

# Semester Study Abroad in Carlow, Ireland



## Program Summary

**S**tudy abroad in the Emerald Isle at Carlow College, St. Patrick's! The Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs (ICISP) is pleased to provide a semester-long study abroad program to Carlow, Ireland available in the fall and spring semesters. A perennially popular program, this semester abroad program provides a perfect opportunity for students to enhance their educational experience, make new friends and try life abroad for the first time. Choosing to study in Ireland for a semester is a wonderful way of broadening your horizons, growing as an individual and making lifelong friends from around the world!

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](http://www.carlowcollege.ie) and about Carlow-town at [www.carlowtourism.com](http://www.carlowtourism.com). Dublin is about an hour away and is easily accessible by both train and bus.

Carlow College, St. Patrick's is situated in its own grounds on an eighteenth-century parkland and is known locally as St. Patrick's College. Carlow College is ideally located in the heart of Carlow town. Tullow Street is only one hundred meters away our students have access to banks, shops, food outlets and a wide variety of social venues on the doorstep.

## Fall 2023 Semester

September 1 - December 16,  
2023

*Last day to remain in housing is  
December 16, 2023*

## Spring 2024 Semester

January 12—May 18, 2024

*Last day to remain in housing is  
May 18, 2024*

*\*Dates subject to slight change*



## 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:

1. completion of at least 12 hours of college-level coursework;
2. completion of Freshman English Composition or its equivalent with a B or better;
3. a cumulative college earned grade point average of 2.5/4.0 or higher; and
4. 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.



## 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 that provides students with an introduction to the history, culture, and people of Ireland. This course includes cultural excursions around Ireland. 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. ICISP representatives have a list of courses offered at Carlow College each term.

Students are only permitted to enroll in classes approved by ICISP. The Irish Experience course will run only with sufficient enrollment. In the event that the enrollment minimum is not met, students will be required to take Irish History or a similar class. All cultural excursions/field trips will remain the same and will not be impacted. Applicants will be notified by email if the enrollment minimum is not met.

Carlow College provides exceptional student support services and small classes with knowledgeable and caring faculty dedicated to academic success.



## Cultural Excursions

The foundation of the program is the various cultural excursions included as part of the Irish Experience course. Students on past programs have reported these field trips to be the highlight of the program! Examples of excursions include a three-day excursion (Friday-Sunday) to County Kerry (Killarney/Dingle); County Carlow/Wexford including Dunbrody Famine Ship, St Mullins and Mount Leinster; Dublin City including The Book of Kells and Dublin Castle; Glendalough; Kilkenny City, including Kilkenny Castle and St Canices Cathedral, and Belfast City including the Crumlin Road Gaol and a political murals tour of West Belfast.

The cost of transportation and entry fees for all cultural excursions are included in the program cost. When booked independently, the cost of cultural excursions can exceed the cost of the program as a whole— early applications are encouraged to participate in this popular program!



## Housing and Meals

The cost of housing is included in the program fee. Housing is provided at Lennon House, a renovated co-ed residence hall on the college campus. Lennon House is situated within a short distance from the main college buildings and within easy walking distance of the Carlow town center. Residing at Lennon House is a requirement of the program. Each student will have a private or shared bedroom and will share a living space, kitchen, and bathroom with two or three other students, based on gender. WiFi and laundry facilities are located on the premises. Bed and bath linens are provided.

Meals are not included in the program fee. An optional meal plan that includes breakfast and lunch, Monday to Friday during term time (excludes bank holidays and College breaks) is also available for an affordable cost. The cost of the meal plan is €945 for Fall 2023 and €1045 for Spring 2024, payable directly to Carlow College after acceptance into the program

and prior to pre-registration for courses. Once a student opts into a meal plan and remits payment, they cannot opt out.

Students can also cook or provide meals for themselves. Many students enjoy group dinners in the common area in Lennon House. Additionally, a nice selection of grocery stores and eating establishments are located within walking distance.

## Faculty Liaison

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

## Fees and Payment

**T**he cost to participate in this program for the 2023-2024 academic year is \$8,540. 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.

## Pre-Departure Orientation

**P**articipation in a pre-departure orientation is mandatory. The orientation will be held virtually approximately six to eight weeks prior to departure. Details will be sent upon acceptance. Carlow College provides an in-country orientation as well during the first week.

## Passport and Visa

**S**tudents will need to acquire or have a current Passport before departure. Applicants should allow ample time for standard passport processing. Information on applying for a passport is available at [travel.state.gov](https://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.

## COVID-19 Information

**C**OVID-19 continues to have a global impact on public health and travel. Carlow College and ICISP will provide updates to students via the ICISP website at [ICISP.org](https://icisp.org) and by email to accepted students. Students are strongly encouraged to research and purchase the appropriate trip and travel insurance prior to departure.

For more information, contact your ICISP representative or visit [icisp.org](https://icisp.org).

