



**Trinity College Dublin**

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

School of Religion, Theology, and  
Peace Studies  
Trinity College Dublin, at Belfast

Guide for International Students

2025-26



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## Introduction

Welcome to the guide for international students at the School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies, Trinity College Dublin at Belfast.

If you are planning to study in Belfast, the information you will need as an international student is different than if you were going to the main Trinity campus in Dublin, as you will be studying in the UK.

This guide covers visas, healthcare, accommodation, working and more. There are contact details for the office in Belfast at the end of the document. Please get in touch if you have any questions!

## UK Student Visas

**See also our latest VISA FAQ at this [link](#).**

Most international students, including EU residents, will need a [UK student visa](#) to study in Northern Ireland. British or Irish passport holders or those with EU settled or pre-settled status can study in the UK without a visa. It is the student's own responsibility to ensure the correct visa is in place if required before travelling.

For the UK student visa application, you will need a CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance) number, provided by the School once a firm offer has been accepted. You will also need a valid passport and enough money to cover your fees and 9 months of living expenses.

The earliest you can start your visa application is 6 months before the course start date.

### *Financial requirements*

You may need to show evidence of enough money to cover your first year of course fees and 9 months of living expenses, currently estimated at £1136 per month. Confirmation of a student loan is accepted as evidence. Please visit the [UK student visa website](#) to learn more

about financial requirements - the evidence you may be asked for can differ depending on nationality.

### *Immigration healthcare surcharge*

An immigration healthcare surcharge is payable as part of the visa application. The current cost is £776 for each 12-month period. This allows you to access public health services for the duration of your studies. You will still need to take the step of registering with a doctor's practice on arrival.

NB: PhD students are required to pay a surcharge which covers the full period of study in advance. Any dependents (spouse and/or children) are also required to pay the surcharge as part of their separate visa application.

### *Bringing dependents*

Only students coming for doctoral research can bring dependents when coming to study in the UK.

### *Your visa documentation*

If your application is successful, you will receive your student visa in digital form along with a share code to provide to any organization that needs to verify your immigration status, for example an accommodation provider or employer.

When available, please email your share code to the Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation (CRR) office at [sradmbfst@tcd.ie](mailto:sradmbfst@tcd.ie) to enable us to download your e-visa for our records.

In the case of errors, for example there is no right to work or your personal details are incorrect, visit [the e-visa error reporting page](#).

### *Records kept for students on a UK visa*

- Evidence of date of arrival in UK (usually copy of travel ticket)
- Copy of e-visa
- Copy of photograph page of passport and entry stamp
- Term time address and contact phone number



- Attendance record

We will contact incoming students to gather the required documents before and after arrival. Records are kept according to College [Data Protection Policy](#).

### *Graduate Visa*

Students who successfully complete an MPhil or PhD are eligible to apply for a graduate visa for 2 or 3 years respectively. There are no restrictions on the type of work graduates can do.

### *Further information*

- [UK Council for International Student Affairs \(UKCISA\)](#)
- Read the Student Visa FAQ on our [Students Studying in Belfast](#) page.

## Irish Visas

To travel to the Republic of Ireland, some students may need an Irish short stay 'C' visit (tourist) visa depending on nationality. To check if you need a visa to visit the Republic of Ireland, visit the official [Visit Ireland](#) website. The application is online, and once completed you will need to post documents. The CRR office can provide a supporting letter to confirm your student status. It is recommended to start your application 3 months before you plan to travel. If for example you wish to start a Dublin module in January or attend the one-day Dublin field trip in March/April bear this in mind when making your application. For more information see [Irish Immigration Service](#).

Don't forget however, you can complete your studies in Belfast without going to Dublin! Normally at least one module from the School's Dublin-based MPhil courses will be made available online for CRR students.

## Start of Term Dates and Orientation

The first event of the new academic year is CRR Orientation Day in early September. This takes place at the School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies in Belfast where the course is taught. Incoming students will be informed of this and other key dates as soon as they are available\*. CRR orientation day includes sessions on practical information and course content. Lunch is provided and is followed by a walking tour of the Queen's Quarter area to familiarize new students with the location of the Queen's library and sports centre, where memberships are available. \* For 2025-26 Orientation is on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September.

There is also a packed programme of events during postgraduate orientation week in Dublin. Attendance is completely optional at any Dublin-based events; there is normally plenty to join in online!

Our School on the main campus in Dublin also holds a postgraduate orientation day in September. CRR students are welcome to attend. It is a good way to meet other students and staff in the wider School and an opportunity to see the historic campus and collect your TCard (student ID card) from Academic Registry. Arrangements are also in place to have TCards posted to the CRR office in Belfast.

### *When should you plan to arrive?*

It is worth arriving a week or two before the start of term if you need to find a place to live. Booking a room in advance in one of the many student accommodation blocks is a popular option however - see the accommodation section for more information.

## Travel to Belfast

You are likely to travel to Northern Ireland by one of three routes: a flight directly to Belfast International Airport; a flight into another part of the UK (e.g. London Heathrow) and a connecting flight to Belfast International or Belfast City Airport, or a direct flight to Dublin. Bus services operate from all airports into Belfast city centre.

UKCISA has a useful [guide](#) on what to expect on arrival at a UK airport, whether you can use an e-gate and what documents to carry in your hand luggage. Whatever your point of entry, UK, or Ireland (see below), it is important to keep proof of your arrival date, as use of the e-passport gate means you may not encounter an immigration officer and will not get a stamp in your passport. It is important not to travel before the start date on your student visa and enter as a tourist. For the student visa to be activated, you would be required to leave and re-enter on or after the student visa start date.

### *Arrival via Dublin*

If you plan to fly into Dublin Airport, ensure that you have a valid visa to enter the Republic of Ireland if you are a visa-required national. To check if you need a visa to visit the Republic of Ireland, visit the official [Visit Ireland](#) website. After arriving in Dublin, you can travel to Belfast. However, please be prepared to present valid documents for entering the UK if requested.

## Find Us

The School is located at Edgehill House, 9 Lennoxvale, Belfast, BT9 5BY, [click here for a map](#). Past students tell us that if coming by taxi for your first visit its best to give the driver this address, as it's unlikely they will be familiar with Trinity College Dublin at Belfast!

Edgehill House is a shared building with the Methodist Church so you will see signs for both at the gate. It is around a 10-minute taxi ride from Grand Central Station where the airport buses arrive in town. To reach our building by bus, take the 8B or 8C from Howard Street behind the City Hall. Hop off two stops past Queen's University and you will find Edgehill House at the end of Lennoxvale. To walk from the city centre takes around 30 minutes.

## *Travel between Belfast and Dublin*

International students are advised to carry ID documents when travelling between Belfast and Dublin as there are sometimes identity checks on public transport. Check in advance to see if you will need a visa to travel to Ireland even for a short visit. See section on Irish visas above for further information.

## Student Support Services

Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation is the only Trinity course based in Belfast. Living and studying in a divided society affords valuable opportunities for students, but the student experience here is different to attending a large campus university, or Trinity in Dublin. The department in Belfast has its own excellent specialist library and small core staff. Study space, sports facilities and clubs and societies are available through Queen's University Belfast (QUB) which is close by – see below to learn more about these arrangements. Most [Trinity student support services](#) can be accessed remotely **but be aware that students must travel to Dublin if they wish to access the full range of services in person**. An online session will take place early in the term to connect students with some of the main support services.

## Use of Queen's University Sports Centre and Library

The School of Religion, Theology, and Peace Studies is located a few minutes' walk from Queen's University, also known as QUB. Students can avail of sports, library, and clubs & societies at Queen's; the arrangements for each are explained below.

Trinity Sport covers the cost of membership at [Queen's Sport](#) for Trinity students studying in Belfast. Orientation day in September includes a tour of facilities and membership set-up.

With respect to library facilities, the school has a small specialist library on site with a librarian in attendance. In addition to this, study space is provided through access to the excellent state-of-the-art facilities at Queen's University library. Students take out an



[associate membership](#) and pay the fee (currently £120 for the year). The cost is reimbursed into your bank account. Find out more about QUB library facilities [here](#). Further information will be provided at orientation.

Finally, Queen's Students Union [clubs & societies](#) are open to any students living in the area. Over the years many Trinity Belfast students have signed up and enjoyed hiking in the Mourne, sports clubs, events, and gigs etc.

## Accommodation

It is a student's own responsibility to find accommodation for the year. To help you, in this section we provide information on student housing options, which areas of the city are best to live in and useful links to help you in your search.

### *Student Accommodation Blocks*

There are several student accommodation blocks in Belfast. They do fill up quickly so the earlier you can explore options the better. Facilities are usually well-equipped and up to date. There are two main areas to choose from: south Belfast near Queen's University with its sports centre and library and within walking distance of the School, or city centre near Ulster University. The latter is a longer journey to class but has become increasingly popular in recent years as the city centre becomes more student friendly.

[Stran Halls](#) – leafy south Belfast campus on Stranmillis Road near the river Lagan, for teacher training. Accommodation is open to students at any university.

[Botanic Studios](#) – Dublin Road, south Belfast

[Queen's University Accommodation](#) – south Belfast; includes some postgraduate housing at Willow Park. Priority is given to Queen's students however there may be availability for non-Queen's students, based on date of application. As Trinity at Belfast isn't listed on the drop-down menu on their website, please contact [allocations@qub.ac.uk](mailto:allocations@qub.ac.uk) or [accommodation@qub.ac.uk](mailto:accommodation@qub.ac.uk) if you would like to apply.

[Aster House](#) – Botanic Avenue, south Belfast.

[Bradbury Place](#) – Shaftesbury, south Belfast.

[Student Roost](#) – five city centre locations to choose from including Nelson Place, newly opened near Ulster University and a popular choice with current students.

[LIV Belfast](#) – York Street, city centre, near Ulster University.

[Vita Student](#) - Bruce Street, city centre, near Ulster University.

### *Renting a room in a private house*

A room in a shared house in a private rental can work well too and should be less expensive than a student accommodation block. Here are some pointers to bear in mind if renting privately:

A house which has 3 or more occupants who aren't from the same family needs to have a Homes of Multiple Occupancy (HMO) certificate. This ensures that the property meets regulations. If you will be living in an HMO you can [check if the property has a licence](#). Make sure you read the contract carefully before you sign, as you will be liable for the rent for the whole period once you sign. Is it the right length of time for your stay for example and is it affordable?

You should get a copy of the tenancy agreement, rent book, summary of tenancy terms and the landlord's name, address and contact details, and keep receipts for all payments made. It is the law that your deposit (which you get back at the end of your tenancy if you have paid the rent and looked after the property) is protected under a deposit protection scheme. Within 28 days of paying your deposit you should receive a document called 'Prescribed Information' with a unique reference number. You should follow this up if it doesn't appear within that time. The NIDirect government website has more useful information in their [student housing section](#).

If you are looking for a room in a shared house, search for somewhere suitable for postgrads or professionals. Generally, rooms start to become available from June. Here are some websites you can search:

- [Spare Room Flat Share](#)
- [Property Pal](#)
- [Gumtree](#)
- [Property News](#)

In addition, the CRR office can provide contact details of a landlady recommended by past students – please contact [sradmblfst@tcd.ie](mailto:sradmblfst@tcd.ie) for details.

### *Interested in sharing with others on the course?*

Once you have accepted an offer you can request to join the [CRR Facebook group](#) and you can also join the 'Goin to Trinity' app. Both will allow you to connect to other classmates so you could arrange to meet up when you arrive in town, or chat about sharing accommodation if you would like to do so.

### *Choosing which area to live in*

Plenty of private student rentals are available in south Belfast within walking distance of where you will be studying. These are Lisburn Road (also known as Windsor), Ormeau, Malone, Stranmillis, Ravenhill and Botanic. If you have seen a property online and want advice about what the area is like, please contact us and we'll be happy to advise you.

**NB: The area behind Queen's University known as 'the Holylands' is popular with undergrads and can be quite rowdy; for a quieter life you might prefer to avoid that area!**

### *Safety*

Belfast is a relatively safe city. There have been some incidents of racism and hate crimes, however there are plenty of areas where anyone will feel safe and welcome. Please get in touch if you would like advice about a particular area.

## *Luggage*

If you need somewhere to leave your luggage for a few days when you arrive, please contact us and we will do our best to help.

## Important Information on Access to Money

Please ensure you have access to enough money to see you through the first few weeks of term in the unlikely event there is any delay in processing student loans.

## Working

A UK student visa normally includes the right to work part-time unless stated otherwise. Certain kinds of work are not permitted such as self-employment, setting up a business or taking up a permanent post. If your visa application is successful, you will be told what kind of work you can and cannot do. See [UK student visa overview](#) for guidance. Working up to 20 hours a week is permitted during term time and full-time during the holidays. Term time includes the summer dissertation writing period after classes have ended. After dissertation submission, students are free to work full-time for the rest of their leave to remain and may wish to consider switching to the Graduate Route before their student visa expires.

If you want to get a job, you will need to obtain a [National Insurance Number](#). You can search for jobs through the local press or online. Local bars, cafés and shops will often post vacancies in their window, so you can drop in your CV. Bear in mind that if you take the Community Learning module you will also have an internship to factor into your time. As we are a small department, unfortunately we cannot offer employment opportunities to students. [UKCISA](#) has lots of helpful tips on working as a student in the UK.

## Healthcare

A UK student visa entitles you to use of the National Health Service (NHS). You are encouraged to register with a doctor at the start of term in case you need medical care during your stay. Find out more on our healthcare factsheet available to download [here](#).

## Living Costs

The cost of living for students outside London is estimated at £1136 per month at the time of writing (Jan 2025), although you should find Belfast a little cheaper compared to the rest of the UK. UKCISA has a helpful section on [student finances](#).

## Currency

The currency used in Northern Ireland is pounds sterling. The Republic of Ireland uses euros. You can use both sterling and euros on the train to Dublin. Trinity fees are always in euros.

## Opening a Bank Account

If you wish to open a UK bank account at a local branch you will need your passport, visa share code and a letter from us to confirm your student status (once you are registered) as well as evidence of your term time address such as a lease or rental agreement. It is also worth exploring digital bank accounts such as Revolut as this helps to avoid some charges.

## The Weather!

Northern Ireland has a mild, temperate climate. It is rare to get extremes of hot or cold, especially hot.... Do bring warm clothing, and a waterproof coat and shoes. Layers are best, as the weather is always changeable.

## Transport

[Translink](#) operate all public bus and train services in Northern Ireland, making it easy to find information. The bus service in the city is called Metro. Various discount cards are available to help save money. Regular buses and trains run between Belfast and Dublin. The bus is cheaper but there are webfares available for the train if booked a few days in advance.

Other Belfast to Dublin bus services are available through [Aircoach](#). A new service, [Dublin Express](#) drops off at Trinity.

International students are advised to carry ID documents when travelling between Belfast and Dublin as identity checks are sometimes carried out on public transport crossing the border. See above section on Irish visas to determine whether you will require a visa to travel to the Republic of Ireland.

## Shops for setting up home

Ikea – Holywood Exchange served by various Metro buses from city centre

B & M Store – Rosemary Street, city centre, also on Boucher Road, south Belfast

Dunnes – off Cornmarket, city centre

B & M Homestore, Home Bargains, the Range – Boucher Road, south Belfast

Primark – city centre

Charity shops – a great place to find second-hand homeware and save a few pounds.

## Further Information on Living in Belfast

More information about student life in Belfast is available on our [Students Studying in Belfast](#) page.



## Further Information on studying in the UK

[UK Council for International Student Affairs \(UKCISA\)](#)

[British Council](#)

[UK Visas and Immigration](#)

## Living in Dublin

The Trinity [Global Room](#) provides information for international students living in Dublin - reach out to our Student Ambassadors for insights from other international students. Please review the information on travel and Irish visas above, while further information is available on the [Arriving in Ireland](#) page.

## Contact Us

*Skype or Zoom calls are available – please email the member of staff to arrange this.*

**Caroline Clarke, Senior Executive Officer, CRR office, Belfast**

Tel: +44(0)28 9077 0087

Monday – Friday, 9.00am – 1.00pm

Email: [sradmbfst@tcd.ie](mailto:sradmbfst@tcd.ie)

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Email: [srlibbfst@tcd.ie](mailto:srlibbfst@tcd.ie)

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