

Academics: Course and Credit Information
Trinity College Dublin
Updated July 2011

Choosing the Right Subjects

- The Trinity College Dublin study abroad course catalog is accessed through the EuroLearn website via <http://www.eurolearn.org/Subject/ProgramID549/>.
- Courses are listed by Faculty and then by academic area. EuroLearn students may take Broad Curriculum courses (those subject areas not confined to a specific major), from the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences or from the Faculty of Engineering, Mathematics and Science. Departments that are not available to study abroad students will indicate this in the catalog section.
- The following restrictions apply to study abroad students at Trinity College Dublin:
 - Non-native speakers of English Language must meet the minimum English Language requirements.
 - Many courses are offered for the full year. Semester students must closely match the courses they wish to take with their semester of participation and read through course descriptions to make sure they are not full year courses.
 - Many courses are not available for the Michaelmas term only.
- Students studying in the Fall/Michaelmas semester can choose from courses shown as being run during the Michaelmas Term (MT). Students studying in the Spring semester can choose from courses shown as being run in Hilary Term (HT) or Hilary and Trinity Terms (HT,TT).
- Select the subject area most similar to your current major or minor in the class listings. Choose the year most appropriate to the level you will have reached when you arrive at TCD. The courses will give a course code which represents the academic area (Drama and Film, Philosophy, Biology, etc.) and a course number. Generally the numbers correspond to the year of study (1 = 1st year, 2= 2nd year, etc.). The year of study is also often referred to by the following terms:
 - 1st Year = Junior Freshman
 - 2nd Year = Senior Freshman
 - 3rd Year = Junior Sophister
 - 4th Year = Senior Sophister

So 1st and 2nd year courses can be referred to as “Freshman” courses and 3rd and 4th years can be referred to as “Sophister” courses.

- If you are spending your junior year at TCD, second year courses (a.k.a. Senior Freshman courses) will usually be the ones that are the most compatible with your current program.
- Descriptions will often include the course format. Keep in mind these descriptions are for the current academic year and subject to change. There is no guarantee that all courses will be available every year and timetable conflicts can also arise, so list your selection in order of preference. Please make it clear if you have specific alternatives should your first choice not be available.

GlobalLinks Learning Abroad

- Students are required to take classes in at least 2 departments but no more than 4 (this does not include Broad Curriculum courses). TCD strongly recommends that students select courses within as few departments as possible as this will allow more flexibility in creating their timetable and prevent clashes.
- Please note that many departmental courses are restricted to specific academic levels. For example, History courses are only available for study abroad students at the Junior Freshman or Senior Freshman (1st year or 2nd year) levels. Please read through the course information for each department and each module very carefully so you are aware of the restrictions.
- 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 Biology course if you have only taken one biology course prior to study abroad at TCD.
- All full-time EuroLearn students are required to take 25-30 TCD credit points per semester equivalent to 12-15 U.S. semester credits. Trinity College courses are weighted in multiples of 5 ECTS, i.e. 5, 10, 15 and 20. 1 Trinity College Unit or credit is equal to 1 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) credit. Generally 2 ECTS credits are equal to 1 U.S. Semester credit. Please verify your Home University policies on the equivalencies for transfer credit at your institution
- The course description through the on-line TCD course catalog will often describe assessment methods. Study Abroad Students studying for the Michaelmas term only may take courses that require a Trinity Term examination.

Prerequisites and Course Approval

- When you have been accepted to the EuroLearn program you will be asked to submit an Intended Subject Plan listing 8-10 modules that you would be interested in taking at TCD in order of priority. Depending on the credit value of each course, a normal load is 3-6 courses as the total credit value should be at least 25-30 credits.
- TCD academic departments will review your course selections and the TCD Study Abroad Office will inform whether or not you have been approved by each department.
- Where a prerequisite is listed, you are not expected to have taken exactly the same course at your own institution, but you are expected to have studied the same subject area at the same level as the TCD prerequisite.
- Be sure that you have submitted updated transcripts to EuroLearn so that your prerequisites can be properly evaluated. If your current course registration is not listed on the transcript you will need to provide a list of courses underway as one may represent the prerequisite.

Course Scheduling and Enrollment

- Your course choices will not be finalized until after arrival at Trinity. You will be required to discuss your course options with an academic advisor at Trinity and then will sign up for classes during the first 1-2 weeks of teaching based on their advice, on the class schedule, and on any timetable conflicts. You will ultimately be enrolled in 25-30 ECTS credits. At that point, you should submit a verification of enrollment to your home university.

GlobalLinks Learning Abroad

- Students attending for the academic year or Hilary term **MUST** complete all coursework and take final examinations (held in May/June). Specific exam schedules are not available until mid Spring. Students should arrange their travel plans accordingly as exams cannot be rescheduled.
- It is important that students (and Study Abroad advisors) understand that there is no guarantee on the availability of courses or permission to enroll in the course. This is why it is crucial that students submit multiple choices in order of priority and get them all pre-approved by their home university.

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

The academic year at TCD is divided into three official terms: Michaelmas Term (MT) running September to December, Hilary Term (HT) running January through mid-April and Trinity Term (TT) running late April to late May. Trinity Term is primarily devoted to taking examinations.

Students at TCD typically attend university for four years, beginning courses in their major during their first semester since there is not a "general studies" requirement like most U.S. and Canadian four-year institutions. The first year of study is equivalent to a U.S. Sophomore level as Irish students have one more year of schooling prior to attending the University and have been specializing in their subject area for at least two years prior to university.

Students should note that the number of credits associated with a course does not relate to the number of contact hours (lectures, tutorials etc) per week as is the case in some education systems. The number of formal contact hours varies considerably between subjects. Course units within engineering and the sciences will normally have many more contact hours than course units in humanities, but the latter usually require the student to invest more time in library study.

GlobalLinks Learning Abroad

GRADING CONVERSION GUIDE

Trinity College Dublin

TCD Degree Classification	Trinity Grade	Percentage Range	U.S. Grade
1 st class Honors	I	70-100%	A
2 nd class Honor, 1 st division	II.1	60-69%	B
2 nd class Honors, 2 nd division	II.2	50-59%	C
3 rd class Honors	III	40-49%	D
Fail	F1	30-39%	F
Fail	F2	Below 29%	F

Students studying full time at Trinity College Dublin take three to six modules each term depending on the credit value of individual courses. Most courses will be worth 5, 10, 15 or 20 ECTS. A full-time credit load for a term is 25-30 Trinity credits, typically equivalent to 12-15 U.S. semester credits. 1 Trinity College Unit or credit is equal to 1 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) credit. Generally 2 ECTS credits are equal to 1 U.S. Semester credit. Official transcripts are issued in July/August for each academic year.

GlobalLinks Learning Abroad

12050 N. Pecos Street, Suite 320 • Westminster, CO 80234 | tel: +1.303.446.2214 • 1.800.980.0033 • fax: +1.303.446.5955
studyabroad@globalinksabroad.org | www.globalinksabroad.org