



University College Dublin
Ireland's Global University

2026

**UCD
Parent Guide**





Deciding on a university for your son/daughter to attend is a major decision for any parent/guardian.

At University College Dublin (UCD) we recognize that you may have many questions and we hope this guide summarises essential information that will assist you at each step of the application process through to your son or daughter's enrollment at UCD.

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The information provided in this guide is correct at the time of going to press, but guidance is subject to continuing development and the University reserves the right to make changes at any time. As much notice as possible will be given of such changes, but please check our website regularly. All enquiries in relation to application and admission should be addressed to internationaladmissions@ucd.ie or the respective Global Centre team servicing your country.

Version date: July 2021

WHY STUDY ABROAD?

Quality of Learning

UCD is one of Europe's leading research-intensive universities and is ranked within the top 1% of institutions worldwide in the Times Higher Education rankings. It is ranked 118th in the world in the 2026 QS World University Rankings.

Career opportunities

Improve career prospects. Studying at a top international university will set your son or daughter's CV apart and also increase their earning potential. Employers today want graduates to have 'global exposure' – business is increasingly taking place across borders and countries.

Communications

Improve language skills. Though distinctly Irish, UCD is Ireland's Global University. Students will have the opportunity to learn alongside students from over 130 different countries, testing how they work independently and also in groups.

Networked and Connected

Establish global connections. The friends and contacts your son or daughter meets in UCD will stay with them throughout their career. Many of the 304,000 UCD global alumni network, living in 184 countries, hold positions in leading organisations around the world. **The UCD alumni network is influential, successful, active and truly international.** As soon as your son or daughter accepts their offer to study at UCD, they will gain access to the **UCD Alumni Network**. This digital networking hub will enable them to connect with alumni all over the world in their chosen area of study, career field or their home country.

New Learning Environment

Your son or daughter will experience a new learning environment and teaching methods. Classes are delivered by lecturers and professors who are at the leading edge of their fields internationally. Importantly our curriculum is constantly updated by the latest research and discoveries.

At undergraduate level, the unique UCD Horizons curriculum provides students with educational depth, breadth and a global perspective. It demands that students acquire expertise in their chosen discipline while also encouraging and facilitating them to gain a breadth of education through its elective system.

Life Experience

Experiencing a new culture is life affirming. In the annual International Student Barometer Survey, our students say they had the best time of their lives on their time abroad at UCD. Beyond this, students also note becoming more independent and self-assured.

Adventure and Travel

The adventure of a life-time. Your son or daughter will have the opportunity to travel extensively and immerse themselves in new cultures.



At UCD we prepare our students for whatever the future holds. We equip them with the knowledge and the skills to meet the challenges and seize the opportunities of today's more complex global society.



WHAT UCD OFFERS

University College Dublin (UCD) is Ireland's Global University. Established in 1854, UCD is Ireland's largest and most international university with over 39,000 students of which over 11,500 are international (from more than 150 countries).

A public, government-funded institution located in Dublin Ireland's capital, UCD receives the highest levels of research funding in the country and is ranked within the top 1% of world universities. Five of Ireland's Prime Ministers are alumni of UCD, as are three former Presidents of Ireland.

UCD offers the widest range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in Ireland in all subject areas including, Business, Science, Engineering, Medicine, Architecture, Agriculture, Veterinary Medicine, Arts and Human Sciences.

Undergraduate courses at UCD provide a wide level of flexibility and choice, while equipping students with broad-based skills, and offering clear career and graduate pathways. There is an extensive range of taught masters programmes across all of the colleges – many of which are one year in duration. The structured PhD programme aims to enable UCD PhD students to achieve the best possible experience of graduate research and training.

Equipping your son or daughter for future careers

UCD's [Careers Network](#) prepares students throughout their time in UCD. As well as organised career advice workshops for international students, students can meet on a one to one basis with our career advisors who will assist him or her with CV and interview preparation. Every year, more than 500 national and international employers target UCD graduates.

Having a UCD undergraduate or postgraduate degree can make all the difference when it comes to starting out on, and progressing, your son/daughter's career. Several UCD courses include internships, and many more internship opportunities can be accessed via the UCD Careers Network. At UCD, we give students the platform to a successful future.

Safe and Inclusive Campus

UCD has one of the largest urban campuses in Europe (350 acres). It is a safe, modern campus with 24 hour security and offers extensive on campus accommodation options.

World Class Facilities - UCD investing in the Student Experience

UCD continually invests in the facilities and resources available to our students. Some of the university's learning, sport and social facilities include:

- **Sports Centre** including Olympic sized swimming pool, cinema, theatre and debating chamber
- **Student Health Centre** which provides a confidential service to all registered students and students can make appointments to see doctors and nurses when necessary
- UCD O'Brien Centre for Science - the leading facility for teaching and learning in Sciences in
- UCD Sutherland School of Law – the first purposely built university Law School in Ireland
- Ireland's largest library - the UCD James Joyce library
- UCD Moore Centre for Business – a versatile active learning environment and digital collaboration space which enables diverse ways of working. Students and staff are invited to imagine the future of business and business education



CÉAD MÍLE FÁILTE GO HÉIREANN A HUNDRED THOUSAND WELCOMES TO IRELAND

Why choose Ireland?

"Ireland has it all. From the haunting beauty of the pure, unspoiled landscapes and the drama of the coastline, to the urban buzz of the country's dynamic cities mixed with the magic of thousands of years worth of culture and history, Ireland is a country that never fails to surprise (Tourism Ireland)."

- Ireland, an English speaking country, is an island on the west of Great Britain and Europe and it is the 8th safest country in the world according to the Global Peace Index. The island is divided into two parts – the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, part of the UK. The population is approximately 5.4 million people. Ireland is the only English-speaking member country of the European Union (aside from Malta) and is a Eurozone member country.
- Almost **one thousand overseas companies** use Ireland as their European base including Google, Intel, Yahoo, Adobe, Microsoft, Hewlett Packard, Apple and Amazon.
- Ireland is well known for its stunning scenery and varying landscapes – from rugged coastlines, to inland lakes and rivers, to impressive mountains and flat pasture farmland.
- Ireland has a well-established reputation for education - **ranked in the 10 best educated countries in the world** (24/7 Wall St/OECD Education at a Glance report)

Career Opportunities in Ireland

Over 1,000 overseas companies have chosen Ireland as their strategic location in Europe. Ireland is the internet and games capital of Europe and is known as the 'silicon valley of Europe.' Most global players in the ICT sector - from Google, Facebook, eBay, Twitter, Intel, Dell, Microsoft, Yahoo and PayPal to smaller specialist companies - have chosen Ireland for major operations focused on international markets.



The Life Science sector in Ireland (including medical devices and pharmaceutical companies) also includes a large majority of the top global players including Pfizer, GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson and Genzyme. Ireland is also positioning itself to become a world leader in the Internet of Things, Big Data, ICT Skills, Energy Efficiency, Health Innovation and Cloud Computing.

More than 50% of the world's leading financial services firms also have operations in Ireland. Forbes magazine's most recent "Best Countries for Business" report rates Ireland as 11th in the world for doing business.

Working in Ireland After Graduation – Stay Back Visa

The Third Level Graduate Scheme (or Ireland's stay back visa) offers non-EU/EEA graduates of Irish higher education institutions, a period of 12 or 24 months (after issue of examination results) in which to remain in Ireland and seek work experience.



WHAT PARENTS SAY

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Seeing the diversity that UCD holds, I knew it would provide the perfect chance for my daughter to extend her experience and gain a sense of a global community, and it would also be the ideal opportunity to expand her global awareness. More so however, I felt comfortable having my daughter travel abroad to study in Dublin, more especially at UCD, as I was aware that my daughter would be in safe hands.

*Farah Alzarooni
(United Arab Emirates)
Mother of Noura, BA Classics, English & History*

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“

I must rate UCD as the best institution in Ireland for pursuing higher studies. I chose UCD for my two children Varun and Varsha because UCD has everything which a premier educational institution can provide for all round development of a student - a great campus, infrastructure both academic and sports, congenial atmosphere and very dedicated faculty. I will definitely recommend UCD to any parent who wants their children to pursue their higher studies.

*PK Raghav
(Delhi, India)
Father of Varun, who studied Mechanical Engineering (now working as a Global Engineer with an Irish-based company, Transition Optics) and Varsha, who studied an MSc Business - Innovation Through ICT in the UCD Michael Smurfit School of Business (working as Cloud Support Associate in Amazon Web Services in Dublin)*

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When your children arrive, there's a network set up to welcome them. When they arrive, they're greeted, they're met, and they get into their accommodation. UCD really took our anxiety away from leaving them.

*Alan Bigger
(Chicago, IL USA)
Father of Stephen and Phillip,
Commerce International and Architecture*

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“

My son, Pranav Kashyap, got admission in five colleges in the UK for his undergraduate course. Sending him abroad at the age of 17 was a difficult decision. I chose UCD as they came down to Chennai to meet us. The conversation helped me to trust UCD and we signed up. From that moment for the next five years, Pranav had a glorious time at UCD. The Faculties, the administration, the campus accommodation gave their best to ensure that he was happy, healthy and successful. Whenever I called up there was a response from UCD and sitting here, I could feel that UCD's core focus is to provide a positive experience for their students and all departments worked in tandem to achieve that objective. I still remember my conversation in 2013 when I told Una "Pranav must perform well". She said "first happiness and performance will follow". The same happened, prophetic she was! Thanks UCD for being there throughout my son's journey at university.

*Narasimhan
(Chennai, India)
Father of Pranav who studied Computer Science and MSc Business Analytics in the UCD Michael Smurfit School of Business (now working as a Consulting Analyst in Deloitte Dublin)*

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WHY IRELAND?

Ireland is the perfect destination if you are looking for a world-class education for your son or daughter in a diverse, progressive country with great career opportunities.



Ireland is Safe

Ranked 2nd out of 163 countries in the Global Positive Peace Index 2025



Ireland is Happy

Ireland is ranked 15th in the World Happiness Report 2024. This happiness leads to friendliness, and the Irish people are renowned for their friendly and welcoming nature the world over.



We're young

Ireland has the youngest population in Europe with a third of the population under 25 years old and almost half the population under the age of 34.



We have diverse... weather

In Ireland, a daily hot (or cold, or rainy) topic for discussion is the weather! You might experience four seasons in one day - so be sure to pack your sunscreen, umbrella, rain jacket, sweater and sunglasses when going to class!



Easy to navigate - and close to European capitals

As a small country, Ireland's beautiful landscapes and vibrant cities are easily accessible. Dublin is just a two-hour drive from Galway in the west and Cork in the south, meaning that the entire country can be explored by students with ease while they are based in Dublin. An island located off the western edge of Europe, next to the United Kingdom, Ireland is within easy reach of all major European capitals, so you can enjoy European adventures during your time with us too!



You've seen us on screen

Ireland is famous for its beautiful countryside, and is featured in many films and TV shows. In Kerry you can see Sceilig Mhichil (Skellig Michael), AKA planet Ahch-To in 'Star Wars'. In Wexford you can wander the beaches featured in 'Saving Private Ryan'. In Clare you can explore the incredible Cliffs of Moher and see the location of the Horcrux Cave from 'Harry Potter', and in Down you can travel the Kingsroad from 'Game of Thrones'.



We're proud of our culture and history

Ireland's incredible culture and history is celebrated countrywide. With two UNESCO World Heritage sites; the Neolithic chambers of Brú na Bóinne, and the previously mentioned Skellig Michael, cathedrals, castles, museums, theatres and live music, Ireland's past and present can be explored on every corner.





WHY DUBLIN?

Dublin city is Ireland's bustling, cosmopolitan capital and is just 5 kilometres from the UCD campus. It is a beautiful city where historic architecture, museums and theatres blend seamlessly with the ultra-modern tech hub of the Silicon Docklands. Here you will find the European headquarters of Facebook, Twitter and Google to name just a few.

- One of Europe's youngest, vibrant and most lively cities – it has the youngest population in Europe, with over 30% under 30
- Ireland's capital and one of Europe's most navigable city centres – it is easy to walk around the heart of the historic city, to view classical buildings, museums and art galleries, to stop for a cup of coffee in any of the little restaurants and coffee houses sprinkled along every main and side street
- One of Europe's oldest cities, Dublin was established as a Viking settlement in the 9th century
- Voted one of the QS Best Student Cities in the World
- UNESCO City of Literature
 - Four Nobel Prizes for Literature have been awarded to writers associated with Dublin
 - Dubliners author James Joyce (UCD BA 1902) is considered one of the fathers of modern literature
 - Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI), a major partnership and creative alliance between University College Dublin and the National Library of Ireland



WHY UCD?

UCD is consistently named as one of the world's top universities in global rankings. The university is also Ireland's most international and diverse university with 11,500 international students from over 150 different countries.

Applying to UCD

Applications open on 1 October each year. The deadline for undergraduate courses is 15 July. Some programmes competitive programmes may close earlier, while Masters courses generally have much later deadlines.

What are the entry requirements?

Entry to UCD is competitive and we recognize many different qualifications from around the world. Entry requirements information can be found at www.ucd.ie/global

What is the application process?

Entry requirements vary by programme. The following materials will be considered as part of your son or daughter's application:

- Personal/Academic statement
- Up-to-date transcript
- Two letters of recommendation (College Counsellor and Teacher)

Students can apply directly to UCD through the Apply Now button on the UCD Global website www.ucd.ie/global

Your son or daughter can upload their documents directly to our system. The admissions team will assess the application and make contact promptly with a decision.

Timeline for applying to UCD

August, September

Research

Begin researching options; visit the UCD Global website and other institution websites to gather information. www.ucd.ie/global

October, November, February, March

Education Fairs

Attend various education fairs to meet with the university representatives either virtually or face-to-face (note: UCD applications open on October 1).

Please see www.ucd.ie/global/events for a list of upcoming activity.

June

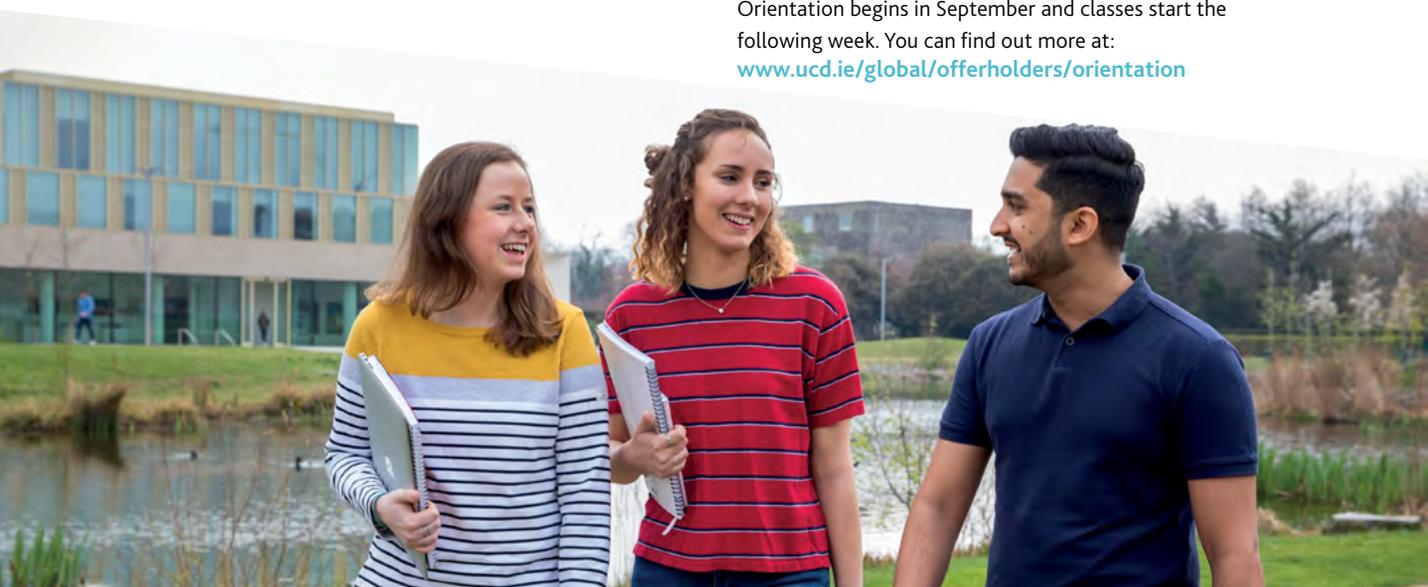
Prepare for moving to Ireland

Once applications are finalized ensure that all necessary documents are included in your son or daughter's application. Students should begin preparations in relation to moving to Dublin if offered a place in UCD.

Students should ensure they have accepted their place in UCD, paid fees, applied for a visa if necessary, applied for on campus accommodation, and connected with incoming students online.

September

Orientation begins in September and classes start the following week. You can find out more at: www.ucd.ie/global/offerholders/orientation





Practical Considerations

Fees and Cost of Living

Tuition fees are based on the course of studies chosen.

Please see: www.ucd.ie/students/fees/noneucoursefees

Please also visit:

www.ucd.ie/global/study-at-ucd/scholarshipsfinances/livingcosts for further information on the cost of living for students in Dublin and Ireland.

Scholarships

At UCD we believe in creating an environment where students with exceptional ability, creativity and drive will be motivated, challenged and inspired.

Your son or daughter can use our international scholarship search tool to explore the scholarships available to them: www.ucd.ie/global/scholarships

UCD Student Accommodation

UCD provides a range of modern, safe and comfortable student apartments and housing on campus. There is halls type accommodation (Blackrock) which consists of a single room, shared kitchen and bathroom facilities. There are also apartments with 3-4 single rooms, a shared kitchen and

bathroom & shower room (Belgrove & Merville). There are also ensuite apartments (Glenomena, Ashfield, Proby & Roebuck Hall) and catered accommodation with breakfast and dinner provided (Roebuck Castle).

Campus accommodation is recommended to all first year undergraduate international Students. Early booking is essential to avoid missing out on the opportunity to secure campus accommodation.

For further information and virtual tours of the residences please see www.ucd.ie/residences

Off-Campus Accommodation

If you are looking for information on off-campus student accommodation, including private rented and family based accommodation, please visit www.ucd.ie/global/study-at-ucd/accommodation Off campus accommodation is not administered by the university, however services are available to ensure students are well informed of their best options.

You can find helpful information on student accommodation in Dublin here: www.ucd.ie/global/study-at-ucd/accommodation/offcampusaccommodation

Staying on campus in the first year is recommended because it offers amongst other things:



Proximity to class



24 hour support from security personnel and residential assistants, as well as campus services.



Great facilities and services including wifi, on site laundry, restaurants, shops, gym, sports centre & swimming pool



Peace of mind to you as a parent



No travel costs to and from college



STUDENT LIFE IN UCD





If your son or daughter is offered a place in UCD we have a number of supports in place to assist with moving to Ireland and studying in UCD.

On securing an offer of study to UCD we will make an 'Offer Pack' available to all incoming students to provide information on registering at UCD and also general information in relation to the university and living in Dublin.

The UCD Global website www.ucd.ie/global offers advice before and after moving to Ireland and connects students through social media before classes begin in September.

UCD Orientation and Airport Welcome

In order for students to feel at home as soon as they arrive in Ireland, an airport welcome is available during Orientation for students arriving in Ireland.

UCD follows this up with a welcome reception and a number of social, cultural and welcome events during Orientation in September, as well as a Welcome Reception hosted by the UCD President. There will also be games nights, movie nights, Dublin walking tours and campus tours as part of the Orientation schedule.

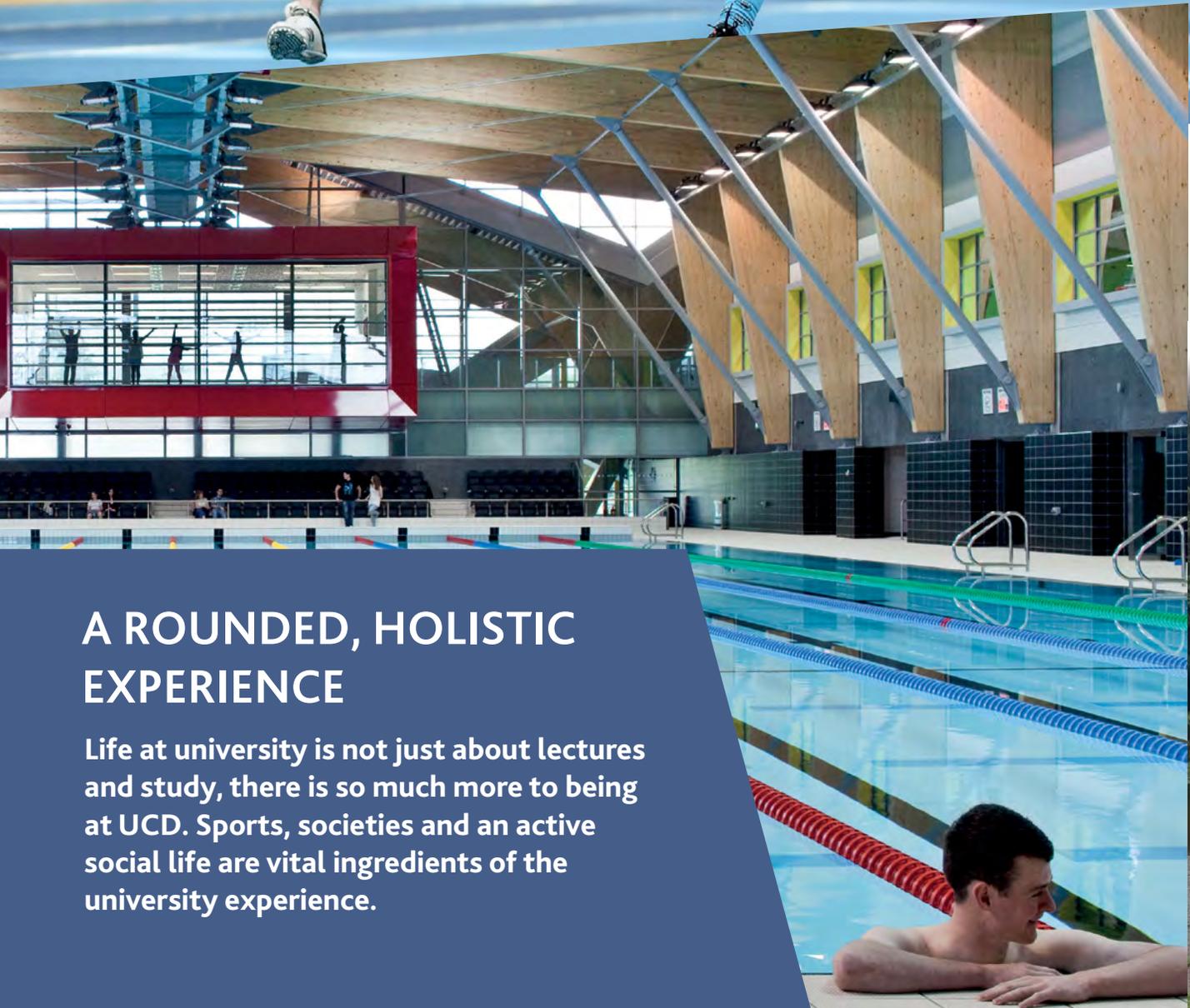
Student Ambassadors are on hand to offer assistance and answer questions from new students around campus. Academic welcome sessions take place during this period which enables students to meet other classmates before teaching commences.

This supportive and welcoming atmosphere created by the university allows students to feel relaxed and prepared for the approaching academic year in UCD.

UCD Global Lounge

The UCD Global Lounge is a space for students to meet, socialise, learn and attend events in a contemporary, unique and informal setting. It is the centrepiece for activities with an international flavour. Events take place throughout the year including national day celebrations, student society activities and career workshops. The space is used by the majority of international students enrolled at UCD and many Irish students.

www.ucd.ie/global/currentstudents/ucdgloballounge



A ROUNDED, HOLISTIC EXPERIENCE

Life at university is not just about lectures and study, there is so much more to being at UCD. Sports, societies and an active social life are vital ingredients of the university experience.

The Student Centre and the UCD Sport & Fitness complex are the home of student life on campus. These modern and welcoming facilities provide our students with the most diverse student facilities of any university in Ireland.

Student Centre

facilities include:

3D Cinema

State-of-the-art 3D cinema which screens the latest blockbusters and classics

Drama theatre

Debating chamber

600-seat auditorium

Meeting rooms

for student clubs and societies

TV studio

Radio pod

Seminar room

Medical centre

Pharmacy

Barber

Newsagent

The UCD Clubhouse

(bar and function room)

Great places to eat or just chill out

Sporting

facilities include:

50 metre swimming pool

Gym, dance and spinning studios

Sauna and jacuzzi

Three multi-purpose sports halls

Four squash courts

Handball/racquetball alley

Climbing wall

Changing facilities

For indoor and outdoor sports

Performance and squad gyms

17 natural grass pitches on campus

Including the UCD Bowl, home ground to both UCD RFC and UCD AFC

Six synthetic 5-a-side pitches

A sand-based hockey pitch

A synthetic rugby pitch

A synthetic Gaelic sports pitch

A synthetic 11-a-side soccer pitch

The National Hockey Stadium





SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

UCD knows that moving to a new country is an exciting experience for students but also understands the challenges associated with such a significant transition.

In order to ensure that our students settle into university life, UCD provides ongoing support throughout your son or daughter's programme.

UCD Student Advisors are available to advise your son or daughter on personal, social or practical matters in addition to any visa/immigration queries also.

UCD Global staff also offer support to incoming students and act as points of contact for international students.

Should parents of international students wish to engage an external provider for tailored or individual supports during a student's time at UCD, the [Godsil Peace of Mind Programme](#) may be of interest. This programme offers additional reassurance through a 24/7 emergency phone line with multilingual partners, as well as logistical assistance and welfare supports. It is one example of an external service that parents may choose to consider if additional support is required.

Please note that this is a fee-based service. Further information is available directly from the Godsil Education website.

UCD does not endorse, recommend, or require participation in this or any similar programme.

Still have questions? Find out more:

UCD representatives are always available and delighted to meet with parents/guardians during any of our recruitment trips around the world.

Please see www.ucd.ie/global/events for our travel schedule.

Below are additional UCD web resources for parents/guardians:
www.ucd.ie/global/study-at-ucd/campustours
www.ucd.ie/global
www.ucd.ie/fees
www.ucd.ie/residences
www.ucd.ie/global/informationforparentsandguardians

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions/queries about UCD programmes or student life.

Email: internationalenquiries@ucd.ie

Phone: +353 1 716 8500

Enquire Form: www.ucd.ie/global/enquire

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Important Dates for Applicants

1 October 2025

Online Application Portal Opens

15 July 2026

Closing Date for

International Undergraduate Applications*

Masters Applications will have later closing

dates. Please check directly with the

Programme Office for your course

31 August 2026

Orientation Week

7 September 2026

Teaching Term (Classes) Starts

*Please note some programmes may close earlier.

Useful Contacts

To obtain further information on international admissions procedures, contact

UCD Global

UCD Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland

Tel: +353 1 716 8500

Email: www.ucd.ie/global/enquire/

Web: www.ucd.ie/global

For fees information, see:

www.ucd.ie/fees

For students with a disability, contact

Tel: +353 1 716 7565

Email: all@ucd.ie

Web: www.ucd.ie/access

For information on School Visits or to arrange a UCD Campus Visit, contact UCD Global

Tel: +353 1 716 8500

Email: international@ucd.ie

For details on accommodation, contact UCD Residences

UCD, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland

Tel: +353 1 716 1031

Email: residences@ucd.ie

Web: www.ucd.ie/residences





UCD Global

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