

# COLLEGE *of* CHARLESTON

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iCHARLESTON

Student Guide to Location

## DUBLIN

### Accommodation

iCharleston Dublin students reside in Binary Hub during the fall semester abroad. Binary Hub is located in the historic neighborhood of The Liberties, on the Southside of the River Liffey, in Dublin 8. The residence is approximately a twenty minute walk from Dublin Business School (DBS).

#### *Apartment Style Housing*

- Single rooms within a 3 - 5 students per apartment
- Bed, desk, chair, bookshelves, and wardrobes in every bedroom
- Full en-suite bathrooms with personal shower, toilet, and sink in each bedroom
- Pillow and comforter provided (students must provide their own bed linens and towel; they can be purchased abroad upon arrival)
- Fully equipped kitchen (stove/oven, microwave, cookware, and dishware) in each apartment
- Common dining and living area with a table, chairs, sofas, and a TV in each apartment

#### *Services and Facilities*

- Free Wi-Fi
- 24/7 security presence
- Key fob system and CCTV cameras
- Student Life Assistants (SLAs) live in residence and are on call 24/7 in event of emergency
- Laundry facilities on-site
  - Wash and dry cycles cost €3.60 and €1.70 respectively, and students must provide, laundry baskets, detergent, and dryer sheets.

#### *Mailing Address*

Name of student  
FIE Student  
Binary Hub  
Bonham Street  
Dublin 8, Ireland

### Academic Resources

iCharleston Dublin participants attend courses through Dublin Business School (DBS) during their fall semester abroad.

#### *Places to Study*

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- The Library at DBS
  - Located in the Aungier Street Building
- Common spaces in DBS
  - Common spaces available in Aungier Street and Castle House
- Study Room or Common Room in Binary Hub where students reside
- Coffee Shops

### *Services Provided*

- College Writing Assistance
- Writing Tutor (one-on-one support) upon request
- Learning Accommodations
  - Support Tutor one on one
- Course Consultations
  - By appointment with instructor

### Food

Dublin students are responsible for providing their own meals whilst abroad, as meal plans are unavailable. There are multiple grocery stores within walking distance of Binary Hub, as well as many restaurants within the greater Dublin area.

### *Grocery Stores*

- Lidl - a larger grocery store, about a 5 minute walk from Binary Hub
- Tesco Express - a mini-mart style option about a 10 minute walk from Binary Hub
- Green Grocer - On the north side of the Liffey. A local produce mini-mart with the cheapest produce in the area and great quality. About 15 minutes from Binary Hub.
- Fresh Market - Similar to a Whole Foods, so a little more on the expensive side, however a great variety
- Dunnes - Similar to Tesco. On the South Side of the Liffey - on the route to Binary Hub from DBS

### *Restaurants*

- Bel Cibo (Smithfield Square) Italian, moderate price
- Mannings Bakery (Thomas Street) Cafe, bakery, great brunch and lunch menu
- Wuff (Benburb Street) Great brunch and lunch menu
- O'Neills (Suffolk Street) Traditional Irish food, moderate price
- Namaste India (King Street N) Indian
- The Brazen Head (Lower Bridge Street) Traditional Irish food, moderate price

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### *Restaurant/ Coffee Chains*

- Boojum (3 walkable locations at Smithfield Square, Georges's St., and Thomas St.)- Casual Mexican burrito bar
- Gourmet Burger Kitchen (Temple Bar, Anne St., William St.)- Burgers, fries, milkshakes
- Milano (Temple Bar, Dawson St.)- Casual Italian food
- Starbucks (Several locations including College Green, St. Stephen's Green, O'Connell Street)- coffees, teas, large seating areas
- Insomnia Coffee Company (Several locations including St. Stephen's Green, Liffey St. Upper, Parliament St.)- Cheap, good coffee, snacks and sweets, breakfast & lunch menus

### *Coffee Shops*

- Container Coffee (Thomas Street) - free wifi, seating area, on grounds of Binary Hub
- Caffe Noto (Thomas Street) - large seating area, lunch menu
- Third Space (Smithfield Square) - free wifi, large seating area
- KC Peaches (Dame Street) - free wifi, large seating area, great lunch salads and sandwiches
- Krust Bakery (Georges Street) - free wifi, sweet treats, toasties
- Bear Market (Georges Street)- free wifi, snacks, credit card only

### Finances

Ireland uses the Euro as their form of currency, so remember this when budgeting for the semester. You will not be able to purchase items abroad through US Dollars. You will be able to use your card/Apple Pay in some locations, however exchange rates may apply.

### *ATMs and Banks*

- ATMs in Ireland do not charge a fee, however your US bank may charge international withdrawal fees.
- Banks in Ireland:
  - Ulster Bank, AIB, Bank of Ireland
- Ensure that your Debit or Credit card has a chip.
- Majority of places will accept cards, however be aware of the conversion rate.

### *Travel Notices*

- Be sure to contact your bank prior to departure to alert them that you will be travelling outside of the country for a semester.

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### *What to Budget*

- At the beginning of the semester students will need to purchase items for their bedroom such as bedding, toiletries, and decorative items if desired.
- Each student will need to pay a €300 immigration fee within the first couple of months of arriving in Ireland.
- Students should budget \$150 per week for groceries, restaurants, laundry, and miscellaneous costs. This cost can be lowered if you cook more and budget wisely.

### International Phone Services

Students can purchase an Irish phone number upon arrival in Dublin if they so choose. This can be done by purchasing an international phone or replacing the American SIM card with an Irish SIM card. It is required to have an active phone number while abroad. This number can be US-based (i.e. International roaming) provided your phone can accept and make phone calls throughout the duration of your time abroad.

- SIM Cards/ cheap phones will cost approximately €20 per month. Suggested SIM method is *3 Network* for unlimited texting, calling within network, and data.

### *Providers*

- 3 Network
- Vodaphone

### *Apps to Download*

- WhatsApp - Great for texting/calling people that don't have Facetime/iMessages
- FreeNow - This app is very useful when booking cabs. You can pre order a taxi, or order one when needed. The app is setup to charge your credit card directly or pay with cash if you so choose (similar to Uber).
- Google Maps - This app is extremely useful when finding the best route to take. Google Maps gives you the best routes using a car, walking, or taking public transportation.
- Dublin Bus App - This app makes taking the bus much easier! You can use it to access real time information that will estimate the times that your bus is due at your stop. The app also includes a Fare Calculator, Bus Timetables, and a Route Planner.

### *Things to Note*

- There are no Apple stores in Dublin, however there are third party stores that can assist in Apple support.

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### Health and Wellness

This is likely to be the first time that you will be living alone. Listed below are some resources to remain healthy and to take care of yourself!

#### *Pharmacies*

- Boots Pharmacy - multiple locations
  - General medication, first aid, prescription pick up
- Reilly's Pharmacy - Thomas Street (near Binary Hub)
  - General medication, first aid, prescription pick up

#### *Doctor/Walk-in Clinics - multiple locations*

- Thomas Court Primary Care
  - Located at 1 St. Patrick's Lane West in Dublin 8
  - You will need to bring €50 with you
  - If they write a prescription or refer you, these costs are not included in the €50 fee
  - You may be able to claim some of this back from your US insurance company afterward

#### *Hospital information*

- Typically a few hours wait, but the best option after hours
- St. James Hospital - James's Street, Dublin 8 (next to Binary Hub)

#### *Local Gyms / Places to workout*

- Phoenix Park
- St. Stephen's Green
- Yoga Studios - multiple in the area - varying prices
- Fitness Centers/Gyms - multiple in the area - varying prices
  - Gym in Binary Hub is free for residents- weights, treadmills, yoga mats are available for use.

#### *Clinical Psychologist and Counselors*

- FIE provides free confidential one-on-one sessions with psychologists and counselors through *MyMind*, available upon request or by referral.
- To make an appointment with a psychologist or counselor, contact FIE staff.

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### Transportation

There are multiple ways to access transportation throughout Dublin, however within the city centre most things are accessible by foot.

#### *LUAS Line*

- The LUAS is an above ground tram that runs on either side of the River Liffey. The nearest LUAS stop from Binary Hub is located next to Smithfield Square which is approximately 10 minute walk.
- Tickets can be purchased per ride, or students can purchase a LEAP card. Student LEAP cards allow discounted prices. Information can be found here: <http://www.studentleapcard.ie/#about-3>

#### *Dublin City Bus*

- The buses are one of the most efficient and cheapest ways to travel around Dublin and they have WiFi. The busses stop running at 11:30pm.
- Download the Dublin Bus App
- Tickets can be purchased per ride, or students can purchase a LEAP card. Student LEAP cards allow discounted prices. Information can be found here: <http://www.studentleapcard.ie/#about-3>

#### *Taxi Services*

- Taxis aren't as cost efficient as public transportation, however they are an option in Dublin. Typically a cab is cash only unless you pre-order them through the FreeNow App.

#### *Bikeshare Program*

- There are several self-service bike stations distributed throughout the city centre. Each station has a terminal to purchase tickets - a 3 day ticket costs €5. Bikes are free for the first 30 minutes.

#### *Irish Rail and DART*

- This is the best option for travelling just outside of Dublin or to any major city in Ireland. Tickets are relatively cheap and can be purchased with LEAP card.

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### Entertainment

Dublin is the largest city in Ireland, so finding things to do is not a hard task! Here is a list of several of the many opportunities available throughout the city.

### *Parks*

- St. Stephen's Green (South Side) Quick walk from all DBS buildings - great to go for a quick walk or to study outside on a nice day!
- Phoenix Park (North Side) The closest park to Blackhall Place and one of the largest parks in Europe. Great place to go for a run, visit the zoo, or try to find the park's roaming deer!

### *Shopping*

- Jervis Shopping Center (North Side)
  - Penneys (clothes and homeware), T.K Maxx, H&M, The Gap, TopShop, Forever 21
- St. Stephen's Shopping Center (South Side)
  - T.K Maxx, Dunnes Stores, GameStop, Carroll's Irish Gifts, Claire's, Eason, Yankee Candle
- Grafton Street (South Side)
  - Mark & Spencer's, The Disney Store, restaurants, TopShop, River Island, Oasis, Lifestyle Sports, Pandora, Brown Thomas

### *Cinemas and Theaters*

- Cineworld (North Side) typical movie theater, moderately priced.
- Lighthouse Cinema (Smithfield Square) smaller art cinema featuring foreign films, older films, and streamed live productions
- The Abbey Theater (Abbey Street) Theater staging new Irish and global plays
- The Gaiety Theater (King Street S) Theater staging musicals and operatics
- The Olympia Theater (Dame Street) Venue for smaller and larger plays/musicals

### *Museums*

- National Museum of Ireland - Decorative Arts and History (Benburb Street), free
- Irish Museum of Modern Art (Military Road), free
- Kilmainham Gaol (Inchicore Road), very popular, book in advanced for a price
- National Museum of Ireland - Archaeology (Kildare Street), free
- National Gallery of Ireland- (Merrion Square)- Grand collection of 14<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> century European Art, free
- EPIC (Custom House Quay)- Experiential Museum of stories of Irish Emigration, past and present- book tickets for a cost

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### In Case of an Emergency

In the event of an emergency, FIE staff members and iCHS site directors are on-site for you to speak with. It is also beneficial to know where the U.S. Embassy is located in Dublin, and to note that there is a different number for emergencies. This information is listed below:

#### *U.S. Embassy Dublin*

42 Elgin Road  
Ballsbridge  
Dublin 4  
Phone: +353 1 668-8777

#### *Emergency Number*

- In the event of an emergency, please dial 999
- FIE will share the 24/7 emergency residence number upon arrival

### Transitioning to Life Abroad

Your first semester of college will be a huge transition in your life, regardless of whether or not you've spent time away from home or traveled abroad. Here are things to keep in mind before departing for your semester abroad with iCharleston!

#### *Academics*

- Your classes in Dublin will meet 2 - 4 times a week, with each class being between 1-3 hours long.
- Throughout the semester, a majority of the assignments may be projects and readings for class. However, finals can be stressful as you'll have multiple essays, projects, and exams for each class. Be sure to plan ahead, and don't get behind!
- Assessments are less consistent than the average American school, so expect fewer, but larger assignments.

#### *Mandatory Excursions*

- Classes in Dublin are experiential, so there will be multiple field trips throughout the semester.
- There will be two weekend-long excursions for the mandatory Irish Life and Cultures course throughout the semester that are required. Do not make any travel plans until you have received the finalized schedule upon arrival in Dublin in August.



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### *Residence Life*

- Residents of Binary Hub are students from multiple institutions and study abroad programs. However, you will be sharing your apartment with other participants of the iCharleston program.
- The FIE staff office is on the Binary Hub grounds, and therefore easily accessible by all participants.
- There will be Student Life Assistants who live in Binary Hub and serve as a support network for you while abroad, but are also there to enforce any regulations FIE/Binary Hub may have.
- There are no maids or cleaning services while abroad, so be prepared to share cleaning duties and discuss with your roommates about how you would like to divide housework.
- There are no meal plan options in Dublin, so be prepared to shop and cook for yourself while abroad.
- As one of FIE's core values is *Sustainability*, you are expected to follow proper recycling, composting, and trash removal methods. Multiple bins for separation are provided.