WELCOME TO THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS OF DIT

May I extend a warm welcome to all our visiting exchange students and trust that you will have an enjoyable and fruitful time here in the College of Business at DIT and here in Dublin, the capital of Ireland.

The College of Business is Ireland’s largest Business School. The learning resources here in Aungier Street are first class and you will enjoy access to state of the art IT facilities, learning platforms and the finest business library in these islands.

All of these facilities are situated in downtown Dublin, a vibrant and dynamic capital with an exciting range of theatres, live music venues and cultural events. Your presence amongst us is valued also because you help to bring an international perspective to our local students. Do make the effort to network and socialise with your fellow students. May I strongly recommend that you join one of the many societies and sport clubs.

Dublin is a wonderful city but there is much else in Ireland you should experience.

Make the effort to see the rest of Ireland. It will be the beginning of a lifelong relationship!

You will find our staff and students friendly and helpful but do not hesitate to talk to your Heads of Department and Heads of School if you feel you need specific advice and guidance.

I wish you every success in your studies at The College of Business in DIT.

Yours sincerely,

Paul O’Sullivan  
Dean and Director,  
College of Business,  
Dublin Institute of Technology

The Dublin Institute of Technology: A History

The Dublin Institute of Technology has been providing education for over one hundred years, since 1887, and is now the largest third level institution in the Republic of Ireland. Over 22,000 full-time and part-time students are enrolled on a variety of courses spanning such diverse fields from engineering, science, tourism, applied arts to the built environment and, of course, business.

The DIT is part of the fabric of Dublin with seven different centres located across the city encompassing six faculties. The unique nature of DIT as a provider of education was recognised in 1992 when the Dublin Institute of Technology Act was passed, making DIT an autonomous university-level institution. Further development came in 1998 when DIT commenced awarding its own degrees in addition to its complement of higher certificates. DIT now awards qualifications at Higher Certificate level (two year programmes), degree level (three/four year programmes) and at Masters and Ph.D. level.

This range and depth of the courses and their qualifications reflects DITs unique position in providing third level education. The benefits of this unique position are the innovative and responsive nature of
the learning environment and the close contact between staff and students with the back up of state-of-the-art facilities.

**DIT College of Business**

The College of Business is the largest business college in Ireland. Courses are provided at all levels from higher certificate to Ph.D. level and continuing professional education levels to over 5,000 students. In addition, the Faculty also provides research, training and consultancy services to the Irish business community.

In Aungier St we have a new 50 million Euro complex with the latest technology and facilities. The Location is set in the heart of one of Europe’s most vibrant cities with a vast array of culinary and cultural sites within walking distance. The College of Business encompasses five distinct schools, each specialising in a particular aspect of business education.

These five schools are:
- School of Accounting and Finance,
- School of Management Studies,
- School of Marketing,
- School of Retail and Services Management
- The Graduate Business School

**Library Services**

It is important that during your period of study you use the resources available to you. One of the most important resources is the library. The DIT library service has over 170,000 items available, subscribes to 1,800 journals and provides a wide range of electronic databases, through its 250 computers. It also provides Internet access and desk space to read and study. To help you get the most from the library you will be given a guide by one of the library staff during your orientation week. Please note that your student ID card will serve as your library card.

**Computer Services**

Our new building in Aungier Street offers unrivalled computer facilities for students with over 800 PCs and Macs at their disposal. All major software packages are available and each dedicated computer room provides printing facilities.

Internet access for all registered students is provided (after 5 PM weekdays, all day Saturday) and each student will receive an email address of their own. After you register you will be automatically provided with your e-mail address. Remember to pass this e-mail address to your coordinator in your home institution.
Student Support Services & Activities

In addition to your co-ordinator’s support, there is a huge array of services provided by DIT to ensure your stay is both enjoyable and stress-free. Of particular benefit to visiting students is the DIT Student Accommodation Service who, working closely with the Students Union, provides a list of different accommodation available, such as apartments, houses and lodgings.

For students who need personal support during their time at DIT there is a confidential counselling service in Aungier St. This counselling service aims to assist students with problem, big or small, such as financial worries, study difficulties or personal problems.

In addition, there is a Chaplaincy service, located in Aungier St. Square, providing support for students about religious matters.

The chaplain is available to students seeking advice, guidance or simply a quiet time away from the bustle of college life.

Probably the best way to make the most of your stay in Dublin is to get involved in any of the clubs and societies that cater for a wide range of interests and activities. Watch out for information on the notice boards about upcoming activities.

Sport is an integral part of life in Ireland and the Sports Officer in Aungier St. organises individuals and teams from Aungier St. to take part in a variety of DIT and inter-college competitions.

The Students’ Union

The Students’ Union, known as DITSU, is the representative body of students. Its purpose is to unite all students to organise activities among the students themselves and to influence decision making in DIT. This is why there are students on all decision making bodies in DIT, including the Governing Body. DITSU is also affiliated to the national student organisation, USI, the Union of Students in Ireland.

For full information see: [www.ditsu.ie](http://www.ditsu.ie)

Recreation and Sport

DIT has a wide range of facilities. These are location across a number of DIT locations. For example the DIT swimming pool is located in the Kevin St complex just across the road from the College of Business in Aungier St. Also in Kevin Street is a fitness gym.

For full details see: [http://www.dit.ie/DIT/sport/](http://www.dit.ie/DIT/sport/)

Insurance

Insurance Cover is essential for all students. While you have cover as a DIT registered student it is essential that you supplement this
**Coming to Ireland**

While Ireland is a member of the EU it is not part of the Schengen agreement. You need a valid passport or National ID card for entry to Ireland. If you are a non-EU national, you will need a visa. You should apply for your visa to the local Irish embassy at least twelve weeks in advance of your departure date to Ireland. (See Section 3.6 earlier) As an EU citizen you do not need a residence permit.

**Your Arrival in Dublin**

You should arrive in Dublin early in the week commencing with 05th September in order to arrange your permanent accommodation.
The Airport is approximately 10 Km from the city centre, on the north side of the city. The cheapest way to get to the city centre is by bus.

**Aircoach Service**

These are blue coloured buses that depart every 15 minutes. There are two routes. Make sure you take the ‘Donnybrook’ route. The bus stops in a number of locations in the city centre. The cost is 7 Euro. Check the website: [www.aircoach.ie](http://www.aircoach.ie)

**Dublin Bus**

Dublin Bus, the main bus company in the city, runs an ‘Airlink’ bus to the city centre. These are the yellow coloured buses.

**Taxis**

Taxis are available outside the main terminal entrance. The fare to the city centre is approximately 25 Euro.

**Working in Ireland**

Ireland has very relaxed labour market regulations in comparison to many European countries. Some Exchange students work in the international call centres, many of which are located in Dublin. These are customer service operations, often serving several European countries. Thus there is a requirement for people with foreign languages.

Non-EU students engaged in full-time study of at least one year's duration (on a course which is recognized by the Irish Department of Education and Science) do not need a work permit to work in Ireland. This policy is effective from 18 April 2005. They are currently entitled to work up to 20 hours part-time per week and to work full-time during vacation periods, but this entitlement ceases once your student visa runs out.
EU/EEA nationals have the same entitlement to take up employment as that of an Irish person.

All employees in Ireland need to have a PPS NUMBER (like a social security number) for tax purposes. Therefore if you are looking for a job you must apply for a PPS number.

**PPS number**

You can get this by applying to a Social Welfare Office. You will need the following documentation to make an application for a PPS number:

**EU / EEA Students:**

- Passport
- DIT Student Card
- Proof of Address (utility bill in your name / bank statement / letter from Exchange Coordinator stating your address)

**Non-EU Students:**

- Passport
- Garda Registration Card
- DIT Student Card
- Proof of Address (utility bill in your name / bank statement / letter from Exchange Coordinator stating your address)

You must apply to the Social Welfare Office nearest to your place of residence. The list of relevant Social Welfare Offices can be found on the following web-site: [http://www.welfare.ie/contact/index.html#Local_offices](http://www.welfare.ie/contact/index.html#Local_offices)

**Banking and Money Transactions in Ireland**

The currency in Ireland is the Euro. There is a branch of Allied Irish Banks (AIB) on the campus in Aungier St, open each day between 13.30-15.30. You can open an account there once you get your college student card. They will issue you with an ATM card (Cash card) if required. This will be issued within 5 days. Your card and PIN number will arrive by post in separate envelopes. The branch in College does not handle cash (notes or coins) transactions as it is not a full branch. However once you have opened an account you can have funds transferred to your account in the branch from your existing accounts or that of parents, or have bank drafts lodged to the account. When you have done this you can then use your ATM card to withdraw cash.

Branches of banks (other than the one on campus) are open for the following hours:

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 10.00-16.00
- Thursday 10.00-17.00
Post Offices

Post Offices. These are open at the following times:
Monday-Friday 9.00 - 13.00
14.15 - 17.30
Saturday 9.00 - 13.00
The nearest post office to the College of Business is at Kevin Street, about a two-minute walk from the Aungier St. campus. The General Post Office (GPO) in O’Connell St. is open until 20.00.

Getting Around in Dublin

There are three modes of public transport:

1) **DART**- This is an overground metro style rail system. There is just one line that runs right around the Dublin Bay coastline. The nearest stop to the College of Business is Westland Row, about a fifteen-minute walk from the Faculty. Individual journey tickets are available at each station and weekly and monthly tickets are also available.
Web-site: [www.dart.ie](http://www.dart.ie)

2) **LUAS** This is a tram system with two lines, the Red line and the Green line. Both lines service the south side of the city.
Tickets are available from machines at each stop. Weekly and monthly tickets are also available.
Web-site: [www.luas.ie](http://www.luas.ie)

3) **Dublin Bus** This is the main transport system. You can buy weekly /monthly tickets or pay each time you use it. If paying each time, you must supply the exact fare or in excess of it. If you do not have the exact change you pay the nearest you have above the fare and the driver will issue you with a long ticket, the first part stating the fare and the second part stating the excess you have paid. You can get refunds on these excesses at the Dublin Bus office in O’Connell St. Weekly or monthly tickets are available from many newsagent shops. You will see a ‘Dublin Bus’ sign on such shops. You can get a discount on these weekly tickets by having a Student Travel Card. You can get this from Alan Hanna’s bookshop in Kevin Street, a one-minute walk from the College of Business in Aungier Street. The cost is 14 Euro. You must carry this card with you along with your ticket, on the bus (or DART, LUAS) as you may be asked for it if you show a discounted ticket to the ticket inspector.
Web-site: [www.dublinbus.ie](http://www.dublinbus.ie)
Location

The island of Ireland is situated in the north-west of Europe between 51 and 55 degrees north latitude and 5 and 10 degrees west latitude approximately. The island has an area of 84,000 square kilometres, of which 70,000 are in the Republic of Ireland and 14,000 in Northern Ireland.

Climate

Influenced by the Gulf Stream the climate is very moderate. The coldest months are January and February with average daily air temperatures between 4 C and 7C, while July and August are the warmest (14-17C). Snow is unusual except in hilly or mountainous areas. Despite these moderate temperatures, winter days can often be wet and windy, making it feel much colder than the indicated temperature. For fuller details on Irish weather see: www.met.ie/climate/

Population

The population of the island of Ireland reached 8 million prior to the Great Famine of 1845-48, but had fallen to 5 million by 1851 due to death from famine and emigration. The population continued to fall for the next century and the population of the Republic fell to its lowest level of 2.8 million by 1961. It has increased since then, particularly in more recent years and is now almost 4 million. The population of Northern Ireland is 1.5 million.

Religion

In the Republic over 90% of the population belong to the Catholic Church with the remainder belonging to Protestant, Jewish, Muslim and other religions. While religious practice has declined in recent years, religious diversity has increased with inward migration.

The Irish Language

Irish is a Celtic language and as such is a member of the Indo-European family of languages. Irish remained the language of almost of the population up to the 17th century. Gradually English became more popular as it was the language of the English ruling class. Irish went into serious decline after 1800. It was still the language of rural areas, particularly in the west of the country, but the population of this area was dramatically reduced by the Famine. By 1891 the number of Irish speakers was still about 700,000, but most were older people. Concern about the state of the language started a revival movement at this time. On gaining independence in 1922, it became the policy of the newly independent state to revive the language. All school children between the ages of 4-18 must take Irish as a subject. Irish is according to the constitution the first language of the state. However every day use
of the language is confined to about 3% of the population. You will notice the official position of Irish in road signs and in many government publications and notices.

**Lifestyle**

Irish people are generally regarded as friendly and outgoing. There is little formality about life. Rules and regulations are not always strictly adhered to, (except for the smoking ban) and some people describe Ireland as having very southern European characteristics.

**The Smoking Ban**

Ireland was the first country in the world to introduce a comprehensive smoking ban in 2004. This ban means that smoking is not allowed in any place of work or enclosed public space, including schools, colleges, shopping centres, pubs, restaurants and even ships travelling to and from Ireland. The ban is strictly enforced and if you attempt to smoke in a prohibited place, you will be quickly approached by the owner/manager/ employee of a premises or a member of the public.

**Timekeeping**

The Irish have a somewhat relaxed attitude in this regard. Often the phrase used to describe an agreed meeting time of say 5 o’clock, is to say ‘I will meet you at 5-ish (around 5). This can mean anything from five o’clock onwards, perhaps up to six o’clock! This late time keeping is not meant as a discourtesy. In working life time keeping is somewhat more punctual. Time in Ireland is Greenwich Mean Time, (GMT), one hour behind most European countries.

**Distance, Length and Weight**

Since January 2005, all distances are officially measured in kilometres. However most people still think in ‘Miles’ and most cars record speed and distance in miles. In Northern Ireland, as it is part of the UK, all distances are indicated in miles. As a quick conversion a kilometre is three fifths of a mile or a 100 miles is 160 kilometres. For shorter lengths, most people still use ‘feet and inches’ rather than the metric system-the official system. This also applies to weight, where older people use ounces, pounds and stones as distinct from metric grams and kilos.

**Popular Sports**

**Gaelic Football**

The most popular game in Ireland is Gaelic football. Gaelic Football can be described as a mixture of soccer and rugby, although it predates both of those games. It is a field game that has developed as a distinct game similar to the progression of Australian Rules. The goalposts are the same shape as on a rugby pitch, with the crossbar lower than in rugby and slightly higher than a soccer one.
The ball used in Gaelic Football is round, slightly smaller than a soccer ball. It can be carried in the hand for a distance of four steps and can be kicked or "handpassed", a striking motion with the hand or fist. The goalposts are the same shape as on a rugby pitch, with the crossbar lower than a rugby one and slightly higher than a soccer one. To score, you put the ball over the crossbar by foot or hand / fist for one point or under the crossbar and into the net by foot or hand / fist in certain circumstances for a goal, the latter being the equivalent of three points.

Each team consists of fifteen players. The main stadium for Gaelic football and hurling is Croke Park, a wonderful modern stadium. You should try and attend one match there during your stay in Ireland.

Hurling
Hurling is a game similar to hockey, in that it is played with a small ball and a curved wooden stick. It is Europe's oldest field game. When the Celts came to Ireland as the last ice age was receding, they brought with them a unique culture, their own language, music, script and unique pastimes. One of these pastimes was a game now called hurling. It features in Irish folklore to illustrate the deeds of heroic mystical figures and it is chronicled as a distinct Irish pastime for at least 2,000 years. The stick, or "hurley" (called camán in Irish) is curved outwards at the end, to provide the striking surface. The ball or "sliothar" is similar in size to a hockey ball but has raised ridges. The scoring system and team size is as in Gaelic football.

Soccer
This is less popular than Gaelic football or hurling, but still commands good support. Most of the best Irish players play with the top English clubs but play for Ireland internationally. In the last decade Ireland has performed very well in international competitions. The popularity of soccer has increased in recent years. Ireland’s most famous current player is Roy Keane of Manchester United.

Rugby
This game does not have widespread participation, but commands very intense loyalty among its supporters and players. The main international competition takes place each spring with six countries participating, Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales, France and Italy. These games attract large crowds and the games that take place in Ireland are played at the rugby headquarters in Lansdowne Road. Competitions also take place against South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, the other well known players of the game. Every four years there is world rugby competition involving additional countries to those listed above.

Locations and Postal Districts in Dublin

Dublin is organised into postal districts 1-24 which people use as a guide to location. Lower numbers are near the city centre. Odd numbers are north side and even numbers south side. If there is no number, the location is quite far from the city centre.
**Accommodation**

DIT does not private accommodation i.e. student residences. We suggest and recommend accommodation and sources of information relating to same.

Many of our students live in Griffith College Campus Residences which is located within 10 minutes walk of the DIT Aungier Street Campus. Please refer [http://www.gcd-accommodation.ie/](http://www.gcd-accommodation.ie/)

Please find attached also the Information Sheet on our Student Union. (See [http://www.dit.ie/campuslife/studentsupport/accommodation/](http://www.dit.ie/campuslife/studentsupport/accommodation/))

Most of our students prefer to find a flat to share with some other students and they do it through this website [www.daft.ie](http://www.daft.ie). It is also advisable to rent a room after having seen it i.e. after your arrival in Dublin. Dublin, like many capital cities, is expensive for rental accommodation and it is both difficult and not advised to agree to rent a flat or apartment until you arrive in Dublin and actually see what you are being offered.

The best thing to do would be to rent a temporary accommodation e.g. hostel accommodation and then look for something once you are here. Therefore it is recommended that you book temporary accommodation in advance of your arrival.
Other sources of accommodation

Newspapers can be helpful in looking for places, particularly the Evening Herald, which comes out about mid-day. New accommodation listings appear daily, but you must phone immediately as places can be taken up very quickly.

Many students have used housing agencies. However, there are two points to consider here; firstly, they charge a fee that you won't get back even if they don't find you a suitable place and secondly, housing agencies tend towards the more expensive end of the market. Other sources to check out, if you get a group of people together to share a house are 'estate agents'. These are also known as 'Auctioneers'. They sell houses but very often they also rent houses for owners of property to rent.

Try looking on college notice boards, Trinity College and UCD (University College Dublin) would be the best for this. The Union of Students in Ireland (USIT) (http://www.usit.ie/) also has a notice board that may be a good resource. 'Bedsits' are the Irish equivalent of studio apartments, one room with a bed, basic furniture and a kitchenette in the corner. They are the more expensive option for accommodation, as you have to pay for privacy.

It’s cheaper if you live with other people. Here are rough price guides for modern, middle of the road two bedroom apartments reasonably close to the city centre. These are standard prices, and of course, they will vary depending on location, view, luxuries, etc. All prices are for a month's rent on a long-term letting. Dublin: 800 - 950 Euro. This is for the apartment, so the cost per person is much less. It may sound very difficult to get accommodation from the above description but in practice most students arrange accommodation within one week of arrival.

Other aspects of accommodation including overall costs

You will need to bring bed linen and towels. Most rented accommodation provides kitchen equipment, utensils and cups, plates etc. Electricity and heating costs are not normally included in the cost of rent. The estimated monthly living costs are 700-900 euro depending on lifestyle and quality of accommodation.

Vicinity to the College of Business

The College of Business is in Aungier Street (Southside Campus). You should try to find an accommodation in postal areas 1, 2, 6 or 8 as these are more likely to be near to the College of Business in Aungier Street.

Dublin is organised into postal districts 1-24 which people use as a guide to location. Lower numbers are near the city centre. Odd numbers are north side and even numbers south side. If there is no number, the location is quite far from the city centre.