



**RCSI**

UNIVERSITY  
OF MEDICINE  
AND HEALTH  
SCIENCES

# Information Pack 2, Student Handbook

August 2021



RCSI

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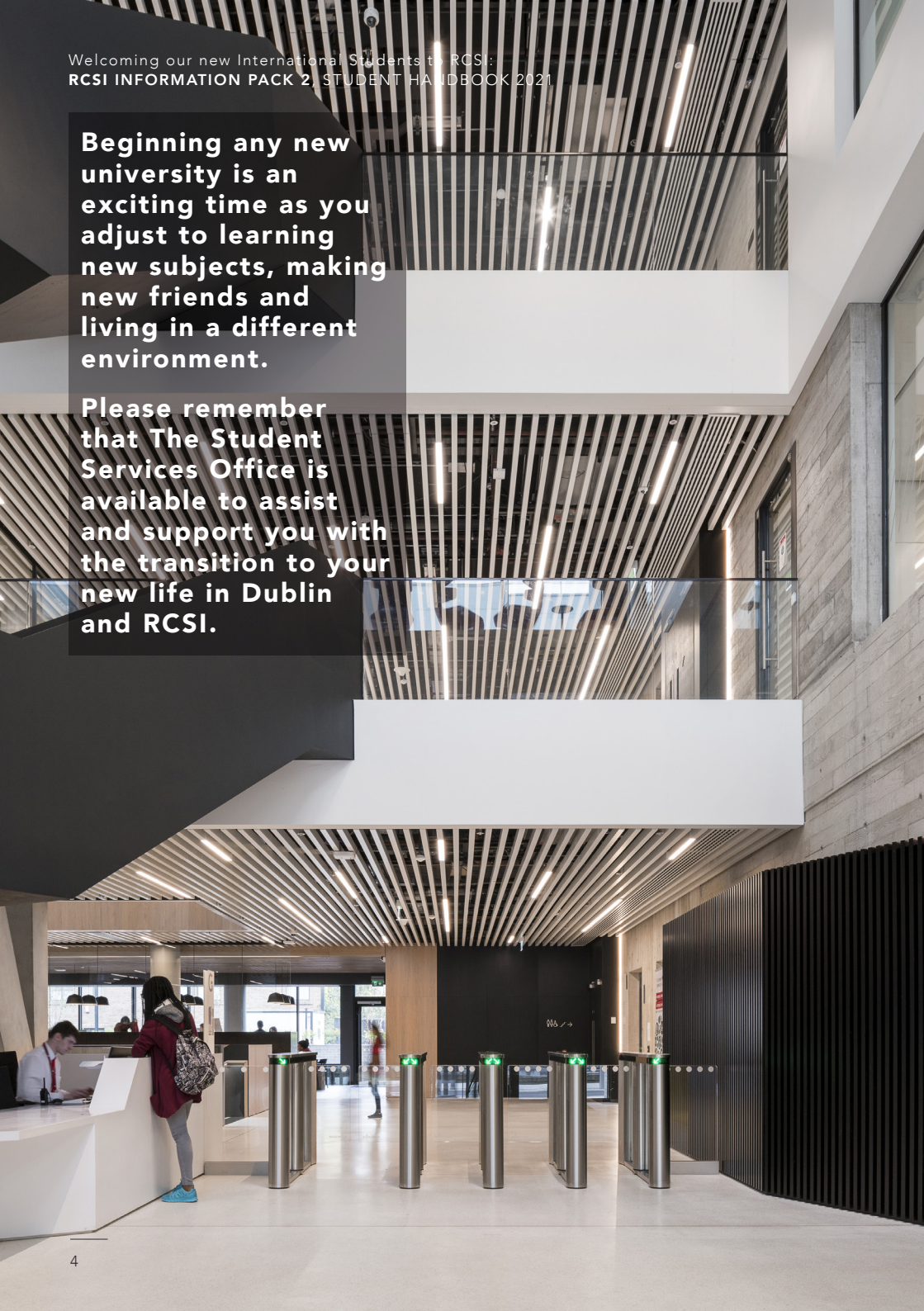
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**Beginning any new university is an exciting time as you adjust to learning new subjects, making new friends and living in a different environment.**

**Please remember that The Student Services Office is available to assist and support you with the transition to your new life in Dublin and RCSI.**





# WELCOME TO THE RCSI INFORMATION PACK 2

This Undergraduate Student Handbook is the second of three information booklets that you will receive in advance of arriving in Dublin. This handbook is produced by the Student Services Office who will play a significant role in supporting you as you settle into student life in RCSI. It provides information, direction and advice which we hope you find helpful and we have tried to make the information as practical as possible.

A third and final booklet will be issued in mid-August with the final details that you require before leaving home. In addition, we will send you updates that we feel are important as the information becomes available.

Beginning at any new university is an exciting time as you adjust to learning new subjects, making new friends and living in a different environment. Please remember that the Student Services Office is available to assist and support you and to make the transition as smooth and easy as possible.

The Student Services Office also acts as your 'first stop information shop' providing information, advice and guidance on a variety of non-academic matters. If we can't help you ourselves, we are sure to know someone who can.

Accommodation is usually one of the greatest concerns for new students arriving at RCSI. As a first step, please study the accommodation section on our website [www.rcseye.com](http://www.rcseye.com) where you will find information on our on-campus accommodation options at Mercer Accommodation, New Mill Street Accommodation, Scape Accommodation and Wexford/Aungier Street Accommodation.

As outlined in Booklet 1, *'Supporting your Health, Safety and Wellbeing'*, we are encouraging undergraduate students to live in on-campus accommodation this year as we wish to support you as fully as possible in the early days and weeks post arrival. As mentioned in the document, the current health advice is that you will be required to undertake a period of post-arrival quarantine on arrival into Ireland for up to 14 days, so please ensure that you read this document carefully to familiarize yourself with its contents.

You have also been provided with access to the RCS-Eye website. As a closed website, the accommodation section in the RCS-Eye has additional information and accommodation options that are available to RCSI students only, so please make sure you familiarize yourself with the accommodation information on this site. On-campus student accommodation can



be booked now using the booking information provided on the site. Some students will choose to live off-campus and while we cannot book off-campus accommodation on your behalf, we are always available to advise and support you in your efforts. And rest assured, all our students ALWAYS find somewhere suitable to live. It may take a bit of work on your part but try not to panic, as support is available.

The RCS-Eye site also has important information on a host of other matters related to your arrival and life in Dublin. The site is regularly updated, so please check the site from time to time for the most up to date information.

In undertaking a degree in Medicine, Pharmacy or Physiotherapy, you are embarking on a very exciting journey. It will be rewarding, and it will also be challenging. The Student Services Office has provided supports to students for many years and we have yet to come across an issue that can't be solved. We are here to make your student journey a positive and memorable experience. The Office has an open-door policy so, after your post-arrival quarantine period has ended, stop by and visit us anytime to say hello – we look forward to meeting you.

**Corriena Brien**  
Head of Student Services Office  
Email [studentservices@rcsi.ie](mailto:studentservices@rcsi.ie)





# INTRODUCTION TO THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IN IRELAND

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland was granted a Charter on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February 1784, giving the College the license to regulate the practice of surgery and to make provision for surgical education.

Prior to that time, surgeons were grouped with the barbers and the Barber-Surgeons' Guild. This is the reason that you see the Red and White striped pole in a Barbers Shop. The red stripes representing blood, the white representing the bandages. One of the Founding Fathers of RCSI was Sylvester O'Halloran (a pioneering ophthalmologist) and he, with a group of like-minded colleagues, set about breaking the '*preposterous union of the Barber-Surgeons Guild*'.

Their challenge was taken up by the Dublin Society of Surgeons and in 1784 they received a Royal Charter from King George III of Great Britain and Ireland (Ireland was part of the United Kingdom until it became a republic in 1922). The charter extracted the Surgeons from the Barber-Surgeons' Guild and 'incorporating them separately and distinctly upon liberal and scientific principles' for the pursuit of surgical practice and training.

The Founding Fathers had no premises, and the earliest meeting was held in the boardroom of the Rotunda Hospital

in Dublin (the hospital in which you will undertake your Obstetrics and Gynaecology training). Subsequently, a disused hall in Mercer Street, beside Mercer's Hospital, was acquired. The College flourished from the very start and, in 1810, moved to its present location on the corner of York Street, facing St Stephen's Green. The site acquired for the building at that time was a disused Quaker graveyard.

The College set about educating doctors with a strong emphasis on surgery. The founders were influenced by the standard of surgery in France at that time and, out of respect for the French College of Surgeons, they adopted the motto "*Consilio Manuque*", meaning 'Scholarship and Dexterity'. The stimulus for growth in the early years was the demand for Army and Navy surgeons for the Napoleonic wars.

In 1844, a supplemental Charter was obtained from Queen Victoria, the chief provision of which was the institution of the Fellowship which divided Graduates into Licentiates and Fellows. The latter could only be obtained by examination taken a minimum of three years following graduation. This is essentially the Charter by which the College operates today.

The Medical Act of 1886 confirmed that graduates had to be educated in surgery, medicine and obstetrics and so the

**RCSI MOTTO**  
**"CONSILIO MANUQUE",**  
**MEANING 'SCHOLARSHIP**  
**AND DEXTERITY'**



Conjoint Board between the Royal College of Surgeons and the Royal College of Physicians came into existence. Graduates, therefore, receive the historical Licentiates of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

In addition to the undergraduate medical programme, the University also delivers undergraduate degree programmes in Pharmacy and Physiotherapy and is home to the Faculties of Nursing, Radiology, Dentistry, and Sports & Exercise Medicine.

# WHO'S WHO & WHAT'S WHAT

The University has a number of administrative offices that provide services to students. As a new student, it is helpful for you to have an understanding of these departments and the general services that each provides. The principal student-facing offices that you will engage with are outlined below:

## **Admissions Office**

The Admissions Office is responsible for the admission of students to all the Universities undergraduate programmes

Email: [admissions@rcsi.ie](mailto:admissions@rcsi.ie)

Located: Ground Floor, 123 SSG

## **Center for Mastery, Personal, Professional and Academic Support CoMPPAS**

The CoMPPAS Office is RCSI's hub for student advancement and growth. CoMPPAS is a multi-disciplinary team that seek to support students in achieving their academic and personal success through personalised support and development opportunities. It offers personal assistance, personal support and development services to all students in an independent and confidential manner.

### ***Services include:***

- Academic Development
- Personal Development
- Career Development
- Student Well Being
- Access & Facilitation

Email: [compass@rcsi.ie](mailto:compass@rcsi.ie)

Located: First Floor, 123 SSG

## **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Unit**

The RCSI EDI Unit manages, promotes and coordinates EDI activities and training across the University. RCSI is committed to embedding equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) across everything we do. This ensures we can all work and learn in an environment defined by dignity and respect. We want to ensure that everyone in RCSI is treated fairly regardless of age, disability, family status, gender, marital status, membership of the Traveller Community, race, religion, sexual orientation or socio-economic status.

Email: [equality@rcsi.ie](mailto:equality@rcsi.ie)

## **Fees Office**

The Fees Office is responsible for all issues in relation to student fees.

Email: [studentfees@rcsi.ie](mailto:studentfees@rcsi.ie)

Located: First floor, 123 SSG

## **Information Technology Office**

The IT Office manages all IT matters in the College. A student helpdesk is available to support students with all IT enquiries.

Email: [helpdesk@rcsi.ie](mailto:helpdesk@rcsi.ie)

Located: Ground Floor, 121 SSG



## Student Academic and Regulatory Affairs (SARA)

The SARA Office is responsible for all academic matters related to your course from timetables to examinations. The SARA Office is the College Registry and holds all student records, past and present. It is an office that you engage with for the duration of your studies and indeed after you graduate as you are likely to require copies of your final transcripts post graduation.

*The services that the SARA Office is responsible for include;*

- Confirmation of Registration letters (sometimes called a TWIC Letter i.e., To Whom it May Concern)
- Examination transcripts
- Examination results
- Examination timetables
- Garda (Police) Vetting
- Regulations and Records
- USMLE's
- Clinical Electives
- Clinical Rotations

Email: [ssgsara@rcsi.ie](mailto:ssgsara@rcsi.ie)

Located: First floor, 123 SSG

## Student Services Office

The Student Services Office is responsible for a range of non-academic support services. The Office is a one-stop information shop and available to point you in the right direction if you require information or assistance at any time. All the undergraduate student clubs, societies and student events are managed through the Student Services Office. It is home to the following services:

- Accommodation
- Clubs & Sport
- Financial Assistance
- Gym & Fitness Facilities
- Immigration
- Merchandising
- Induction & Orientation
- Societies
- Student Events
- Student Publications
- Undergraduate Students' Union Secretariat
- And much more besides...

Email: [studentservices@rcsi.ie](mailto:studentservices@rcsi.ie)

Located: Ground Floor, 123 SSG





## ARRIVING IN DUBLIN

RCSI is pleased to offer a Meet and Greet Service to all new students and their families. This welcome service will meet you on arrival at Dublin Airport and arrange complimentary transport to your accommodation. If you wish to avail of this service, you must complete the online registration form a minimum of 10 days before arriving at Dublin Airport. The registration form is available in the non-EU section of RCS-Eye website. The direct link is also available here: <https://forms.office.com/r/20GmqHFA2e>

Students who are living on-campus in Mercer, New Mill Street, Scape or Wexford/Aungier Street Accommodation can check in from Thursday to Sunday immediately before their academic start date, e.g., students joining the medicine, pharmacy and physiotherapy courses on Monday 13th September, can check in from Thursday 9th – Sunday 12th September 2021.

Detailed information on arriving in Dublin and the current requirement for post-arrival quarantine is provided in the '[Supporting your Health, Safety and Wellbeing](#)' document.

# ORIENTATION & REGISTRATION

Orientation & Registration takes place at the start of your course and will be delivered online this year during the first two weeks of the programme. It comprises a series of introductory lectures laying the groundwork, to ensure that you are fully appraised of all academic and non-academic matters. Details of the Orientation and Registration timetables for the first two weeks are currently being developed and will be made available in advance of commencing your programme.

Once you begin your studies, your status will change from being an applicant to RCSI to being a student of the University.

*All undergraduate students will be provided with the following in advance of their first day;*

- RCSI Student Card (your student card is your RCSI ID card and is required for access to many areas of the University. As a result, you should carry it with you at all times when you are attending the campus).
- Apple Laptop
- Log-in details for online services & RCSI e-mail account
- Moodle access (RCSI's virtual learning environment)
- Student Life HQ access





## TERM DATES - ACADEMIC YEAR 2021/22 SEMESTER 1

ACTIVITY	START DATE
<b>GEM SEMESTER 1 KEY DATES</b>	
Online Start	Monday, 6 September 2021
Campus start	Monday, 20 September 2021
Reading and Revision Week	Monday, 25 October – Friday, 29 October 2021
Reading, Revision and Assessment Period	Monday, 29 November – Friday, 17 December 2021
Christmas break	Monday, 20 December 2021- Friday, 7 January 2022
Semester 2 start	Monday, 10 January 2022

<b>MEDICINE (5 YEAR) AND PHYSIO1 (3 YEAR) PROGRAMMES - SEMESTER 1 KEY DATES</b>	
Online Start	Monday, 13 September 2021
Campus start	Monday, 27 September 2021
Reading and Revision Week	Monday, 25 October – Friday, 29 October 2021
Assessment Period	Monday, 13 December – Friday, 24 December 2021
Christmas break	Monday, 27 December 2021 – Friday, 14 January 2022
Semester 2 start	Monday, 17 January 2022

<b>MEDICINE (6 YEAR), MPHARM1 AND PHYSIO0 (4 YEAR) PROGRAMMES - SEMESTER 1 KEY DATES</b>	
Online Start	Monday, 13 September 2021
Campus start	Monday, 27 September 2021
Reading and Revision Week	Monday, 6 December – Friday, 10 December 2021
Assessment Period	Monday, 13 December – Friday, 24 December 2021
Christmas break	Monday, 27 December 2021 – Friday, 14 January 2022
Semester 2 start	Monday, 17 January 2022

Semester 2 dates are available on the [RCSI website here](#)

## Timetables

Timetables are published on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) platform Moodle. They are also available on the RCSI website.

An academic timetable, covering the first period of your programme, will be sent to you by email in advance of your first week. Once you begin, you will have access to Moodle and will be able to view your timetable online.

## Booklists

Text books can be very expensive and we therefore recommend that you hold off purchasing books in advance of arrival. Writing styles can vary significantly from one author to the next. You will have the opportunity to review various textbooks in the college Library before committing to purchasing.

## Freshers' Events

The first two weeks of Semester 1 are known as 'Freshers' Fortnight'. The weeks aim to welcome all new students and assist with the settling-in process. This year, as a result of COVID-19, the Freshers' activities will be different as international students entering Ireland are required to undertake their post-arrival quarantine period. A committee, which includes representatives from the Students' Union, is developing plans for this year's welcoming activities.

Some Freshers' Events will take place during the quarantine period while others may be postponed until after students have completed their quarantine period.

The Freshers' Events are not yet finalised as the government guidelines on lifting restrictions are still changing. The Freshers' Events committee will make its final plans based on the Covid-19 guidance as we move through the summer months. Details of the Freshers Events will be published on the [www.rcseye.com](http://www.rcseye.com) website and on the Student Life HQ when they are available.



# ACCOMMODATION



One of the most important tasks faced by new students is the search for suitable accommodation. The [‘Supporting your Health, Safety and Wellbeing’](#) booklet provides advice on accommodation, post-arrival quarantine requirements and the health and welfare measures that are in place to support students this year. We are encouraging students to make their accommodation bookings as early as possible.

## On-Campus

The on-campus accommodation options that RCSI recommends include

- Mercer Accommodation
- New Mill Street Accommodation
- Scape Accommodation
- Wexford/Aungier Street Accommodation

All of which range from a 5-15 minute walk from the St. Stephen's Green campus.

## Off-Campus

Some students may prefer to live off-campus in privately rented apartments. Please note that if you choose to do so, we will still do our very best to support you in settling into life in Dublin. The most popular private rented accommodation options that students choose include Adelaide Square apartments, Castleway apartments and Wyndham Court apartments, which are all within walking distance of the College.

RCSI is located in Dublin 2, so search for accommodation in Dublin 2, 4 and 6 as these areas are closest to the College.





*If you wish to search for privately rented apartments, these websites are useful.*

- daft.ie
- myhome.ie
- findahome.ie
- wyse.ie
- gumtree.ie
- let.ie
- homelocators.ie
- quillsen.ie
- huntsman.ie
- collegecribs.ie

If you intend to live in a rented apartment, please note that rented accommodation tends to be available for immediate occupancy.

If you have not secured accommodation in advance of arriving in Ireland, you should arrive early, complete your post-arrival quarantine period and allow at least 3-4 weeks before the term begins in order to search, find and get settled into your accommodation.

**YOU SHOULD NEVER BOOK ACCOMMODATION WITHOUT SEEING IT FIRST OR HAVING SOMEONE THAT YOU TRUST CHECK IT OUT FOR YOU.**

The Student Services Office is available to assist you with short-term and private rented accommodation queries. The Office provides listings of alternative types of accommodation, including host families and shared accommodation. Accommodation listings are most useful from July/August onwards.

For information on and assistance with accommodation please consult the [www.rcseye.com](http://www.rcseye.com) or Email: [studentservices@rcsi.ie](mailto:studentservices@rcsi.ie)

# IMMIGRATION & VISA REQUIREMENTS

## Do I need a visa to study in Ireland?

You **do not** need a visa to study in Ireland if you fall into one of the following categories:

1. You are a citizen of the European Economic Area (EEA) or the UK; or
2. You hold a travel document issued by an EEA member country. The travel document must have been issued under Article 28 of the Geneva Convention 1951 (refugees) or the New York Convention of 1951 (stateless persons); or
3. You have a residence card issued by an EEA member country because you are the family member of an EEA citizen; or
4. You are a citizen of a country listed in the table below or [visit update list here](#)

Andorra	Guyana*	Saint Vincent & the Grenadines
Antigua & Barbuda	Honduras	Samoa
Argentina*	Hong Kong (Special Admin. Region)	San Marino
Australia	Israel	Seychelles
Bahamas	Japan	Singapore
Barbados	Kiribati	Solomon Islands
Belize	Lesotho	South Africa*
Bolivia*	Macau (Special Admin. Region)	South Korea
Botswana	Malaysia	Swaziland
Brazil*	Maldives	Switzerland
Brunei	Mexico	Taiwan
Canada	Monaco	Tonga
Chile*	Nauru	Trinidad & Tobago
Costa Rica	New Zealand	Tuvalu
Dominica	Nicaragua	United Arab Emirates
El Salvador	Panama	United Kingdom & Colonies
Fiji	Paraguay*	United States of America
Grenada	Saint Kitts & Nevis	Uruguay*
Guatemala	Saint Lucia	Vatican City

*\*Citizens of these countries do not need a visa from 16 June 2021.*

**REMEMBER:** the requirement to secure an Irish study visa is based on:

- Your nationality as shown on your passport or travel documentation (if you are not a refugee); or
- The country which issued your travel document (if you are a refugee)

## Applying for a Visa

Students who require an Irish visa to study in Ireland are advised to apply for a multi-entry long stay 'D' visa this year (as opposed to a single-entry visa).

All multi-entry visa stickers are valid until January 2022.

You must apply online for an Irish study visa, using this link:

[www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Apply%20for%20a%20visa](http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Apply%20for%20a%20visa)

You can check the information and documentation you require to apply for a multi-entry visa by visiting this section of the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) website:

[www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Study](http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Study)

In relation to documentation requirements for 2021, please note the following:

- > As an exceptional measure, in response to Covid 19, the Irish Immigration authorities will accept certificates demonstrating your English Language Standard within three years of the expected start date of your course for the 2021/22 Academic Year
- > In addition, to address problems with accessing supervised tests due to ongoing Covid 19 restrictions, the results of online tests from approved test providers will

continue to be accepted for the 2021/22 Academic Year. Click this link for more details:

[www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/English-language-requirements-for-study-visas](http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/English-language-requirements-for-study-visas)

- > Students arriving from designated states (otherwise known as 'Covid high risk' countries) are currently required to undertake mandatory hotel quarantine for up to 14 days on arrival into the country. If your country of residence (or a country you will be passing through or visiting in the 14 days prior to your arrival in Ireland) is currently on the designated state list, you are NOT required to include evidence of a mandatory hotel booking as part of your visa application. Given that the list of designated states is expected to change over the summer months, we do not recommend booking mandatory hotel quarantine until closer to your departure date. Please consult with RCSI Travel for best available advice on this.

Email: [travel@rcsi.ie](mailto:travel@rcsi.ie)

- > When you have completed the online visa application process, you must follow the instructions on the summary application form created by the online system. The summary form will contain information on where you are to submit your supporting documentation. The

summary form, which you must print, sign and date, must be submitted with your supporting documentation.

> You may be required to provide your biometric information (your fingerprints and in some cases, a digital image of your face) as part of the visa application process. The capture of your biometric information will take place at a visa application centre (VAC).

> Visa applicants residing in Nigeria, for example, (irrespective of nationality) are required to provide their biometric

information. Residents in China, India and Pakistan are required to provide their fingerprints each time they apply for a visa to Ireland. The requirement to provide biometric information as part of the visa process is likely to be rolled out in other locations in the future.

A full list of nationalities who require a visa to enter Ireland is available at:

[www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Study](http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Study)





Below is a comprehensive list of visa-required countries and relevant Irish embassies, Honorary Consuls of Ireland and VFS Global offices in each of these countries.

Note: In some countries, the Honorary Consul of Ireland or local VFS Global Office will review visa applications before they are submitted for a final decision to the relevant Irish embassy.

COUNTRY	IRISH EMBASSY/ CONSUL OFFICE/ VFS GLOBAL OFFICE	CONTACT DETAILS
Afghanistan	Abu Dhabi Visa Office	<a href="http://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/uae/contact-us/visa-queries/">www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/uae/contact-us/visa-queries/</a>
Algeria	Abu Dhabi Visa Office	<a href="http://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/uae/contact-us/visa-queries/">www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/uae/contact-us/visa-queries/</a>
Azerbaijan	VFS Global, Baku	<a href="http://www.vfsglobal.com/ireland/Azerbaijan/contact-us.html#baku">www.vfsglobal.com/ireland/Azerbaijan/contact-us.html#baku</a>
Bahrain	Honorary Consulate of Ireland, Bahrain	T: + 973-177-28146 E: <a href="mailto:irishconsulate@batelco.com.bh">irishconsulate@batelco.com.bh</a>
Bangladesh	Submit your application to VFS Global, Kolkata or by post to the Indian Embassy Visa Office, New Delhi. or Embassy of Ireland, India:	VFS Global: <a href="https://www.vfsglobalirelandvisa.com/India/">https://www.vfsglobalirelandvisa.com/India/</a>  <a href="http://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/india/visas/processing-times-decisions-appeals/">www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/india/visas/processing-times-decisions-appeals/</a>
Belarus	VFS Global, Belarus	<a href="https://visa.vfsglobal.com/blr/en/irl/attend-centre">https://visa.vfsglobal.com/blr/en/irl/attend-centre</a>
Brazil	Embassy of Ireland, Brasilia	<a href="http://www.dfa.ie/embassies/irish-embassies-abroad/south-america/brazil/">www.dfa.ie/embassies/irish-embassies-abroad/south-america/brazil/</a>
China	VFS Global offices, China	<a href="http://visa.vfsglobal.com/chn/en/irl/contact-vfs">visa.vfsglobal.com/chn/en/irl/contact-vfs</a>
Cote d'Ivoire	Embassy of Ireland, Abuja, Nigeria	<a href="http://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/nigeria/contact-us/">www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/nigeria/contact-us/</a>
Egypt	Embassy of Ireland, Egypt	<a href="http://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/egypt/contact-us/consular-queries/">www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/egypt/contact-us/consular-queries/</a>
Ghana	VFS Global, Accra, Ghana	<a href="http://www.vfsglobal.com/Ireland/Ghana/contact-us.html#1">www.vfsglobal.com/Ireland/Ghana/contact-us.html#1</a>
India	VFS Global, India offices	<a href="http://www.vfsglobalirelandvisa.com/India/visa_application_centre.html">www.vfsglobalirelandvisa.com/India/visa_application_centre.html</a>
Indonesia	Embassy of Ireland, Indonesia	<a href="http://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/indonesia/contact-us/">www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/indonesia/contact-us/</a>
Iran	Honorary Consul of Ireland, Tehran	T: +98 21 8804 1925 F: +98 21 8804 0817 E: <a href="mailto:alireza.feizollahi@honoraryconsul.ie">alireza.feizollahi@honoraryconsul.ie</a>
Iraq	Embassy of Ireland, Amman, Jordan	T: +962 6 550 3234 E: Submit your query <a href="http://www.dfa.ie/jordan/">www.dfa.ie/jordan/</a>
Jamaica	Honorary Consul of Ireland, Jamaica	T: 1-(876) 932-8423 F: 1-(876) 967-1949 Email: <a href="mailto:brian.denning@honoraryconsul.ie">brian.denning@honoraryconsul.ie</a>
Jordan	VFS Global, Amman	VFS Helpline: 00962797922221 <a href="http://visa.vfsglobal.com/jor/en/deu/attend-centre/amman">visa.vfsglobal.com/jor/en/deu/attend-centre/amman</a>
Kazakhstan	VFS Global, Kazakhstan	<a href="http://visa.vfsglobal.com/kaz/en/irl/attend-centre">visa.vfsglobal.com/kaz/en/irl/attend-centre</a>
Kenya	Embassy of Ireland, Kenya	<a href="http://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/kenya/contact-us/">www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/kenya/contact-us/</a>

COUNTRY	IRISH EMBASSY/ CONSUL OFFICE/ VFS GLOBAL OFFICE	CONTACT DETAILS
Kyrgyzstan	Embassy of Ireland to the Russian Federation	<a href="http://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/russia/contact-us/">www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/russia/contact-us/</a>
Kuwait	VFS Global, Kuwait	T: +965 222 810 49 E: <a href="mailto:info.irelandkuw@vfshelpline.com">info.irelandkuw@vfshelpline.com</a> <a href="http://visa.vfsglobal.com/kwt/en/can">visa.vfsglobal.com/kwt/en/can</a>
Lebanon	Honorary Consulate of Ireland, Beirut	T: + 961 139 5005 F: + 961 1 392005 E: <a href="mailto:irishcon.leb@hotmail.com">irishcon.leb@hotmail.com</a>
Libya	Embassy of Ireland, Abu Dhabi*	*Visa restrictions for Libyan nationals in place since 2014
Maldives*	There is no Visa Facilitation Services Global (VFS) Office in the Maldives. Submit your application by post to the Embassy of Ireland, India. Embassy of Ireland, India: <a href="http://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/india/visas/processing-times-decisions-appeals/">www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/india/visas/processing-times-decisions-appeals/</a>	
Mauritius	Embassy of Ireland, Pretoria, South Africa	T: +27 12 452 1000 F: +27 12 342 4752 E: Submit your query <a href="http://www.dfa.ie/south-africa">www.dfa.ie/south-africa</a>
Mongolia	VFS Global, Mongolia	<a href="http://visa.vfsglobal.com/mng/en/irl/contact-us">visa.vfsglobal.com/mng/en/irl/contact-us</a>
Morocco	Honorary Consul of Ireland in Casablanca or Agadir Casablanca:	T: + 212 522 272721 F: + 212 522 204265 E: <a href="mailto:irishconsulate@me.com">irishconsulate@me.com</a> T: + 212 528821212 F: + 212 528823435 E: <a href="mailto:direuropa@kenzi-hotels.com">direuropa@kenzi-hotels.com</a>
Myanmar/ Burma	Embassy of Ireland, Thailand	T: +66 2 016 1360 F: +66 2 675 3933 <a href="http://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/thailand/contact-us/">www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/thailand/contact-us/</a>
Nepal	VFS Global, Kathmandu	<a href="http://www.vfsglobalirelandvisa.com/India/visa_application_centre.html#14">www.vfsglobalirelandvisa.com/India/visa_application_centre.html#14</a>
Nigeria	VFS Global, Abuja, VFS Global, Lagos	<a href="http://www.vfsglobal-ie-ng.com/contact-us.html">www.vfsglobal-ie-ng.com/contact-us.html</a>
Oman	Honorary Consul of Ireland, Muscat	T: 00 968 24701 282 F: 00 968 24701 278 E: <a href="mailto:ireconmct@gmail.com">ireconmct@gmail.com</a>
Pakistan	Honorary Consulate of Ireland in Pakistan	T: +92 21 35891181 - 82 - 83 F: +92 21 35821184 E: <a href="mailto:osman.khan@honoraryconsul.ie">osman.khan@honoraryconsul.ie</a>
Palestine	Embassy of Ireland, Israel	<a href="http://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/israel/contact-us/">www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/israel/contact-us/</a>
Philippines	Honorary Consul of Ireland, Philippines	T: + 63 2 896 4668 F: + 63 2 897 8534 E: <a href="mailto:robert.trota@honoraryconsul.ie">robert.trota@honoraryconsul.ie</a>
Qatar	VFS, Doha	<a href="http://visa.vfsglobal.com/qat/en/irl/contact-us">visa.vfsglobal.com/qat/en/irl/contact-us</a>
Russia	VFS Global, Russia	<a href="http://www.vfsglobal.com/ireland/russia/English/index.html">www.vfsglobal.com/ireland/russia/English/index.html</a>
Saudi Arabia	VFS Global, Al Khobar, VFS Global, Riyadh, VFS Global, Jeddah	<a href="http://visa.vfsglobal.com/sau/en/irl/contact-us">visa.vfsglobal.com/sau/en/irl/contact-us</a>
Senegal	There is no Visa Facilitation Services Global (VFS) office in Senegal. You can use the Visa Facilitation Services Global (VFS) office in Accra (Ghana) or send directly to the Embassy of Ireland, Abuja, Nigeria  <a href="http://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/nigeria/contact-us/">www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/nigeria/contact-us/</a>	

COUNTRY	IRISH EMBASSY/ CONSUL OFFICE/ VFS GLOBAL OFFICE	CONTACT DETAILS
Sri Lanka	Submit your application to the Honorary Consulate in Colombo. <a href="http://www.dfa.ie/embassies/irish-embassies-abroad/asia-and-oceania/sri-lanka/#d.en.23693">www.dfa.ie/embassies/irish-embassies-abroad/asia-and-oceania/sri-lanka/#d.en.23693</a>	
Sudan	Honorary Consul of Ireland, Khartoum	T. +249 155117886 E: <a href="mailto:Evileen.fathi@dalgroup.com">Evileen.fathi@dalgroup.com</a>
Syria	Honorary Consul of Ireland, Damascus	T: 00 963 11 3342144 F: 00963 11 222 1320 E: <a href="mailto:irishcons.damascus@gmail.com">irishcons.damascus@gmail.com</a>
Tajikstan	Embassy of Ireland to the Russian Federation	<a href="http://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/russia/contact-us/">www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/russia/contact-us/</a>
Thailand	Embassy of Ireland, Thailand	T: +66 2 016 1360 F: +66 2 675 3933 <a href="http://www.dfa.ie/thailand">www.dfa.ie/thailand</a>
Tunisia	Honorary Consul of Ireland, Tunis	T: +216 71 909 174 / +216 71 906 879 F: +216 71 188 739 E: <a href="mailto:hon-consul-irelandtunis@planet.tn">hon-consul-irelandtunis@planet.tn</a>
Turkmenistan	Embassy of Ireland to the Russian Federation	<a href="http://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/russia/contact-us/">www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/russia/contact-us/</a>
Turkey	VFS Global Ankara, VFS Global Istanbul, VFS Global Izmir, VFS Global Gaziantep, VFS Antalya	<a href="http://www.vfsglobal.com/ireland/turkey/contact-us.html">www.vfsglobal.com/ireland/turkey/contact-us.html</a>
UAE	VFS Global, Abu Dhabi and VFS Global, Dubai	VFS Helpline: 009714 2055912 E: <a href="mailto:info.irelanduae@vfshelpline.com">info.irelanduae@vfshelpline.com</a> <a href="http://www.vfsglobal.com/ireland/uae">www.vfsglobal.com/ireland/uae</a>
UK*	Irish Visa Application Centres, UK	<a href="http://www.embassyofireland.co.uk">www.embassyofireland.co.uk</a> <a href="http://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/great-britain/contact-us/visa-queries/">www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/great-britain/contact-us/visa-queries/</a>
Ukraine	Honorary Consul of Ukraine	T: (+380) 44 279 3200 F: (+380) 44 279 3200 <a href="http://www.irishconsulate.kiev.ua">www.irishconsulate.kiev.ua</a>
Uzbekistan	VFS Global, Uzbekistan	<a href="http://visa.vfsglobal.com/uzb/en/irl/attend-centre">visa.vfsglobal.com/uzb/en/irl/attend-centre</a>

*\*Some non-nationals in these otherwise non-visa required countries (\*) may require visas to study in Ireland.*

If your country is not listed above, you can contact the local Irish embassy or Honorary Consulate. Failing this, you can contact the Head Office in Dublin

## VISAS DIVISION

### Immigration Service Delivery

**6-7 Hanover Street, Dublin 2, D02 W320, Ireland**

Email: [visamail@justice.ie](mailto:visamail@justice.ie)

### IMPORTANT:

- Please contact [visamail@justice.ie](mailto:visamail@justice.ie) with visa applications enquiries only and include your visa application reference number to get an answer more quickly
- The Visa Office does not manage Irish Residency Permit (IRP) enquiries or appointments
- It is only necessary to make an IRP appointment after you have arrived in Ireland. If you have an IRP appointment query, contact [Immigrationsupport@justice.ie](mailto:Immigrationsupport@justice.ie) or visit the INIS website using this link: [www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/registration-help](http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/registration-help)

### Irish Residency Permit (IRP)

All Non-EU students undertaking full-time university courses in Ireland, including those who do not require a visa to enter Ireland, are legally required to obtain an Irish Residency Permit IRP (Formally known as the GNIB card). The IRP is obtained from the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS). You have 90 days from the time you arrive in Ireland to obtain your Irish Residency Permit.

The IRP permit (card) is obtained from the INIS offices, which is a 15-minute walk from the University. Students are required to make an appointment through the INIS website before visiting the INIS office to obtain their IRP.

Please note that the appointment should not be made until you are in Ireland. When attending your appointment, you are required to bring a letter of registration from RCSI. A Registration Letter (sometimes called a TWIC letter i.e., To Whom it May Concern) can be requested from the SARA

Office through Moodle once you have commenced your programme. The letter will also include your Dublin living address which is required as part of your IRP application.

The IRP permit must be renewed annually. For your first permit, you are required to attend in person in the INIS Office, in subsequent years, the IRP renewal process is completed online. **An Irish Residence Permit costs €300 payable by debit or credit card.**

### The Irish Residency Permit (IRP)

- Does not allow you to travel to or live freely in other EU countries. - All existing travel and immigration rules still apply.
- Must be carried at all times and presented to an immigration officer or a member of An Garda Síochána (Police) if requested and whenever you leave or re-enter the country.
- Will be issued by post; it will not be given to you at your registration appointment.



### How the appointment system works:

The IRP appointment process is straightforward and takes place using an online booking system, as outlined below;

- You will need your passport and email address
- You must be able to print your confirmation email
- IRP appointments can be booked online using this link:  
[burghquayregistrationoffice.inis.gov.ie](https://burghquayregistrationoffice.inis.gov.ie)
- New appointments will become available daily from 2.30pm onwards
- Cancelled appointment slots are also released for booking at 2.30pm but are generally available on shorter notice, so please ensure you double-check the appointment date and time to ensure you can attend
- Your appointment must be on a date after Registration Day at RCSI and after you have completed post-arrival quarantine
- If you cannot find an appointment straight away, keep trying. It may take several days to find a suitable appointment date

Finally, do not worry if you experience any delays booking your online appointment after Registration Day. **You have 90 days to secure your IRP after arrival into the country, so there will be plenty of time!**

### What to bring for your IRP appointment

Students registering for the first time are fingerprinted (much like in the airport) and you are required to present the following when attending your appointment;

- A copy of your appointment e-mail confirmation
- Valid Passport (and entry visa, if required)
- Your 2021/22 RCSI Student Card (issued to you when you begin your course)
- Evidence of Financial Support
  - > A current bank statement showing your name and balance of at least €3,000; or
  - > A letter of guarantee from a parent or guardian indicating the availability of sufficient funds to support you during your stay in Ireland; or
  - > A letter from your sponsoring body confirming financial status
  - > Students from countries that require visas do not have to provide evidence of financial support as this will have been provided as part of the visa application process
- A letter confirming that you are a registered student of RCSI. This 'Registration Letter (TWIC letter)' is provided by the Student Academic & Regulatory Affairs (SARA) Office. Please request this letter, through your Moodle account, after you have commenced your programme
- A receipt of fees paid from the Student Fees Office

- Evidence of private medical insurance
- The fee for the IRP card is €300 payable by Credit/Debit Card only

Please ensure that your IRP appointment date is after Registration Day (the first day of your programme) as you will need to complete your registration with RCSI, to obtain your Registration Letter and Student Card.

Once you have secured an online appointment date, you will receive a confirmation email, please bring this with you when you present to the INIS Office for your appointment.

The confirmation email contains a link to a list of documents you will need for your appointment.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

If you are under 18 years of age at the time of your IRP appointment, you are required to be accompanied, either by a parent or legal guardian. If this is not possible, you can request for a member of the RCSI Student Supports team at the COMPPAS office, to attend with you in their place. If this is the case, please contact the COMPPAS office, via email (GNIBU18@rcsi.ie) as soon as you secure an IRP appointment date, to notify them of your:

- U18 status;
- IRP appointment date; and
- The requirement to have a representative of the COMPPAS office accompany you.

### REMEMBER:

- **You cannot register with the Immigration Office (INIS) until AFTER you have completed Registration at RCSI and your post-arrival quarantine period, if applicable.**
- The INIS is currently prioritising all non-EU students and are committed to ensuring that all students are provided for and receive an appointment to secure their IRP. This may include facilitating additional appointments/days to their appointments schedule if required or extending the period to complete the process beyond the normal 90 days.
- Always cancel your appointment if you cannot attend for any reason.
- Should you have any major difficulty obtaining an appointment, please contact [burghquayregoffice@justice.ie](mailto:burghquayregoffice@justice.ie)

# BANKING

New international students cannot open a bank account until after the completion of their post-arrival quarantine period.

Banks in Ireland have strict rules and regulations in place for opening new accounts and you will need to make an appointment with the bank to open a new bank account.

The banks that are familiar with RCSI students and where most RCSI students choose to bank are:

- Allied Irish Bank, at the branch at Baggot Street
- Bank of Ireland at the branch at St. Stephen's Green

An information sheet on both banks is available on the [rcs-eye website](#).

## To open a new account, you must:

- Make an appointment with the bank
- Fill in the required application form
- Present your passport
- Present the Registration (TWIC) Letter from RCSI which must include the address at which you will be living for the academic year
- Provide details of your student number (available on your RCSI student card)

If a landlord is looking for your Irish bank account details and you are not in a position to open an account until after completion of your post-arrival quarantine period, please inform the Student Services

Office (Email: [studentservices@rcsi.ie](mailto:studentservices@rcsi.ie)) and we will provide you with a pre-registration letter (via email) confirming that you are a newly arrived RCSI student, required to undertake a period of post-arrival quarantine on arrival into the country.

**Please do not visit the Student Services Office or any bank branch during your quarantine period. Wait until after the quarantine period ends.**

Please be reminded that your local ATM/ Debit and Credit cards will operate in Ireland without the need to have an Irish bank account during your post-arrival quarantine period. Students who have difficulty obtaining euro currency in their home country should buy UK Sterling or US Dollars, which can be changed into € Euro at a bank or bureau de change on arrival in Dublin.



# GARDA VETTING

Garda Vetting (otherwise known as Police clearance) is not required to allow you to start your course.

All students however will undergo Garda Vetting during their first year. Garda Vetting is required as part of your clinical teaching and is a standard protocol for all individuals working and training in the healthcare sector. Garda Vetting is organised through the SARA Office and will require you to complete a form outlining all of the permanent addresses that you have lived in from birth.





# STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The welfare of RCSI students is a University-wide priority and there are many services available to support all students:

## Student Financial Assistance

RCSI recognises that students may experience financial problems for a number of reasons, for example, due to unforeseen events like a family bereavement, accident, or illness. The University manages two hardship funds aimed at supporting students experiencing financial challenges. EU students may apply to the Student Assistance Fund (SAF) and Non-EU students to the RCSI Alumni Hardship Fund. The funds are managed through the Student Services Office and full details are available on Moodle. You must be a fully registered student to avail of this support.

Email: [studentservices@rcsi.ie](mailto:studentservices@rcsi.ie)

## EU Students - Student Assistance Fund (SAF)

Funding is received from the Irish Government with assistance from the European Social Fund to support EU students. The SAF is aimed at tackling educational disadvantage by providing financial support to those who may require it to enable them to fully participate in third-level education. The SAF is open to fully registered EU students. Students will be required to provide financial information to support their application for assistance. This fund cannot be used for tuition fees, electives, loans, or personal debt.

## RCSI Alumni Hardship Fund

The RCSI Alumni Hardship Fund – as the name suggests – is funded by RCSI graduates/alumni. Although primarily aimed at non-EU students, it is also open to applications from EU students. Applicants must prove hardship and provide proof of their financial challenges. The fund can be used to support students who find themselves in hardship due to changes in their personal or family circumstances. It cannot be used for tuition fees, electives, loans, or personal debt.



## RCSI Welfare Supports

The CoMPPAS Student Welfare team provide confidential one-to-one support and advice for students at RCSI. The service is in place to help students reach their full potential and overcome any challenges that they meet in their time at RCSI.

The Student Welfare team aims to:

- Provide a compassionate, inclusive and student centered service
- Promote positive mental health among the RCSI student body
- Implement personalised support plans collaboratively with students based on individual needs
- Promote the rights of the students and advocate on their behalf
- Provide individual consultations with students, run workshops and student events.

The team will also help students to access support for other helpful services including:

- Counselling
- Strategies for positive mental health
- Self-Care
- Adjustment support, for settling into student life
- Academic related issues
- Feeling overwhelmed or anxious
- Making a plan to overcome any difficulties faced

### Student Welfare Team

The team can be contacted at the following e-mail address: [swo@rcsi.ie](mailto:swo@rcsi.ie)

## Counselling Services

RCSI offers a professional independent confidential counselling service to all RCSI students, which is located off-campus. Our counselling service has extensive experience over many years in providing counselling support to RCSI students. On behalf of RCSI, they manage a diverse panel of over 20 professionally registered counsellors with a broad range of expertise.

As part of the counselling process, a student will firstly meet with a Clinical Psychologist who will carry out an initial assessment of their support needs. This is a collaborative process and will take into consideration a student's needs and goals. The student will then be matched with, and referred to, one of the specialist counsellors depending on what best suits their needs. All counselling services are provided free of charge to students as part of our student welfare support.

Students may contact the Clinical Psychology Service directly –  
Tel: +353 1 283 9366, through the Mercer Medical Centre, their Personal Tutor, Student Welfare, or Student Services Office.

## Learning Access & Facilitation Service (LAFS)

The Learning Access and Facilitation Service (LAFS) provides confidential advice and practical support to students who seek assistance with learning access and facilitation due to their disability, ongoing significant medical condition or learning difficulty. In all cases, the services provided are in place to remove a disadvantage or

impairment to learning due to a disability, a significant medical condition or learning difficulty.

If you have an evidenced disability, or significant medical condition or learning difficulty, or just need more information, please talk to the LAFS who are based in the CoMPPAS Office. We understand some students may feel nervous about disclosing their personal circumstances. However, disclosure of your disability, significant medical condition or learning difficulty is confidential, professional and makes sense in terms of getting the support you need to be successful.

Email: [learningsupport@rcsi.ie](mailto:learningsupport@rcsi.ie)

### Personal Tutor System

Each student will be assigned a Personal Tutor who is a member of the Faculty from the relevant year of the curriculum. The role of the Personal Tutor is focused on ensuring that each student is known and valued and that their needs are recognised and supported.

Timetabled small group sessions between tutors and students will occur in the first weeks of the academic year. They will consist of discussions and activities which will provide academic and pastoral support to students.

*The Personal Tutor's role involves:*

- Providing support
- Offering a listening ear
- Academic Advice

Academic staff are also available for a consultation where students are experiencing academic difficulties.

Students are encouraged to get to know their Personal Tutors, as they are a valuable source of support throughout the College years. You will be advised of your Personal Tutor after registration.



## CoMPPAS Student Assistance Programme (CSAP)

CSAP is a professional specialist information, personal development, and counselling service available to RCSI students 24 hours/7 days a week, 365 days a year, including holiday periods. This service is available anytime to students anywhere in Ireland or abroad. The service is independent, and the College will not be notified that you have accessed the service unless you ask and consent for this to be done. The service includes access to emergency confidential telephone counselling and local face to face counselling if required and can be accessed at any time.

### To access the service call

Freephone 1800 995 955 (from Ireland)

Email: [eap@vhics.ie](mailto:eap@vhics.ie)

From abroad: +44 2037017293

Text: +353 86 776 6010

The service can also be accessed via the CSAP portal [www.wellbeing-4life.com](http://www.wellbeing-4life.com)  
Access Code: VHIRCOSI

### Niteline

Niteline provides a friendly and completely confidential listening ear for anyone who feels they need to talk about issues worrying them. This service is run by students for students and it is fully confidential – your name, course details etc., will not be made available.

Phone lines are open every night of term,  
Tel: 1800 793 793 [niteline.ie](http://niteline.ie)

Niteline also offers an online listening service via instant messaging.







## HEALTH SERVICES

### Student Health Primary Care

A comprehensive student health service is available at the RCSI Mercer Medical Centre. The Mercer Medical Centre is located in the same building complex as the Mercer student accommodation. Consultations are by appointment (Tel +353 1 402 2300) and a full range of services are available, including treatment of minor injuries and advice regarding lifestyle. Consultation fees are covered by RCSI; however, students are responsible for house calls and prescribed medication charges. The Medical Centre also manages the care of all RCSI students during the Covid-19 pandemic and comprehensive

information for the management of students during Covid-19 is available on their website: [mercersmedicalcentre.ie](https://mercersmedicalcentre.ie)

**All Covid-19 health-related charges, including on-campus PCR testing, is provided free of charge to students.**

### Covid-19 Vaccinations

Students who can get vaccinated against Covid-19 in their home country before travelling to Ireland are strongly encouraged to do so. If this is not possible, you will be included in the Irish Covid-19 vaccination programme and will receive your vaccine once registered as a full-time student in Ireland at the same time as other Irish citizens of a similar age.



The Covid-19 vaccinations that are recognised in Ireland are the vaccines approved by the European Medicines Agency, EMA:

1. Pfizer-BioNtech Vaccine  
BNT162b2 (Comirnaty®)
2. Moderna Vaccine  
CX-024414 (Moderna®)
3. Oxford-AstraZeneca Vaccine  
ChAdOx1-SARS-COV-2 (Vaxzevria®/  
Covishield)
4. Johnson & Johnson/Janssen  
Vaccine Ad26 Ad26.COVS2-S  
[recombinant] (Janssen®)

(Note, the EMA updates vaccine approvals on an ongoing basis and additional vaccines may be added or existing vaccines may be withdrawn)

## Emergency/Hospital Services

All registered non-EU students are deemed ordinarily residents in Ireland\* and are entitled to public care in a public hospital. International students in full-time courses are effectively treated the same as any other Irish citizen. Hospital admission is subject to a government levy of €80 per night, up to a maximum of €800 in one year. Attending an Accident & Emergency Department incurs a cost of €100. For more information and details on exemptions to these charges please visit the Health Services Executive website [www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)

**Please note, that if you are admitted to the hospital due to COVID-19, your full hospital costs will be covered by the Irish Government.**

\*Non-EU students are regarded as 'ordinarily residents' in Ireland if they satisfy the Department of Health that they intend to remain in Ireland for a minimum period of one year. Evidence, which may be sought, can be satisfied by:

- Irish Residence Permit Card (IRP Card)
- Proof of property purchase or rental, including evidence that the property in question is your principal address
- Evidence of transfer of funds, or Irish bank accounts
- Visa or residence permit as stamped on the passport
- Signed affidavit by the applicant

## Health Insurance

Health insurance is a requirement for students' Irish Residence Permit registration. It is also recommended for your personal welfare. It is each student's responsibility to compare the available options that will be best suited to their personal needs.

The following health insurance providers offer a variety of health insurance policies and will be happy to discuss a plan to cover your immigration and personal needs:

- Irish Life Health  
Tel: +353 1 890 717 717  
[irishlifehealth.ie](http://irishlifehealth.ie)
- Laya Healthcare  
Tel: +353 21 202 2000  
[Layahealthcare.ie](http://Layahealthcare.ie)
- Voluntary Health Insurance (VHI)  
Tel: +353 1 890 44 44 44  
[Vhi.ie](http://Vhi.ie)
- Study and Protect  
Tel: +353 1 639 5800  
[studyandprotect.com/rcsi](http://studyandprotect.com/rcsi)

More information on the Irish Residency Permit (IRP) health insurance requirements can be found here: [www.inis.gov.ie](http://www.inis.gov.ie)

## Vaccinations

It is the duty of all healthcare workers, including students, to protect themselves, fellow students, and patients from disease. All newly registered students must undergo serological screening. Details of the screening are provided in the Blood Borne Virus Policy contained in the undergraduate Student Agreement Document that was provided to you at the time you received your offer.

The College will arrange for such screening and follow up. The cost of the RCSI vaccination programme for all non EU students is included in their fees. There may be some extra costs for additional vaccines not covered by the standard programme. Screening and immunisation are compulsory and failure to comply may result in discontinuation. Queries can be addressed to the Mercer Medical Centre. Covid 19 Vaccines are outlined in the Health Services section above.

## Health & Safety

It is the policy of RCSI to provide a healthy and safe study environment. This can only be achieved successfully with the cooperation and vigilance of the staff and students.

According to the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005, all staff and students have a "duty of care" to themselves and others, to work in a safe manner. To this end, white coats, surgical scrubs, safety glasses, and other protective clothing must be worn when required. Students are also reminded that it is a criminal offence to interfere with or misuse equipment provided for their collective safety.

Disciplinary action will be taken against any student who deliberately endangers the health and/or safety of others through, for example, the misuse of fire extinguishers, smoke alarms, etc.



## COMPUTER AND IT SERVICES

All undergraduate students are provided with an Apple MacBook laptop for academic use. This laptop will be provided to you at the start of your academic programme.

When you start your laptop for the first time, you will be asked to input your RCSI login credentials, and the machine will automatically download software to configure the machine to your course.

Your login details will be provided to you shortly before you begin your course as will the instructions on setting up and using the software that delivers your course material.

If you wish to connect a personal laptop/ computer to the College network (other than the device provided to you by RCSI), you must contact the IT department to

arrange a system check - [helpdesk@rcsi.ie](mailto:helpdesk@rcsi.ie).

Failure to notify the IT department about connecting a personal computer to the RCSI network may result in the suspension of your network services/privileges.

### **YOU MUST INSURE YOUR LAPTOP!**

Please note that your laptop is essential for RCSI coursework. It is your responsibility to look after it carefully. RCSI cannot replace it in the event of it being stolen or damaged beyond warranty repair. A laptop 'insurance letter' for RCSI students is available from the Student Services Office. Cover4students provides specialist contents and possessions insurance for students.

Email: [info@cover4students.com](mailto:info@cover4students.com)

Web: [www.cover4insurance.com](http://www.cover4insurance.com)



## Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)

Moodle, the RCSI VLE ([vle.rcsi.ie](http://vle.rcsi.ie)) is a valuable resource for all registered students, facilitating access to a wide variety of information: class timetables, lecture notes, multimedia tutorials, examinations results, self-assessment tests and details of non-academic/out of classroom supports and services. It is password protected for the exclusive use of RCSI students.

To log on to the system, simply enter your RCSI provided network username and password.

## E-mail

All students are provided with an e-mail address when they register at the start of their academic programme. Students must use this e-mail address for all communication with the College. Important

notices will be sent to students via their RCSI e-mail addresses. We recommend students check their inboxes daily.

## Network

RCSI has, in addition to the wired network, numerous Wi-Fi access points available to students to connect with the network/internet. Students must be aware that the use of the internet is subject to the RCSI Acceptable Usage Policy. This policy is outlined in the Student Agreement Document.

## IT Support

The College offers IT support to students through the IT Helpdesk, which is located in the IT Department, Ground Floor, 121 St Stephen's Green.

Email: [helpdesk@rcsi.ie](mailto:helpdesk@rcsi.ie)



# GENERAL FACILITIES & SERVICES AT RCSI

## Crèche Facilities

Crèche facilities are available to registered students of RCSI at a discounted rate through Giraffe Childcare & Early Learning. Giraffe develops and operates Childcare and Early Learning Centres for pre-school children from six months and upwards.

Please note that rates vary depending on the location of the centre and places are limited so early booking is advisable. Emergency care is also available when other care arrangements are temporarily unavailable.

For further information:

Email: [info@giraffe.ie](mailto:info@giraffe.ie)

## Food & Catering

Catering for the needs of our international student body, our on-campus restaurant and two coffee shops serve a wide selection of freshly-made food and drinks, including vegetarian and halal-friendly options.

- **'The Dispensary'** is for Starbucks lovers where students can grab their Tall, Grande, and Venti hot drinks and snacks. Open from 7.30am and is located on the ground floor of 26 York Street.
- **'Remedy'**, Coffee Shop is located on the lower Ground Floor of 123 St Stephen's Green, opens at 7.30am and is the ideal place to kick start your day with a caffeine fix! Offering quality coffee with quick breakfast and lunch options to stay or to go.



- **'1784'** is the main College Restaurant and is located beside Remedy on the lower ground floor of 123 St Stephen's Green. Named 1784, (in honour of the year that the College was established), the restaurant operates from 7.30am to 3.00pm, Monday to Friday and serves a wide variety of eating options from snacks to full meals.

## Libraries

The College has two Libraries, 26 York Street and Beaumont Hospital. The College Libraries provide access to a wide range of study spaces and an extensive collection of biomedical resources. An expert library team will work with you to show you how to find, evaluate, use, and manage information.

The library team provide guidance and support through a dedicated team at the Information Desks in 26 York Street and Beaumont Hospital. As you progress through your programme, the Library staff are on hand to support you with finding and using the information at all stages of your studies.

### **Lockers**

All new students are issued with a locker at the beginning of the academic year. Allocation of lockers will take place after the post-arrival quarantine period when face-to-face teaching begins on week 3.

### **Prayer Rooms**

The College has multi-denominational oratory and prayer rooms for students of the Islamic faith. Prayer rooms are also available in Beaumont and Connolly Hospital - RCSI's two main teaching hospitals.

## **SPORTS FACILITIES AND SUPPORTS**

No. 26 York Street is home to state-of-the-art sports facilities including a Sports Hall with an intervarsity size basketball court, a main gym, a ladies' gym and a studio. The studio can host yoga, pilates, dance and much more and our ladies-only gym is a private gym with cardiovascular and toning equipment that provides a private area for ladies of all abilities to workout.





## **RCSI Gym**

We understand that busy students need the very best facilities to balance their academic and health and fitness ambitions.

Our fitness centre caters for complete beginners to regular exercisers and offers the very best gym equipment available anywhere in Ireland.

Our cardiovascular suite has over 40 pieces of equipment to ensure you get the best variety in your workouts. To tone, build and sculpt your body, you will need resistance machines and with our range of over 30 sectorised weight machines, you will get the results you want in an effective and safe way. Our weights room contains over 2,500kg of plates and dumbbells and a large range of racks, benches and

platforms. You can be sure of hitting your strength and conditioning goals.

The gym team, who are all qualified and experienced fitness professionals, are always on hand to assist you in achieving your health and fitness goals in the most time-effective way.

From tailored fitness programmes and nutrition advice to sports specific programmes, they are also available for 1:1 or group consultations.

Extensive opening hours mean that the gym is open when it suits you - be it an early session to wake you up, a lunchtime workout to invigorate your afternoons' study or a late-night class to finish your day strong.

Email: [gymaccess@rcsi.ie](mailto:gymaccess@rcsi.ie)

## RCSI Sports Hall

The Sports Hall accommodates a variety of activities including basketball, badminton, cricket, 5-a-side soccer and volleyball. It is used to host club training sessions, matches and for friendly pick-up sessions between lectures.

## Sports Co-ordinator

The RCSI Sports Co-ordinator is responsible for all matters relating to sports and for providing assistance and support to the College's sports clubs/teams. RCSI has playing fields at Railway Union Rugby Club where a floodlit rugby pitch, soccer pitch and cricket wicket are available. In addition, the College contracts with other sporting facilities around the city to ensure that our students' needs and requirements are met.

Email: [sportscsco-ordinator@rcsi.ie](mailto:sportscsco-ordinator@rcsi.ie)

## Sports Union

The Sports Union aims to promote all things related to sports and clubs within the College. They work alongside the Sports Co-ordinator and Club Captains to host fun and engaging events for the student body that also promote their health and wellbeing. The Sports Union represent the student body on a number of College Committees including the Student Affairs Committee.

E-mail: [sportsunion@rcsi.ie](mailto:sportsunion@rcsi.ie)

## Students' Union (SU)

The Students' Union aims to maintain and promote the education, social and general welfare of all students. All students are automatically full members of the Students'

Union with voting rights in the election of Officers and Class Representatives. Elected annually by the student body the SU consists of eight officers:

- President
- Vice President/ Events Officer
- Societies Officer
- IT Officer
- Events Officers
- Education Officer
- Cultural Officer
- Welfare Officer

The Students' Union is the link between Faculty/Administration and the student body, and the officers attend and represent the students on several College Committees including Academic Council and the Student Affairs Committee.

The SU ensures that the students' voices are heard on all matters related to their academic and non-academic life.

The Union works closely with the academic and administrative offices to provide feedback to the College and to develop quality improvement measures across all aspects of college life. They also work closely with the Sports Union and contribute to the comprehensive social life at RCSI. Their most visible events of the year are Freshers' Fortnight, SU College Ball and International Night.

E-mail: [su@rcsi.ie](mailto:su@rcsi.ie)



# STUDENT LIFE



## Student Life HQ

The Student Life HQ ([studentlife.rcsi.com](http://studentlife.rcsi.com)) is an online portal where all Club, Society and other student-led social activities are shared and managed. Students can view a real-time calendar of non-academic extra-curricular events and book into them through the portal. They can also learn about and sign-up to Clubs and Societies. To log onto the system, simply enter your RCSI provided network username and password.

## Student Events

Student life is a rich and vibrant part of RCSI. Here is a small flavour of some of the undergraduate student activities that take place annually:

- **Cultural Diversity Month** is organised by the Students' Union and the Student

Services Office to celebrate the diversity of the RCSI student body throughout March. One of the many events is the Cultural Exhibition Fair where students set up stands and exhibits showcasing their country, culture, landscape, food and traditional dress.

- **International Night** is one of the major student social events of the year, which showcases the cultural diversity within the College. This memorable night is spent travelling around the world in a matter of hours through dance, drama, and music. Not to be missed!
- **International Food Night** is organised annually by the Gourmet Society and is a feast for food lovers which celebrates the multicultural backgrounds of the RCSI student body through food.



- **The Chocolate Ball** is another popular event. As the name suggests, there is a LOT of chocolate involved. The Caribbean-African Society (CAS) organises the Ball. The proceeds from the event go to charity.
- **Ballad Sessions** - The Music Society organise Ballad Sessions each academic year. Great music, great fun.
- **Boston Marathon** - RCSI students are fortunate to participate annually in the Boston Marathon. This affords students a unique opportunity to travel to the USA with the College's Running Club.
- **College Ball** - Organised by the Students' Union, the College Ball takes place every year in late spring. It affords a final chance for students to 'let their hair down' before the serious business of exams! This themed night is always a glitter-filled affair.
- **The Graduation Ball** is one of the highlights of the social calendar at RCSI. It is both a joyous and sad occasion, as we say goodbye to our Final Year Students and wish them well in their future careers.



## Clubs and Societies

Participation in student life is strongly encouraged by the College and clubs and societies are a wonderful way to make friends across all academic years.

Having a network of friends in the years ahead of you and in other disciplines is a resource that should not be underestimated. There are clubs and societies to suit all tastes so please sign up on the Student Life HQ and get involved.

### Clubs

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| › 5-a-side Soccer   | › Archery           |
| › Athletics         | › Badminton         |
| › Basketball Ladies | › Basketball Mens   |
| › Climbing          | › Cricket           |
| › Cycling           | › Equestrian        |
| › GAA Ladies        | › GAA Mens          |
| › Golf              | › Hockey Ladies     |
| › Hockey Mens       | › Judo              |
| › Karate            | › Kickboxing        |
| › Kitesurfing       | › Outdoor pursuits  |
| › Netball           | › Polo              |
| › Pool (Snooker)    | › Rugby             |
| › Running           | › Soccer            |
| › Softball          | › Squash            |
| › Swimming          | › Table-tennis      |
| › Tag Rugby         | › Taekwondo         |
| › Tennis            | › Volleyball Ladies |
| › Volleyball Mens   | › Yoga              |

### Societies

- › AMSA - American Medical Student Association
- › AMSI - Assoc. of Medical Students Ireland

- › Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Society
- › Animal Welfare Society
- › Art Society
- › AWS - Assoc. of Women in Surgery Society
- › Biological Society
- › Cancer Society
- › Cardiovascular Society
- › CAS - Caribbean African Society
- › Choral Society
- › Christian Union
- › CIMSA - Canadian Irish Medical Student Association
- › Debate Society
- › Dance Society
- › Divercity Newspaper
- › Emergency Society
- › Environmental Society
- › Friends Of MSF Society
- › Gourmet Society
- › Leadership & Healthcare
- › Management Society
- › Music Society
- › MESA - Middle Eastern Student Association
- › MUN - Model United Nations Society
- › Neuroscience Society
- › Obstetrics and Gynaecology Society
- › Paediatrics Society
- › Palliative Care Society
- › Pathology Society
- › Pharmacy Society
- › Photography Society
- › Physiotherapy Society
- › PIBS - Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka Society
- › Pride Society
- › Psychiatry Society
- › Red Cross Society
- › Royal College Players
- › SEA - Southeast & East Asia Society
- › Surgical Society



# LIVING IN DUBLIN

## Cost of living

### Initial 'Settling-In' Allowance

- When renting a property in the private rental sector, you will be required to sign a lease and pay the first month's rent plus a deposit in advance. Leases are legally binding. The deposit is normally the same amount as the monthly rental figure. The minimum lease period is usually 1 year and if you vacate before this period, you will be liable to pay rent for the remaining period or find a new tenant to take over the lease, subject to landlord approval.
- Miscellaneous items may have to be purchased, e.g., crockery, cooking utensils, bed linen, etc. These items may differ depending on what is supplied and what you will need to make your accommodation work for you.
- Warm and water-proof clothing may also need to be purchased.
- Mobile phones can be purchased from a variety of phone shops located around the city;
  - > Vodafone [vodafone.ie](http://vodafone.ie)
  - > 3 [www.three.ie](http://www.three.ie)
  - > Tesco [www.tescomobile.ie](http://www.tescomobile.ie)
  - > Eir [www.eir.ie](http://www.eir.ie)
 to name but a few. Prices start from €20 but there are terms and conditions. Prepaid mobile phones also exist where you can purchase top-up credit. This option means there are no large monthly bills to pay. Check special offers with the retailer.
- Other items you will need to budget for include stationery, photocopying, printing, books, toiletries, laundry, etc. If you have a TV, you must purchase a television license for €160 per annum available at any Post Office, alternatively apply online at [anpost.ie](http://anpost.ie)





The cost of living in Dublin will vary from student to student. Please see below for an estimate, but bear in mind that these are estimates only and that each individual will have their own financial needs based on their own lifestyle and circumstances.

### **Monthly budget estimate**

- Accommodation €700 - €1,600  
(Depending on the type of accommodation)
- Utility bills (electricity, gas, refuse) €100  
(these costs are usually included in your rent if you live in student residences/on campus accommodation)
- Transport €120 (in the early years many students live close enough to campus and will either walk or cycle. Transport costs can rise in the clinical years as students are based in various hospital sites)

- Groceries €250 - 350
- Clothes €50 -100 +
- Mobile phone (plans start at) €20
- Social life €130
- Books and course materials €30  
(These are approximate figures only)

### **The International Student Identity Card (ISIC)**

The International Student Identity Card (ISIC) is an internationally recognised student card that provides a wide range of benefits, discounts and services.

[www.isic.ie](http://www.isic.ie)

### **Entertainment Costs**

Cinema seats cost from €10.00. Student discounts are available to holders of a student card. Night Club entrance (entry charge) €15.00 to €25.00 upwards - theatre and concert tickets from approximately €25.00 upwards.

A pint of beer in a city pub costs on average €4.50-€6.00, a glass of wine approximately the same (coffee & tea from €3.00).

Most parks and museums, art galleries, cinemas and theatres, etc. have free entrance or offer student discounts.

### **Posting & Shipping**

Post or ship items domestically or internationally - anpost.ie. Other shipping providers and options are also available.

*Please note that all the above figures are approximations only.*



# PERSONAL SAFETY

**DUBLIN IS A SAFE CITY,  
BUT LIKE MOST CITIES,  
DUE CARE IS REQUIRED.**



## Policing

The Irish Police Force is called An Garda Síochána (meaning 'Guardians of the Peace'), usually called the Gardaí for short. The force is unarmed and is led by a government-appointed Commissioner.

**Closest Police Station to RCSI:**

**1-6 Pearse St, Dublin 2**

**Tel: + 353 1 666 9000**

The Student Services Office can brief students on personal safety matters and give advice regarding accommodation locations. When on campus, students are advised to keep all personal items in their lockers and not to leave items of value lying around. Items kept on site are at the owner's risk. RCSI cannot be held responsible for personal items lost/stolen.

## On-Campus Security

On-Campus Security personnel can be contacted in the case of an emergency:

- **St Stephen's Green Campus**  
Tel: +353 1 402 2219
- **Mercer Buildings**  
Tel +353 1 402 2219
- **Beaumont Hospital Campus Main Hospital Security**  
Tel +353 1 809 2110/2142
- **Smurfit Clinical Science Building Beaumont**  
Tel +353 1 809 3819
- **Connolly Hospital Blanchardstown**  
Tel +353 1 646 5641



## Security Tips

- Do not carry large amounts of cash around with you
- Keep all your valuables (money/wallet, passport, etc.) in a safe place
- Always keep your purse/wallet and other valuables on your person rather than in a bag
- Do not walk around with expensive cameras, laptops etc. visible
- Be very careful with handbags or backpacks, especially in cafés and restaurants
- Do not walk alone in unfamiliar, unlit areas at night and if you are socialising at night, please avoid unfamiliar areas and travel with a friend
- Use a taxi app to book a taxi. It is reliable and traceable should you have an issue or if you leave something in the taxi
- If anyone makes an offensive remark or if you are subjected to any type of harassment or bullying, ALWAYS report the incident. Inform the police (An Garda Síochána), College Security or the Student Services Office – whichever is closest to hand
- Do not give the key to your apartment to friends and do not leave keys in letterboxes for collection by friends. Never leave the door on the latch or unlocked
- Keep a photo of your passport, IRP card, plane tickets, etc. on your phone
- If your wallet/student card/luggage, etc. is stolen, or if you are the victim of a crime, report the incident to the nearest Garda (police) station and ask for a written record
- If you are a cyclist, make sure to use two strong locks (one for each wheel) when you leave your bicycle in public spaces. Use lights and wear reflective clothing when cycling at night. We also advise you to wear a cycle helmet at all times
- If you decide to drive a car when in Ireland, it is illegal to drink and drive. This is against Irish law and endangers others as well as yourself. If you are offered a lift by someone who has been drinking alcohol, please decline the offer and make other travel arrangements
- Students should not make any payments for a deposit and/or rent for private accommodation before arrival in Ireland. Always view the accommodation before signing a lease or paying any money

**Above all: BE SAFE, NOT SORRY!**

# TRAVEL & TRANSPORT

## Transport In Dublin

### Dublin Bus

Dublin Bus runs all public bus services in the greater Dublin area. Buses start from 5.00am and finish at midnight.

Dublin Bus also operates a night-time bus service called Nitelink, which runs from the City Centre to the suburbs. Nitelink buses run on Friday and Saturday nights from 12.00 am-4.00 am. The Nitelink fare costs around €5.

For further information on bus timetables and fares, please visit [dublinbus.ie](http://dublinbus.ie)

### Taxi

A taxi from Dublin Airport to the City Centre costs approximately €25. Taxi drivers may add extra charges for each passenger and luggage and there are premium rates later in the evening and at weekends.

Further information on taxis and their charges can be found on the Transport for Ireland website [transportforireland.ie/fares/taxi](http://transportforireland.ie/fares/taxi)

Dublin is well supplied with Taxis and they are readily available in hotels, rail or bus stations or at taxi ranks, which are marked. It is preferable to book taxis through Free Now, Cab2K, or other app-based sites rather than hailing taxis from the street.

By using app-based services your driver is fully traceable should an issue arise or should you leave any personal items in the car. You can pay by cash or set up an account on your credit/debit card which

makes your journey cashless: useful in an emergency.

### LUAS

LUAS (meaning 'speed') is the Light Rail transport system in Dublin. The LUAS connects suburban parts of Dublin to the City Centre with a high capacity and high-frequency transport service.

There are two Luas lines, the Red Line and the Green Line. The Red Line has 32 Stops and runs from Tallaght to The Point and from Saggart to Connolly. The end-to-end journey time is 50 minutes.

The Green Line has 35 Stops and runs from Brides Glen to Broombridge via St. Stephens Green. The end-to-end journey time is 1 hour. The St. Stephen's Green stop on this line is located immediately across from the College which makes living anywhere along the Green Line convenient to RCSI. The Red and Green lines intersect in the City Centre allowing passengers to change from one line to the other. Further information on [luas.ie](http://luas.ie)

### DART

The Dublin Area Rapid Transit (DART) is an electrified commuter rail network serving the coastline and city centre of Dublin.

The service makes up the core of Dublin's suburban railway network, stretching from Greystones, County Wicklow, in the south to Howth and Malahide in north County Dublin. A trip to the fishing village of Howth or the pretty coastal towns of Malahide

and Greystones are a nice way to see a little further than the City without having to put too much effort into your day out. The times of the DART vary between every fifteen minutes at rush hour to every half hour on Sundays. The main DART stations servicing the Dublin city centre are Pearse Station, Tara Street Station and Connolly Station. For timetables see [irishrail.ie](http://irishrail.ie)

## Travelling Around Ireland

Cities, towns, and villages in Ireland also offer boundless opportunities for relaxation and recreation, including clubs, restaurants, museums, art galleries, craft exhibitions, and music & arts festivals. Festivals are held throughout the year all over the country and are a wonderful opportunity to sample some Irish culture whilst getting to know different parts of the island.

For a small country, Ireland offers an enormous diversity of landscapes: from long, sandy beaches to rugged coastlines; from bogland plains to the dramatic cliffs on the West Coast, with much more in between. The environment provides endless opportunities for outdoor leisure pursuits, including water sports, hill walking and rock climbing.

Because of its size, travel within Ireland is relatively easy.

- **CIE (Córas Iompair Éireann)** - the national transport service – operates trains, buses, and coaches throughout the country.
- **Irish Rail (Iarnród Éireann)** operates services to all provincial cities from

two stations in Dublin, Heuston Station and Connolly Station, both of which are located in the city centre. There are two classes, standard class (economy) and super standard (1st class). For timetables see [irishrail.ie](http://irishrail.ie)

- **Bus Éireann (Irish Bus)** has a nationwide network of buses serving all the major Irish cities outside the Dublin area. In addition, there is an interlink service connecting these major points to small towns or villages. Buses leave from and arrive at Busáras (Central Bus Station), which is located on Store Street in the city centre, near Connolly Station. Bus timetables are available at [buseireann.ie](http://buseireann.ie)

## International Travel

### Ferry Terminals

Sea ferries operate between France and Ireland and Britain and Ireland. Dublin has two ferry terminals, located at the North Wall and Dun Laoghaire. The ferry companies operating from Dublin are:

- Stena Sealink: [stenaline.ie](http://stenaline.ie)
- Irish Ferries: [irishferries.ie](http://irishferries.ie)

### Flying

Direct and connecting flights are available to numerous destinations from Dublin Airport [www.dublinairport.ie](http://www.dublinairport.ie)

For information about flying with the two major Irish airlines, please visit their websites:

- Aer Lingus: [aerlingus.ie](http://aerlingus.ie)
- Ryanair: [ryanair.ie](http://ryanair.ie)

## Additional Modes Of Transport

### Bicycles

Travel by bicycle is also an option in Dublin. Bicycles can be purchased new or second hand from local shops. There are secure bicycle parking areas located in the College. It is essential that you insure your bicycle and keep it locked.

### Public Bicycle Scheme

The Public Bicycle scheme provides a large number of public bicycle stations around the city with several hundred bicycles available for general public use. You can find out more about how to collect, return and pay the small fee for a public bicycle from the website – [www.dublinbikes.ie](http://www.dublinbikes.ie)

Other bicycle hires companies also operate.

### Car

Should you decide to travel by car, parking is available in the city, but is very expensive (approx. €2.50/€3.00 per hour). Discounted parking is available to students at Q Park

which is beside the College for €11 a day.

On-street parking is available at meters, but this is difficult to secure, and many streets only allow a 2-hour maximum period.

Car insurance is also very expensive in Ireland, especially for drivers under 25 years of age. Quotes vary depending on experience, age, etc. Contact individual companies for costs.

If you do choose to drive in Ireland, you must have a valid driver's license. For further information regarding car tax and licences contact the Motor Taxation Department - [motortax.ie](http://motortax.ie)

### Rental Cars

Go Car rentals are available for short duration car and van rentals with rates starting from €9 an hour. A full driving licence that is recognised for use in Ireland is required. Further information is available on [gocar.ie](http://gocar.ie)



# WORKING IN IRELAND

## EU/EEA Students

All nationals from the EU/EEA are free to take up employment in Ireland while studying.

## Non-EU Students

Non-EU students registered in medicine, physiotherapy and pharmacy are entitled to take up casual employment (defined as up to 20 hours part-time work per week or full-time work during normal college vacation periods). If you choose to work, you will require a Personal Public Service (PPS) number.

### PPS (Personal Public Service) number

All employees in Ireland have a PPS number for tax purposes. If you take up a job you must apply for a PPS number. Only the Department of Social Protection can provide you with a PPS Number. You can find a list of the local offices on the Department of Social Protection's website ([welfare.ie](http://welfare.ie)). Please note that some offices

operate an appointment only system. You should contact the office to check if an appointment is required. You will need to take the following along with you:

### EU/EEA Students

- Passport
- Proof of Address (utility bill in your name/bank statement/student letter)
- Explanation and evidence of why a PPS Number is needed

### Non-EU/EEA Students

- Passport
- Irish Residence Permit
- RCSI student card
- Proof of address (utility bill in your name/bank statement/registration letter from the SARA Office confirming you are a registered student.

Please note that accessing some government services requires students to have a PPS number, for example, driver theory testing and driver licenses.





## ABOUT DUBLIN

Dublin was founded as a Viking settlement over one thousand years ago on the banks of the River Liffey. It became an administrative capital after the Norman conquest of Ireland in the twelfth century and developed its own parliament and government institutions under British sovereignty from the fourteenth century onwards.

During the eighteenth century, the city grew rapidly. Dublin is now the thriving capital of an independent Ireland and is the centre of the political, diplomatic, administrative and commercial life of the country. It is home to a population of approximately 1.6 million people.

We hope that you will get to know Dublin while you are here and enjoy all that this magical city has to offer. To find out more about what is going on in Dublin visit [www.visitdublin.com](http://www.visitdublin.com)

### Facts about Dublin City

- Dublin is the capital city of Ireland
- The city covers a land area of 115 square kilometres
- The city is sited on the estuary of the River Liffey
- This river empties into Dublin Bay which opens onto the Irish Sea
- Climate
  - > Average summer temperatures: 10°C to 18°C/50°F to 65°F
  - > Average winter temperatures: 4°C to 7°C/39°F to 45°F
- Population › Approx. 1.66 million (greater Dublin area)
- Twinned Cities › Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain › Liverpool, United Kingdom › San Jose, California, USA



### Some popular places to visit

- > Chester Beatty Library & Gallery of Oriental Art Dublin Castle [cbl.ie](http://cbl.ie)
- > City Hall Lord Edward Street, Dublin 8 [dublincity.ie](http://dublincity.ie)
- > Custom House Custom House Quay, Dublin 1 [housing.gov.ie/department/custom-house](http://housing.gov.ie/department/custom-house)

- > Dublin Zoo Phoenix Park, Dublin 8 [dublinzoo.ie](http://dublinzoo.ie)
- > Gaelic Athletic Association Croke Park [gaa.ie](http://gaa.ie)
- > General Post Office (GPO) O'Connell Street, Dublin 1 [anpost.ie](http://anpost.ie)
- > Guinness Storehouse, [Guinness-storehouse.com](http://Guinness-storehouse.com)
- > Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery Parnell Square, Dublin 1 [hughlane.ie](http://hughlane.ie)
- > Kilmainham Gaol (Jail) Inchicore Rd, Kilmainham, Dublin 8 [kilmainhamgaolmuseum.ie](http://kilmainhamgaolmuseum.ie)
- > Leinster House - Dáil Éireann - Irish Parliament Kildare Street, Dublin 2 [gov.ie](http://gov.ie)
- > The National Gallery of Ireland Merrion Square West, Dublin 2 [nationalgallery.ie](http://nationalgallery.ie)
- > Natural History Museum Merrion Square West, Dublin 2 [museum.ie](http://museum.ie)
- > National Library Kildare Street, Dublin 2 [nli.ie](http://nli.ie)
- > National Museum Kildare Street, Dublin 2 [museum.ie](http://museum.ie)
- > Aviva Stadium Lansdowne Road, Dublin 4 [avivastadium.ie](http://avivastadium.ie)
- > St Patrick's Cathedral Wood Quay, Dublin 8 [stpatrickscathedral.ie](http://stpatrickscathedral.ie)
- > St Stephen's Green Public Park St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2 [ststephensgreenpark.ie](http://ststephensgreenpark.ie)

# USEFUL INFORMATION

## Public Holidays

### Republic of Ireland

New Year's Day 1st January

St Patrick's Day 17th March

Easter March/April (dates vary)

May Holiday First Monday in May

June Holiday First Monday in June

August Holiday First Monday in August

October Holiday Last Monday in October

Christmas Day 25th December

St Stephen's Day 26th December

### Bed & Breakfast (B&B)

The Student Services Office can advise you of B&B's (guest houses) close to RCSI. It costs approximately €70-80 per person per night to stay in a B&B in Dublin.

### Credit Cards

All major credit cards are accepted throughout Ireland at hotels, restaurants, etc. Some rural guest houses may prefer cash.

### Culture Shock & Homesickness

Although studying in a country other than your home country is an exciting and rewarding experience, adjusting to life in a new environment can sometimes be difficult. You might miss your family, friends, favourite foods – or all of these and more. All of this is a normal part of adjusting. It will pass. It is important to keep in touch with family and friends at home to offset homesickness.

Remember that the first semester is usually the most difficult so please keep this in mind if you feel lonely or isolated. If you need some friendly advice on life in Dublin, or if you have any serious issues with culture shock and homesickness, the Student Services Office staff will be happy to assist you.

All RCSI staff are committed to supporting students, so there is a large group of people you can call on.

### Currency

The official currency of Ireland since January 2002 is the Euro (€). The Euro is equivalent to 100 cents and coins come in 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c, 20c, 50c, €1 and €2 denominations. Notes are €5, €10, €20, €50, €100, €200, and €500.

The Euro can be used throughout the countries in the Eurozone including Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia Spain, Latvia, and Lithuania. You can convert the currency of your country into Euro on [xe.com](http://xe.com)

## Dentists

A list of dentists close to RCSI is available from the Student Services Office and on Moodle (VLE). Students are personally responsible for their dental costs/ expenses.

## Electricity

Irish electrical current is 220 volts (50 cycles) AC. The plugs most commonly used are 3-pin flat. As the Irish voltage is different to US/Canadian voltage, if you are bringing electrical appliances, you will need to bring/ buy a voltage converter. Voltage converters are available from most electrical stores.

## Embassies

You can obtain a list of embassies in Dublin online by logging on to the Department of Foreign Affairs website: [dfa.ie](http://dfa.ie)

## Emergency

**In an emergency, you should phone 999 or 112** (ambulance, police, fire brigade service). *If you are experiencing an emergency on campus, please contact campus security Tel: +353 1 402 2219.*

## Food & Shopping

There is a wide choice of food shops and restaurants in Ireland catering to all tastes and budgets. As the number and variety of overseas nationals have grown in recent years, so too has the diversity of food and ingredients. Students should therefore have no difficulty satisfying special religious or dietary requirements. An array of supermarkets caters to all

food tastes at reasonable prices, including Tesco, Dunnes Stores, SuperValu, Aldi, and Lidl, not to mention local Spar and Centra stores, all of which have multiple branches throughout the city and country. There are also plenty of organic food stores and health food stores within a few minutes walking distance of the college. Shopping hours vary but generally big department stores (e.g., Dunnes & Tesco) are open from 9:00am to 6/7/8:00pm (depending on the store) Monday to Saturday, Sunday from 12 noon to 6:00pm, with late night shopping on Thursday until 9:00pm. An increasing number of supermarkets and smaller shops are open seven days a week.

## Gardaí

The police in Ireland are called 'An Garda Síochána' or for short 'Garda,' plural 'Gardaí' (pronounced 'Gardee'). They patrol the streets on foot and in cars and are unarmed. They are very helpful and can be asked for assistance if you are lost, in need of directions or have encountered any trouble.

**Closest Police Station to RCSI:**

**1-6 Pearse St, Dublin 2**

**Tel: + 353 1 666 9000**

For further information see [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)

## Government

Ireland is a parliamentary democracy. It has two Houses of Parliament (the Dáil and the Seanad), an elected President who is Head of State, and a Prime Minister (Taoiseach) who is Head of Government. You can tour the Houses of Parliament (Leinster House,

Kildare Street, Dublin 2) or take a seat in the Dáil public gallery to learn how our politicians conduct business. Sittings are during the day from September to June.



## Illegal Substances

The laws in Ireland in relation to drugs (including cannabis) are very strict. The Public Order Act (1998) allows the Gardaí to detain and search individuals if there is any suspicion that they are carrying drugs, whether for supply or personal use. Under the Misuse of Drugs Acts 1977 and 1984, there is a range of penalties for a variety of offences. Severe fines and terms of imprisonment are used for such offences. Supplying drugs will generally lead to a prison sentence.

## Ireland

Ireland is an island on the western edge of Europe, 480km (300 miles) long, 240km (150 miles) wide, and is a member country of the European Union. The Republic of Ireland covers 26 of the 32 counties, and its capital city is Dublin. The remaining counties comprise Northern Ireland (capital city Belfast), which is part of the United Kingdom. Ireland is a great place to study in - lovely scenery, friendly people, and a mild, temperate climate.

## Irish (Gaeilge)

Irish is a Celtic language that was spoken countrywide until the middle of the nineteenth century. Today, Irish is spoken in the Gaeltacht (Irish-speaking) areas and is an official language of the EU. It is not spoken very widely in Dublin; however, Gael Schools are on the increase. Useful words to know: 'sláinte' (your good health - similar to 'cheers' when having a drink); and 'slán' (goodbye). Also, useful to know: public toilets and toilets in some cafés and restaurants are marked in Irish, 'Fir' means 'men' and 'Mná' means 'women.'

**JUMPER** - Another name for pullovers or sweaters. Bring a few warm ones to keep the cold out.

## Language

English is the common language in Ireland, although, under the Constitution, Irish is the first official language. Accents differ from one county to another and even from one area of Dublin to another. Initially, it



can be confusing, so do not be afraid to ask people to repeat themselves.

## **Media**

### **Television**

There are three Irish state-sponsored channels, RTE 1 and RTE 2 which broadcast in English and TG4, the Irish language station. Ireland also has access to an array of global channels through cable and satellite. Please note that you must purchase a TV licence for €160 per annum.

### **Radio**

There is a wide range of stations available. Check online or in a daily newspaper for information on radio frequencies and programme information.

### **Newspapers**

There are three national daily newspapers in Ireland: The Irish Times, the Irish Independent and the Examiner. Larger newsagents (such as Easons, O'Connell Street) also, stock a variety of European and US newspapers and magazines.

**Money** See 'Currency.'

## **Opticians**

Should you need glasses, or need to get your own repaired while in Ireland, opticians in Dublin include SpecSavers ([www.specsavers.ie](http://www.specsavers.ie)) and Vision Express ([www.visionexpress.com](http://www.visionexpress.com)). Both have regular offers for glasses and can be found in locations across the city. There are also several private opticians in the city centre.

## **Population**

The population of the Republic of Ireland is approximately 5.0 million. Northern Ireland has a population of around one and a quarter million. Dublin has a population of approximately 1.6 million.

## **Racism**

RCSI does not tolerate racist language or racism of any kind. If, during your time with us, you feel that you have been subjected to any form of racial discrimination, please contact the Student Services Office immediately. Ireland has committed itself internationally to fight against all forms of racial discrimination and the government has set up a national action plan against racism. For further information log onto [theredcard.ie](http://theredcard.ie)

## **Ramadan**

Each year, Muslims spend the ninth month of the Islamic calendar observing a community-wide fast. The annual fast of Ramadan is considered one of the five "pillars" of Islam.

Muslims who are physically able to are required to fast each day of the entire month, from sunrise to sunset. The evenings are spent enjoying family and community meals, engaging in prayer and spiritual reflection, and reading from the Quran. For further information see [islamireland.ie](http://islamireland.ie)

## **Smoking Ban**

Smoking is prohibited in all enclosed places of work in Ireland. This means that you may not smoke in office blocks, college

buildings, restaurants and public houses. RCSI also has an official non-smoking policy, which stipulates that you cannot smoke anywhere in or near any of the buildings owned/run by RCSI. For further information contact the RCSI Estates Office Email: [estate@rcsi.ie](mailto:estate@rcsi.ie).

## Time

Ireland observes Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). A map of worldwide time zones relative to GMT can be found at [worldtimezone.com](http://worldtimezone.com)

## Tours

Taking a tourist bus is a good way of getting your bearings and also getting to see a little bit of the surrounding countryside. Dublin Bus operates a 'hop-on hop-off' tour which lasts about one hour. The ticket is valid all day and you can get off at any of the twelve stops along the way. There are countless opportunities to take tours of Dublin and indeed all 26 counties in the Republic of Ireland. Talk to the Students' Union who will be happy to advise and guide on things to do and see and keep an eye out for their weekly newsletter which highlights trips, tours etc both internal and external of the College.

## Weather

Ireland has a mild, temperate climate. Showers can occur at any time of the year but usually pass quickly. Average temperatures in summer range from 10-18°C and in winter from 4-7°C. Snow is very rare, but it can be windy.



## USEFUL CONTACTS

### **Admissions Office (Undergraduate)**

Tel: +353 1 402 2228

Email: [admissions@rcsi.ie](mailto:admissions@rcsi.ie)

### **Careers Development Office**

Tel: +353 1 402 2565

Email: [careerhub2@rcsi.ie](mailto:careerhub2@rcsi.ie)

### **Centre for Mastery: Personal, Professional and Academic Success (CoMPPAS)**

Tel +353 1 402 8565

Email: [compas@rcsi.ie](mailto:compas@rcsi.ie)

### **Counselling Service Clinical Psychology Service**

Tel: +353 1 283 9366

Email: [cpslmerriion@gmail.com](mailto:cpslmerriion@gmail.com)

### **EDI – Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

Email: [equality@rcsi.ie](mailto:equality@rcsi.ie)

### **Giraffe Childcare – Crèche**

Tel: +353 1850 929682

Email: [info@giraffe.ie](mailto:info@giraffe.ie)

### **IT Helpdesk**

Tel: +353 1 402 2273

Email: [helpdesk@rcsi.ie](mailto:helpdesk@rcsi.ie)

### **Learning Access & Facilitation Service (LAFS)**

Tel: +353 1 402 8565

Email: [learningsupport@rcsi.ie](mailto:learningsupport@rcsi.ie)

### **Mercer Court Student Accommodation**

Tel: +353 1 402 2502

Email: [merceraaccommodation@rcsi.ie](mailto:merceraaccommodation@rcsi.ie)

### **RCSI Library**

Tel: +353 1 402 2407

Email: [library@rcsi.ie](mailto:library@rcsi.ie)

### **Mercer's Medical Centre**

Tel: +353 1 402 2300

Email: [gpreception@rcsi.ie](mailto:gpreception@rcsi.ie)

### **Moodle Query**

Email: [helpdesk@rcsi.ie](mailto:helpdesk@rcsi.ie)

### **Niteline**

Tel: 1800 793 793

Email: [info@niteline.org](mailto:info@niteline.org)

### **Porters Reception Desk**

Tel: +353 1 402 2263

Email: [porters@rcsi.ie](mailto:porters@rcsi.ie)

### **Security St Stephen's Green Campus**

Tel: +353 1 402 2219

Email: [security@rcsi.ie](mailto:security@rcsi.ie)

### **Societies Co-ordinator**

Tel +353 1 402 8534

Email: [societiescoordinator@rcsi.ie](mailto:societiescoordinator@rcsi.ie)

### **Sports Co-ordinator**

Tel: +353 1 402 8607

Email: [sportscordinator@rcsi.ie](mailto:sportscordinator@rcsi.ie)

### **Student Fees Office**

Tel: +353 1 402 2200

Email: [studentfees@rcsi.ie](mailto:studentfees@rcsi.ie)

### **Student Services Office**

Tel: +353 1 402 2294

Email: [studentservices@rcsi.ie](mailto:studentservices@rcsi.ie)

**Sports Union**

Email: [sportsunion@rcsi.ie](mailto:sportsunion@rcsi.ie)

**Students' Union (SU - Undergraduate)**

Tel: +353 1 402 2190

Email: [su@rcsi.ie](mailto:su@rcsi.ie)

**Student Welfare Officers**

Tel: +353 1 402 8537 or +353 1 402 2504

Email: [swo@rcsi.ie](mailto:swo@rcsi.ie) or [comppas@rcsi.ie](mailto:comppas@rcsi.ie)

**Student, Academic and Regulatory  
Affairs (SARA)**

Tel: +353 1 402 2110/2222

Email: [registry@rcsi.ie](mailto:registry@rcsi.ie)

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