

Ireland and The University of Limerick:

The University of Limerick is a fantastic place to be at as a foreign exchange student! UL is Ireland's largest college when it comes to sports. The uni has a giant sports arena, which can be used for all sorts of purposes, such as football, basketball, boxing, athletics and many more. A broad variety of clubs offers many opportunities for you, to try something completely new, like sky-diving or surfing, for no more than a few Euros.

Besides that, the campus, at which ca. 20 000 students study, is quite big. Almost like a small city itself. On campus, there is not only space to work and study, but also restaurants, cafés, several football and tennis pitches, and -most importantly- the University's own pub/club, "The Stables", which is the place for some great Friday nights with all of the new friends you are going to make. You will soon find out, that in Ireland almost everything is about "having the craic", which may sound a little weird in the beginning, but don't worry, people are not trying to trick you into buying drugs, they simply mean "having a great time" by that. And a good time you will have, if you decide to go to Ireland's third largest city for your year abroad.

The university will organise many trips for you, which will make it easy for you to experience Ireland's nature. The countryside is of an astonishing beauty, and trips to the Aran Islands, the Ring of Kerry, or the famous cliffs of Moher (which you may recognise, as some scenes of "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" were shot here), are something you definitely don't want to miss. The city of Limerick can be called a hidden beauty. Even though the city centre is not comparable with the one of Dublin or Edinburgh (which is easy to fly to from Dublin Airport), you will soon find nice spots and pubs to be with your friends. By the way: Limerick is the home of one of the most successful Irish rugby teams, and a "Munster Rugby"-match is something that should be on your bucket-list as well.

Life in Ireland is a little more expensive than it is back home. Especially the housing situation can't be compared with the one we have in Wuppertal. If you want to live in student accommodations, which are near to the university, you will have to pay at least 400-500 € per month.

There is off-campus accommodation as well, which is a little cheaper than the student's dorms. However, these houses are not as near to the university as the others. Groceries are more expensive as well, but with an ALDI as well as a LIDL around the corner, you will get along just fine.

If you go to a pub, you are likely to pay around 5 Euros for a pint in Limerick, and around 7 Euros in Dublin. All in all, you should expect to pay something between 800-1000 € per month on accommodation, groceries, trips and "cold ones" in the pub. You will see that this is money well

spent. I spent two semesters, from September 2016 to May 2017 in Ireland, and this time has been a wonderful time of travel, parties and wonderful new people. I can really recommend UL!

If you need any further information regarding financial aspects, as well as the life in Ireland, contact me.

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