

ICISP STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

Semester Study Abroad in Carlow, Ireland

Fall Semester:

August 31 – December 15, 2018 (must depart by December 15, 2018)

Spring Semester:

January 11, 2019 – May 11, 2019 (must depart by May 11, 2019)

Dates subject to slight change.

Program Summary

The Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs (ICISP) is pleased to provide a semester-long study abroad program to Carlow College, Carlow, Ireland. The program is available in the fall and spring semesters.

Carlow, Ireland, affectionately known as Carlowtown, is the quintessential Irish country town. With a population of 25,000, Carlow is home to two colleges including Carlow College, known to locals as St. Patrick's College. Learn more about Carlow College at www.carlowcollege.ie and about Carlow-town at www.carlowtourism.com. Dublin is about an hour away and is easily accessible by both train and bus.

Admission Requirements

This program is open to serious students who have a strong interest in immersing themselves in Irish culture and heritage. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older as of the program start date. The minimum age requirement is strictly upheld. All applicants are required to complete an application form. To be considered for admission, students must meet the following minimum admissions requirements:

- completion of at least 12 hours of college-level coursework;
- completion of Freshman English Composition or its equivalent with a B or better;
- a cumulative college earned grade point average of 2.75/4.0 or higher; and
- approval and recommendation of their campus ICISP representative.

A personal interview with the program coordinator may be held to determine the participant's maturity and adaptability to a foreign environment. Successful completion of the application process is required for admission to the program. If a participant has special needs, the program will attempt to make reasonable accommodations within the capacity available at Carlow College. Disability accommodations will vary according to need and what can reasonably be provided by a foreign institution. It may be difficult for those with severe physical disabilities to travel to and within Ireland.



Academics

Students in this program will enroll as full time students at Carlow College, earning 12 – 15 semester credits. The cornerstone of the program is The Irish Experience, a course which provides students with an introduction to the history, culture, and people of Ireland. This course includes field trips and a forum for inquiry into the country they reside in for the academic term.

Also available are Irish Literature and Irish History courses. The remaining course options are similar to those students take at their home college, courses such as Western Civilization, Introduction to Psychology, and Creative Writing. Attention has been paid to identify courses that will help students fulfill general education requirements for their degrees. ICISP representatives have a list of courses offered at Carlow College each term.



Cultural Excursions

The foundation of the program is the various cultural excursions included as part of the Irish Experience course. Examples of possible excursions include trips to County Carlow, including Killeshin Romanesque Church and Killeshin Hill, Old Leighlin Cathedral, and St. Mullins; County Wexford,

including the Irish National Heritage Park, Mount Leinster, Curracloe Beach and New Ross; Dublin City; County Wicklow, including Glendalough, the Meeting of the Waters, and Avoca Headquarters; a three-day excursion (Friday-Sunday) to County Kerry (Killarney/Dingle); Kilkenny City, Dunmore Caves, and County Kildare, including Rathgall and St Brigid's Cathedral. The cost of transportation and entry fees for all cultural excursions are included in the program cost.



Housing and Meals

The cost of housing is included in the program fee. Housing is provided at Lennon House, a renovated residence hall on the college campus. Residing at Lennon House is a requirement of the program. Each student will have a private bedroom and will share a living space, kitchen, and bathroom with two or three other students. WiFi is available in the residence hall. Laundry facilities are located on the premises. Bed and bath linens are provided.

Meals are not included in the program fee. A cafeteria serving breakfast and lunch Monday through Friday is located in the academic building, but there is no food service in Lennon House. Students are expected to cook for themselves. A nice selection of grocery stores and eating establishments are located within walking distance.

Faculty Liaison

Most terms a faculty member from an ICISP member institution will be on-site in Carlow to serve as a faculty liaison to students, the Carlow College faculty and administration, and ICISP. While his individual will be a support for students, s/he will also provide service to Carlow College as a visiting professor or in another mutually agreed upon capacity.



Pre-Departure Orientation

Participation in a pre-trip orientation is mandatory. The orientation will be held at Heartland Community College in Normal, IL, approximately six to eight weeks prior to departure. Details will be sent upon acceptance. Carlow College provides an in-country orientation as well.

Passport and Visa

Students will need to acquire or have a current passport before departure. Applicants should allow at least eight weeks for standard passport processing. Information on applying for a passport is available at travel.state.gov. Passports must be valid for six months after the program ends. A visa is necessary and will be obtained at the Immigration Office in Ireland after the term begins. Details will be provided at orientation.

Fees and Payment

The cost to participate in this program for the 2018-2019 academic year is \$7,900. A \$500 deposit, taken off the total program cost, is due with the completed application form and subject to the cancellation and refund policy as outlined in the application. Please note the program price is subject to slight change due to changes in currency values beyond the control of ICISP. Applications received after the final deadline will not be considered.

Please submit all payments to the ICISP representative at the applicant's home institution. Final payments must be made to the home institution prior to the orientation date. Payments must be made on schedule or the student risks being dropped from the program.

The application deadline is May 15 for the fall term, and October 15 for the spring term. Applications must be received at the ICISP office by this date. However, the program will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis, so prospective applicants are encouraged to apply early.

For more information, contact your ICISP representative: