

Hey folks, my name is Felix Schneider, I'm a Bachelor student here at BUW. I study English and History and I was the lucky person to go to Limerick last year as part of the Erasmus programme.

The University of Limerick, or UL for short, is a grand place to study at (grand is one of the most universal words in Irish English) you could in fact say that it was a grand ol' time! Limerick is located in the deep west of the country right along the river Shannon, a few miles from Shannon Airport, where you will likely be dropped off by your plane. Frankfurt Airport has a direct line to Shannon, or you can start your trip in Düsseldorf and go via London, though with Brexit that might be less of an attractive option going forward.

UL itself is a bit further up river to the east. This means the UL campus basically forms its own little town at the river banks. This is great news for any student living there, because it means that you can probably find anything you need either on campus itself or in the surrounding area, without having to go into the city proper which is about 20 minutes away by bus.

As for food and drink you will be well situated because there are about 7 cafés on campus as well as the Stables Club, Scholars Club and Paddocks restaurant, all of which serve hot food and drink to students. The former also functions as a party lounge and bar on weekends, so if you're into that (unlike me), you won't be missing out. Security is also pretty tight during party hours, so you should be able to have fun incident-free. Apart from that there are several restaurants and diners not far from campus, such as Super Macs, La Cucina, Pagoda, and Brew Bros, which I dearly recommend! Also, naturally there are tons of delivery services around town which will bring Pizza, Chips, Döner, Salads and what-not directly to your door step. There are also several Lidl, Aldi and Spar on or around campus, so you can buy essentials there.

Limerick itself is, as I mentioned about 20 minutes down river from campus and definitely worth a trip. King John's Castle, the Hunt Museum, the Milk Market, Saint Mary are all amazing sights to be visiting!

Accommodation on campus is adequate. I stayed in Plassey Village during my stay. It certainly wasn't fancy, but it had everything you need. A bed, a desk, a place to cook and internet (they had a 100K connection there if I recall correctly, while in Germany we struggle to even get glass fibre into every small town...). The village staff were very nice, but also professional people, which is very much exemplary of the Irish people in general; they are absolute sweethearts, but also very diligent, so if you've got a problem somebody is always going to help you. This is true for both residential staff in the village and the staff and professors in UL proper.

Payments for accommodation come in three rates which total to about 2800€ for the two semesters I stayed there.

UL itself is very much an international uni. Out of the roughly 2000 students there, 400 were international students during my first semester. Accordingly UL offers specifically for these students the English as a Foreign Language module, which is a great way to polish your English while you're there. It's essentially the same as the Sprachpraxis courses at home. You're being taught grammar and pronunciation, as well as Irish culture, so it is very worth your while in my opinion.

I personally focussed intently on literature and cultural studies in my course work and none of my courses disappointed during my stay. Ireland is very rich in history, culture and literature and my module gave me a perfect window into these areas, so if you are similarly inclined I defiantly recommend going there. UL also offers several language courses, including Irish

language. Generally I would say that if you have a soft spot for humanities UL is THE uni to go to if you have the chance, but it also offers courses in engineering, sciences, health, business, and education.

Outside of course work, UL also offers an extraordinary amount of extracurricular activities. The UL international society organises regular trips around the area such as bus trips to the Cliffs of Moher, Dingle Island or sightseeing tours around town and comprises over 80 clubs and societies, from tea appreciation, over soccer and rugby, to fencing and gaming. All of these societies and clubs are a great way to get some face-to-face social interaction, which is a good thing for international students who had to leave friends and family behind for two semesters, which, I can attest to you, does leave a strain on your mental health. If you are struggling with similar issues I also warmly recommend the Student Counselling service. Going there and talking about my problems was one of the best decisions I ever made in my life time.

So, to wrap it up, going to UL is a blast and I highly recommend it. Going there on your own can be daunting, and it absolutely is, but I experienced nothing but kindness there, which helped me a lot. Give it a go, you won't regret it.