

**Academics: Course and Credit Information**  
**Institute of Technology - Carlow**  
Updated July 2011

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### Choosing the Right Subjects

- Institute of Technology - Carlow (IT Carlow) has developed an on-line listing of modules specifically for EuroLearn students through <http://www.eurolearn.org/Subject/ProgramID467/>. The module listings are listed by School/Faculty (i.e. Sciences, Business, Civil Engineering, etc.) and then by Year.
- The subject description gives you a brief summary of the contents and should provide you with an indication of the aims of the subject. If you require more information on any particular course, you can request this from your EuroLearn Coordinator.
- Year 1 subjects equate to American Freshman year, Year 2 equates to American Sophomore year, Year 3 relates to American Junior and Year 4 relates to American Senior.
- All of the subjects listed are run as part of full IT Carlow programs of study which are taken by IT Carlow students.
- Some of the most popular courses for study abroad students include those in Business, Health and Sports and Exercise Science.
- Credits are listed in ECTS. Typically 2 ECTS credits are equal to 1 U.S. Semester credit. Please verify your Home University policies on the equivalencies of ECT for transfer credit at your institution. The majority of course units at IT Carlow are worth either 5 ECTS credits (for semester-long classes) or 10 ECTS credits (for full year classes). Your final course registration will equal 25-30 ECT credits.
- It is important to apply for modules for which you have the appropriate academic background. For example, don't plan to take a Third Year Business course if you have only taken one business course prior to study abroad at IT Carlow.
- EuroLearn students can only study abroad at IT Carlow for the Fall semester or the Academic Year, not for the Spring semester only.

### Prerequisites and Course Approval

- When you have been accepted to the EuroLearn program you will be asked to submit an Intended Subject Plan (ISP) listing 8-10 modules that you would be interested in taking at IT Carlow in order of priority.
- Some subjects may indicate prerequisites. Be sure to read through the full module description to determine if you have the appropriate academic background as documented by your transcript.
- During the pre-registration process done by the IT Carlow Study Abroad Office, academic departments will review your transcripts to ensure that you have met these prerequisites with equivalent classes. They will not, in most cases, require that you have taken their exact class but one with similar content.

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- Be sure that you have submitted updated transcripts to EuroLearn so that your prerequisites can be properly evaluated. If your current semester courses are not listed on the transcript you submitted with your EuroLearn application you will need to provide a list of courses underway as one may represent the prerequisite.
- EuroLearn will submit the completed ISP to IT-Carlow's International Office who will work with each department responsible for teaching the selected modules. Prerequisites will be verified. A formal offer letter will be sent to EuroLearn on the student's behalf listing courses that have been approved.

## **Course Scheduling and Enrollment**

- Final course registration will be done by the student upon arrival. Timetables are not confirmed in advance but set at the beginning of each semester. All efforts will be made to alter conflicts in timetables.
- It is important that students (and Study Abroad advisors) understand that there is no guarantee on the availability of modules. This is why it is crucial that students submit multiple choices in order of priority.
- As IT Carlow courses are designed to run over the full academic year, the exams normally take place in May. However, EuroLearn students may take the first half of the course. Many of the faculty has adjusted timetables for Fall Study Abroad students so they may be assessed prior to their departure in December through papers, presentations or other methods in lieu of sitting the exams. This will be verified during the application process based on your specific course selections.
- Students attending for the academic year **MUST** complete all coursework and take final examinations in May. Specific exam schedules are not available until mid-Spring.

## **Academic Differences between Ireland and the U.S./Canada**

IT Carlow degrees are based on 4 year programs of study. Local and international Degree seeking students take a planned set of core and optional modules on a year by year basis as part of their program. Unlike in many countries, an Irish student has defined courses of study set out from the start. Each program is managed as a coherent offering by a School/Department within the Faculty. Unlike the degree students, study abroad students are able to take modules from varied disciplines.

All subjects at IT Carlow are internationally recognized and are validated by HETAC (Higher Education Training & Awards Council). IT Carlow awards credits for subjects successfully completed and are part of the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

The academic system places a lot of emphasis on independent study. This can be quite different from that experienced in the US/Canada. It is expected that students will research and write essay type papers even from their first year. Written papers and presentations will make up parts of the overall assessment, together with or as part of the final exams.

### **GlobalLinks Learning Abroad**

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## GRADING CONVERSION GUIDE

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### Institute of Technology-Carlow

I.T. Carlow % mark	I.T. Carlow Grade
80-100	A
70-79	B+
60-69	B
55-59	B-
50-54	C+
40-49	C
35-39	D
Fail	F
Not Present	NP
Subject Passed	Grade + EXEMPTED
Result Withheld	WH
Pass for Subject	PS

Students studying full time at IT-Carlow normally take 12 courses for the Academic Year. The credit system used is ECTS (European Credits Transfer System). A full academic year load is 60 ECTS, comparable to US 30 credits. The number of ECTS, linked to courses, may differ. Students can apply for courses and add the ECTS up to a total of 30 per semester. Students are required to take a minimum of 25 ECTS per semester. The recommended value of 2 ECTS credits is 1 U.S. semester credit hour. Official Transcripts will be issued by IT Carlow approximately 4 weeks after the completion of the exam period.

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