

Academics: Course and Credit Information
University of Limerick
Updated July 2011

Choosing the Right Subjects

The University of Limerick course catalog is accessed through the EuroLearn website via <http://www.eurolearn.org/Subject/ProgramID556/>

Each menu option drops down to allow a number of searches

- Search by Faculty, Department and/ or Module
 - Select the relevant faculty, department and/ or module
 - Semester – Select relevant semester
 - Undergraduate - Select Undergraduate
 - Select the green button

- Search by module title
 - Enter module title in the search box
 - Semester – Select relevant semester
 - Select the green button overhead

- Search the semester, graduate, prerequisites and/ or views
 - Select the semester and/ or
 - Select undergraduate and/ or
 - Prerequisites and/ or
 - Views
 - Select the green button overhead

When your search is complete you can then export the information into Word or Excel format. Click either the excel or word logo which is on the top right hand corner of the page.

To understand the course coding:

- The first two letters of the code indicate the subject area to which the module belongs.
- The FINAL numerical digit of the code corresponds to the semester of study in which the module is normally taken by Irish students i.e. year one modules end in 1 (Fall semester) and 2 (Spring semester) - year two modules end in 3 (Fall semester) and 4 (Spring semester) and so on until year four. These codes should be used as a guide to the level of each course.
- The three digit codes found at the right of a module title represents the number of corresponding Lecture, Tutorial and Laboratory hours (in this order).

To understand the keys:

- + A minimum number of students are necessary before these modules are offered
- * Prerequisite standard is necessary for entry into these modules
- Δ Resource and scheduling constraints limit places in these modules therefore enrollment cannot be guaranteed.
- ‡ Module has weekly studio/design hours allocated outside of classes/tutorials

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The following restrictions apply to study abroad students at the University of Limerick:

- The availability of Equine modules is restricted to Equine majors or minors with demonstrated experience with horses. Places cannot be guaranteed to Study Abroad students in advance of their arrival at UL. Preference is given to full-time (Degree) equine students and Study Abroad students will be offered any remaining places on the program.
 - Sports Science & Physical Education modules are limited and will therefore only be available to Sport Science/PE major students. These courses cannot be guaranteed to Study Abroad students as places are given to full-time (Degree) students first and it is only if there are places remaining that Study Abroad students will be facilitated. UL cannot guarantee any Sport Science/PE modules prior to arrival at the University of Limerick.
 - The practicum modules are designed primarily to develop the performance skills of students and to do this they will work with visiting and resident tutors who represent the cream of performance in Ireland and beyond. Places on practicum modules are limited and all practicum modules require an audition upon arrival.
 - Architecture students will need to submit a portfolio of their work prior to acceptance to courses.
 - Journalism course enrollment is very limited due to high demand from degree students.
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- 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 Limerick.
 - The first year of study at Limerick 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.
 - All full-time EuroLearn students are required to take 30 ECTS credit points per semester equivalent to 15 U.S. semester credits. All courses are valued at 6 ECTS so you will be taking 5 modules. EuroLearn students will only be allowed to take four modules with written permission from your Home University. As a general rule, 2 ECTS credits equates to 1 U.S. semester credit. Please verify your Home University policies on the equivalencies for transfer credit at your institution.

Prerequisites and Course Approval

- When you have been accepted to the EuroLearn program you will be asked to submit an Intended Subject Plan listing 10-12 modules that you would be interested in taking at Limerick in order of priority.
- 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 Limerick 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.

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Course Scheduling and Enrollment

- Upon arrival at Limerick, you will be able to sit in on classes for two weeks prior to registering in the courses. The registration process will be explained during your orientation at Limerick. Students will ultimately be enrolled in 5 modules. At that point, you should submit a verification of enrollment to your home university.
- It is important that students (and Study Abroad advisors) understand that there is no guarantee on the availability of modules and timetable clashes can occur. This is why it is crucial that students have multiple course options approved by their Home University.

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

The academic year at Limerick is divided into two terms for degree seeking students. The Autumn semester is from September to January with lectures completed prior to the Christmas holiday break and exams taking place in January. The Spring semester is from January to May with lectures completed in April/May and exams taken mid to late May. However, EuroLearn Autumn Study Abroad students are not required to stay for January exams and will be able to return home prior to the Christmas holiday.

Students at Limerick 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.

Courses are called "modules" or "course units" in the Irish educational system. Visiting students may choose from a wide range of modules and may cross register between faculties and departments. Modules will have a different set-up on a case-by-case basis. Many will meet three times a week, with a lecture, a tutorial and a supporting laboratory if appropriate. Often a professor will teach lectures and a postgraduate student will teach a tutorial. Laboratories are run by either professors or postgraduates depending on the level of the course.

Assessment practices vary between modules. In general, practicum modules have a continuous assessment and performance component while lecture-based modules are assessed by written submissions, project based work, examinations, or any combination of these elements. The assessment criteria for each module are detailed in the course documentation each academic semester, which is subject to change and updating on an ongoing basis. At the University of Limerick, assessments/exams take place in the form of an end of term exam. Many American students find this strange from their normal type of continuous assessments. Assessments will vary from class to class. In some modules there may be an in-term assessment or an essay to be handed in which is worth some of the percentage but it is not unusual in UL to have a final exam worth 100%.

Assignments and suggested reading lists for each course are usually handed out at the first lecture. Past exam papers are a great source of information and can be accessed electronically.

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GRADING CONVERSION GUIDE

University of Limerick

EuroLearn and its partner Universities recognize that the transfer of credits and conversion of marks for students who have participated in the Study Abroad Program is the responsibility of the visiting student's home institution. The following information is a guide to assist in understanding the University's numerical grading.

U of Limerick Grade	%	Quality Point Value (QPV)	US Grade
A1	≥ 75	4.0	A
A2	70-74	3.6	A-
B2	65-69	3.2	B+
B2	60-64	3.0	B
B3	55-59	2.8	B-
C1	50-54	2.6	C+
C2	45-49	2.4	C
C3	40-44	2.0	C-
D1	35-39	1.6	D+
D2	30-34	1.2	D
F	<30	0.00	F
NG		0.00	F

The University of Limerick utilizes a 4 point grading scale which is the equivalent of the GPA in the U.S. Grades ranging from A1 to NG are each given a numerical value known as a **quality point value (QPV)** on a scale from 4 to 0.

Students studying full time at the University of Limerick are required to take five courses valued at 6 ECTS or 3 U.S. semester credits each for a total of 15 credits. Beginning in 2009/10 academic year the University adopted the moved to ECTS credits (European Credit Transfer System). Official transcripts will be issued by the University of Limerick and submitted through EuroLearn following the completion of the student's term.

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