

## **Exchange Trinity College (sep-dec 2016)**

I studied at Trinity College Dublin, Ireland during the “Michaelmas Term”, which lasted from the 26<sup>th</sup> of September until the 16<sup>th</sup> of December. This was preceded by a orientation week, which started the 19<sup>th</sup> of September. The period corresponds with the first two blocks at Erasmus University.

### **Preparation**

Before departure I had to arrange a few things, the most important (and most difficult) thing being the arrangement of accommodation. I started searching quite early, somewhere in June already, and therefore I was able to arrange a room *relatively* easily. I think I was a bit lucky, as most exchange students in Dublin find it hard to find a room. I found one through [www.housinganywhere.com](http://www.housinganywhere.com), but there are other reliable housing websites as well.

About accommodation in Ireland: it is pretty common to share a bedroom for Irish students. Also, rooms are expensive in Dublin, especially in the city centre. The exchange students that I knew stayed in three accommodation “categories”:

- A shared room right in the city centre – Prices around €700/800 a month
- A private room in one of the new student buildings just outside the city centre (e.g. Binary Hub) – Prices around €700/800 a month as well. These rooms, however, are brand new and have private bathrooms.
- A private / shared room further outside the city centre – prices around €500/600 a month. These are usually spare bedrooms in houses of Dubliners, who rent them out to earn some extra money. I stayed in such a room, about 10-15 minutes away from the city centre (by bike).

The fact that Ireland is a member of the EU makes your exchange a little more convenient: I did not need to arrange a visa or to get extra health insurance! The only extra thing that I needed to do was to book a flight. Beware: flights to Ireland (with Ryanair) are cheap by itself, but adding extra luggage makes it way more expensive.

Tip: don't book your flight back yet, to keep some flexibility in your period abroad. You might want some extra time in Dublin after your last lectures (or not).

### **Arrival**

When I arrived in Dublin I already had room, so I just needed to take a bus from the airport and settle in. Others, who did not arrange a room yet, stayed in a hostel and tried to find rooms from there. I arrived a few days before the introduction week started. I used my extra days to find my way around in the city, buy a bike, and learn the way to Trinity College.

The introduction week did not offer a lot of activities, but is very helpful to meet other exchange students! At the start you are divided into groups, so you meet around 10 to 15 of your fellow students already. Besides that, there is a society market in the front square of Trinity College all week long.

Trinity College offers a lot of societies – many sport societies, but also others such as debating/philosophy societies. It is a good idea to join a few: it only costs a few euros, and it's a great way to meet people! There is also a society especially for exchange students which you should join for sure: they organise many trips and parties! I joined this society, and a sport society as well. I met a lot of people through this sport society, and it kept me busy as well – I could go training 4 times a week!

## Courses

As I took some extra courses in my second year, I only had to obtain 20 credits during my exchange period, which I divided over 3 courses. An important thing to remember is that you don't need to take any exams (when you're a one-term student): all exams are in May, and therefore you only need to do assignments to obtain your credits.

### ***Economic Theory (10 ECTS)***

Economic theory is a 4<sup>th</sup> year course on game theory. It was my most difficult, but most interesting course! It is quite theoretical, but you learn about various types of games. However, the course is not very mathematical: the games are solved by using logic instead of mathematics.

You obtain your credits by designing a game yourself and writing a paper about this, and by completing a take-home test.

### ***Industrial Economics (5 ECTS)***

Industrial Economics is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year course on monopolies/oligopolies. The first part of the course is on the theory behind these market structures, and the second part is on cartel theory. The professor is a former district attorney, who has some good stories about his old lawsuits against cartel members!

You obtain your credits by writing a paper on cartel prosecution, and by doing a short group presentation on a oligopoly market.

### ***Economic Analysis (5 ECTS)***

Economic Analysis is a 2<sup>nd</sup> year course on behavioural economics, and the curriculum is very similar to the behavioural economics course at Erasmus University. This makes it easy, but a bit boring in my opinion.

You obtain your credits by completing a group assignment (2, 3 or 4 people). For this assignment, you have to conduct a behavioural economics experiment and write a paper on it.

## Finances

### ***Monthly budget:***

Rent	€ 540	(below average)
Groceries	€ 60	
Public Transport	€ 10	(I did most of my traveling by bike)
Parties / Pubs	€ 100	
Health Insurance	€ 90	
Phone	€ 30	
TOTAL	€ 830	

### ***Extras:***

Trips	€ 500	(various trips with societies)
Flight + luggage	€ 400	
Bikes + locks	€ 150	(my first bike got stolen, invest some money in a good lock!)
TOTAL	1050	

When you have any questions, you can always email me on [sdevries91@gmail.com](mailto:sdevries91@gmail.com). Enjoy your time in Dublin!