent riverside campus of over 130 hectares in size. With the aim of providing new degrees relevant to Ireland’s membership of the European Economic Community and its emerging technology industries, UL was the first university to be created in the State since 1922. Founded as the National Institute of Higher Education (NIHE) in 1972, university status was achieved in 1989.

With over 13,000 students and 1,300 staff, UL has a record of innovation and excellence in education as the first institution in Ireland to introduce modular courses, continuous assessment and Co-operative Education. The University engages with local businesses and industries to provide courses which are relevant to the needs of society. As a result, graduates of the University have an employment rate higher than the national average. Leading-edge translational research is conducted, particularly in the areas of software, science, engineering and technology.

The University of Limerick has superb cultural and sporting facilities, which are also enjoyed by the local community and which contribute to creating a truly ‘open campus’. The visual arts are strongly represented by a variety of outdoor sculptures and several painting collections, including the National Self-Portrait Collection of Ireland and The Water Colour Society of Ireland National Collection. The Bourn Vincent Gallery hosts temporary exhibitions. The Irish Chamber Orchestra is located on campus and performs a series of concerts each year in the University Concert Hall. With its outstanding facilities, UL Sport caters for all levels of sports enthusiasts, from beginner to elite athlete, including Munster Rugby team members. In addition to the splendid facilities of the Arena and outdoor pitches and track, the campus itself makes a wonderful location for walking and running.

Up to 2,500 students can live on campus in five attractive village residences. These villages, together with the best sporting facilities of any university in Ireland and great cafes, bars and retail services, contribute to a highly regarded ‘campus experience’.

The grounds in which the University is situated are exceptional. Based on physical development plans that respond to the strategic needs of the University, particular attention has always been paid to the design and development of the campus. Developed in the 18th and 19th centuries, the extensive parkland was part of the lands surrounding Plassey House. At that period in landscape history, the fashion was for sweeping lawns with strategically placed groups of trees dotted around the lawns and bounded by woodland. It was also popular to have a selection of exotic trees in demesnes. Plassey has some lovely specimens today from that era. The additional planting of both native and exotic trees has further enriched the beauty of the campus, while each new building is attractively landscaped.

The University was ranked 16th in the world in 2015 in the Green Metric Ranking of World Universities for its achievements in working towards campus sustainability and in managing the campus in an environmentally friendly manner. The resulting campus provides an exceptional amenity not only to staff and students but also to members of the wider community, who make regular use of the wonderful facilities on offer.

This booklet will guide you around parts of the campus, highlighting buildings and areas of beauty. At a leisurely pace, the tour should take around one hour.
The **Visitor Centre** is located in the Student Courtyard. It provides a warm welcome to the University and displays information on campus facilities. A short informative video gives an overview of the university. Visitors may also purchase university branded merchandise along with an attractive selection of local craft items. [www.ul.ie/visitorcentre](http://www.ul.ie/visitorcentre)

Turn right out of the Visitor Centre and walk through the arch into The **Student Courtyard** (1985), colloquially known as The Stables as it is set in the original stables of Plassey House. The Student Courtyard is the hub of student life as the Students’ Union and student societies and clubs are based there. The Courtyard offers restaurants and bars, a bank, retail outlets and the Contemplative Centre. A popular Farmers’ Market takes place there every Tuesday showcasing local produce and crafts.

Walk out onto the roadway, look left and admire the **Analog Building** (2015), which is home to the Bernal Project of world-leading applied research in the fields of science, engineering and technology. Note the building’s unique glass CUBE with bespoke printed-pattern glass cladding. The building has been designed to be highly energy efficient.

Straight ahead is the **UL Sport Arena** (2000). UL Sport’s magnificent facilities, including an Olympic standard swimming pool, well equipped gyms, four multipurpose courts, a 60m indoor sprint track and a 225m jogging track, which with outdoor pitches, courts, a running track and the Boathouse all contribute to UL’s designation as Ireland’s Sports Campus. The facilities are open to the public. The Munster Rugby Academy’s new Training Centre and an extension to the Sport Arena, including a 25m training pool with diving boards, will also be located there.
En route to the Glucksman Library, pause to admire the **Inauguration Stone** of the University with its crest and motto ‘Eagna Chun Gnimm’ (Wisdom for Action) and on the back a poetic inscription from Yeats.

The Glucksman Library (1997) was partly financed by the philanthropists Lewis and Loretta Glucksman, after whom it is named. With over one million in-person visits annually and 1.5 million downloads from the digital collections, the Library is one of the most popular and heavily used places on campus. It provides full access to high-quality academic information and resources, such as books, journals, media and data.

The Special Collections Section of the library collects, preserves and makes accessible rare books, print, philatelic and numismatic collections and several important archives. Among these are the Bolton Library and the National Dance Archive of Ireland. Visitors may apply in advance for access to the Library. **Now continue to the Plaza.**

The cast iron sculpture ‘**Together and Apart**’ by Antony Gormley is probably the most famous sculpture on campus. The figure is known affectionately as ‘Brown Thomas’ in reference to his colour. Situated between the Main Building and the Library, the statue connects the more communal activity of teaching with the more individual activity of studying. Its position, facing the Library as it does, could also be seen as a gentle reminder to students of the importance of study.

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The glass-fronted **Main Building** (1984) on the right houses the Main Reception of the University. Student support services, UL administration, department offices and laboratories are also located there. The building houses the flourishing Community Roof Garden, a collaborative effort of staff and students.

Admire the long sweep of lawn stretching down to the **Schuman Building** (1991), with its two fountains and the six identical elements of polished steel which form ‘**Geometric Forms**’ by Alexandra Wejchert.
The impressive public University Concert Hall, the first purpose-built concert hall in the state, seats 1,000 people and stages a varied programme of classical, operatic and popular music, drama, comedy and pantomime. The Concert Hall also provides a wonderful venue for University graduation ceremonies, and for national and international conference. A model of Leonardo Da Vinci’s Flying Machine is exhibited in the foyer.

The Foundation Building (1993) contains distinct academic and cultural areas. An extensive postgraduate research area forms the academic zone of the building while a concert hall and art galleries form the cultural zone. Many private donors, including local businesses, individuals and The Atlantic Philanthropies helped to fund the Foundation Building.

On the balconies above the Concert Hall you will find part of The National Self-Portrait Collection of Ireland, where artists have depicted themselves in many different media and situations. The Bourn Vincent Gallery, which hosts regular exhibitions, is also situated there.

'Buile Suibhne', the wonderful Venetian glass mosaic by Desmond Kinney, is on the main floor of the Foundation Building. A smaller mosaic by the same artist, 'Wandering Aengus' is on the lower ground floor where you can also find part of The Water Colour Society of Ireland National Collection, both landscapes and still lives. Further details on the University’s Art Collections can be found in the Art Trail booklet, which is available in the Visitor Centre. Now turn right up to Plassey House.
**Plassey House**

(known as the White House), an Italian palazzo-style villa, was first built by William Maunsell in the late 18th century. Maunsell’s work for the East India Company disposing of the spoils of the battle of Plassey made him extremely wealthy. To mark the source of much of his wealth, or possibly because the landscape of Plassey, with its river and groves of trees, reminded him of the battle grounds, he named his estate Plassey. The house was originally symmetrical, with two rooms on either side of the hallway. It was extended to its current size in the 19th century by Richard Russell, a well-known miller in Limerick.

Plassey House now holds part of the University’s art collection. The imposing East Room displays 18th and 19th century landscape paintings while upstairs are some 20th century masterpieces, including those of Jack Yeats, Mainie Jellett and Evie Hone. This pleasant building and its paintings may be viewed during office hours.

When NIHE first opened its doors to students in 1972, lectures, library and administration were all accommodated in Plassey House. Today it is where visitors to the University are welcomed. The offices of the President and Vice-Presidents are located here while the splendid rooms are used as meeting venues. Before leaving Plassey House, admire the view of the Living Bridge and the Clare Hills beyond, which flows towards the city.

**The Close**

behind Plassey House, is bounded on three sides by the Main Building, part of which comprised the first new buildings of NIHE (1974). In the period when Plassey House was being built and extended, it was popular to have a selection of exotic trees in demesnes. Many of the trees in the Close are part of the arboretum and date back to those eras. Located in the Close and with a girth of 9.0 metres and a height of approximately 30 metres, the most impressive tree on campus is the Monterey Cypress. Details of some of the other trees in the Close and around Plassey House can be found in the *UL Flora and Fauna* booklet available from the Visitor Centre. The Close is a very pleasant place to sit and enjoy the soothing sound of the great fountain. **Now walk towards the Living Bridge.**
SELF-GUIDED
CAMPUS TOUR

1. Visitor Centre and Student Courtyard
   [Start & End of tour]
2. Analog Building and UL Sport Arena
3. Glucksman Library
4. The Plaza
5. Foundation Building
6. Plassey House
7. The Close
8. The Living Bridge
9. Irish World Academy of Music and Dance
10. Medical School Building
11. Riverside Plaza
12. Millstream Walk
13. Reflecting Pool and Silver Pencils
The route to the Living Bridge takes you along Chancellors Walk which is bordered by the Engineering Research Building (2005). The busts on pedestals feature distinguished figures who were former chancellors of the University. The entrance to the Living Bridge is in the Millstream Courtyard, where the Languages Building (2008), Millstream Common Room (2005) and cafés are also located.

From the bridge you can see the riverside walk, which passes the University Boathouse (2007) and continues into Limerick. Also visible are The Vehicular Bridge (2004), with its angled tapered fish tail lighting standards and Thomond Village Residences (2004).

The Living Bridge (2007), the longest pedestrian bridge in Ireland, has become an iconic feature of the campus. It consists of seven 50-metre spans on which are located four sheltered platforms. These are designed as resting or refuge places for walkers, for social gatherings, informal classes or music or dance performances, making it a veritable living bridge.

The bridge curves over the river reflecting the flow of the river itself. Consequently and unusually, the end of the bridge is not in sight when you step onto it. The bridge is particularly beautiful at night when illuminated by various colour schemes.

As you cross the Living Bridge you move from County Limerick to County Clare. The University is unique in Ireland in being sited in two counties.

The Irish World Academy of Music and Dance (2010) provides courses in both Irish and classical music and dance. The building is characterised by a variety of building materials, a gold tower, and inside a magnificent mosaic of 'Sionna' by Desmond Kinney. Lunchtime concerts, to which members of the public are welcome, take place several times a week each semester.

The Academy is another example of one of the many projects on campus supported by The Atlantic Philanthropies.
The award winning Medical School Building (2012), situated at the end of the ‘street’ and in the Riverside Plaza, is built in grey limestone, the stone of County Clare. The colonnade with its eye-catching succession of arches provides both an entrance and a meeting space. The placement of the stone wall responds to sun, rain and wind. The building won the RIBA 2013 EU Award and was a finalist in the highly prestigious RIBA Stirling Prize.

The Graduate Entry Medical School offers a highly innovative four year course for graduates of any discipline with an emphasis on problem-based learning.

The adjoining brown brick buildings of the Quigley Residences are reserved for medical and postgraduate students.

Also located in the Riverside Plaza is the Health Sciences Building (2005) with its interesting curved zinc, sloping glass and cedar exterior. Further on you emerge into the Riverside Plaza.

The UL Sports Pavilion Building (2012) provides changing and squad rooms for teams using the superb fully floodlit all-weather synthetic pitches for rugby, soccer and Gaelic games. The Pavilion building also includes an attractive bar and restaurant, which are popular with the public as well as the teams.

Now walk back across the Living Bridge admiring the views of Plassey House with its sweeping lawn. Then cross the Millstream Courtyard and descend the concrete steps on the right.
This lovely peaceful shady Millstream Walk runs by the stream which powered the corn mill founded by Major Maunsell in 1824. The mill had been abandoned by the end of the 19th century. Pause at the small grey bridge midway down the walk and, when the trees are not in leaf, look right to see how the ruin of the mill is perfectly framed between the buildings of Drumroe Student Village (2001).

Cross the bridge and the road. Ahead is the Computer Science and Information Systems CSIS building (1999), while to the right is the Tierney Building (2011) with its silver tower, which houses Lero, the Irish Software Research Centre. The Tierney building was supported through the generosity of UL Foundation director, Dr Dan Tierney, and the Tierney family.

Walk up by the long rectangular Reflecting Pool with its gentle jets. At the top you have the wonderful kinetic sculpture ‘Silver Pencils’ by Peter Logan. Stand and watch the slow movements of these slender pencils as they describe elegant movements in the air.

Walk to the right and up the steps between the Foundation Building and the Library. Turn right and then left, and admire the sculpture ‘Leaf Litany’ by Tom Fitzgerald with its gentle jets of water.

To end your tour walk past the sculpture, and then turn right into the Student Courtyard to arrive back at the Visitor Centre.

When the trees are not in leaf, visible on the first floor of the 2008 Kemmy Business School (to the far right) is the white box of the Trading Floor, where students can obtain real-time global trading data from trading and investment software. This was the first purpose-built trading floor in any EU university.