



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh

National University of Ireland, Galway

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

A Guide for (non-EU) International Students



Key Facts: NUI Galway

Founded: 1845

Location: Galway, Ireland

Degrees Awarded: Bachelor, PGDip., Masters, PhD

Enrollment: 17,000 (13,000 full time)

International Students: 2,000

Academic Year: September-May

Disciplines: Arts, Humanities, Business, Law, Science, Engineering, IT, Medicine, Nursing, Science

ABOUT NUI GALWAY

National University of Ireland, Galway

Established in 1845, National University of Ireland, Galway (NUI Galway) has over 160 years' experience of teaching and research across a wide range of academic disciplines. With over 17,000 students, today the University is recognised as one of Ireland's leading research-led communities with a commitment to top-quality teaching.

In 2009, NUI Galway was named the Sunday Times University of the Year, reflecting our achievements in the areas of student satisfaction, investment in modern teaching and recreational facilities and our excellent record in the introduction of new and innovative degree programmes.

The University has a long tradition of welcoming medical students from overseas, from Europe, USA, Canada, the Middle East and South East Asia. These students are attracted by our international reputation in teaching and research and the worldwide recognition of the quality of Irish medical education.

School of Medicine, NUI Galway

The Medical Faculty was one of the original faculties of the University when it was established in 1845. Today, the School of Medicine, along with the School of Nursing and Midwifery and the School of Health Sciences (Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Podiatry, and Health Promotion) form the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences. This multidisciplinary College has over 1,500 students.

In addition to teaching and the provision of medical care, all departments are engaged in research. Our research is often interdisciplinary and frequently involves collaboration between the University and hospitals in Ireland and abroad.

Our academics conduct major research programmes in many fields including regenerative medicine (gene and stem cell therapy), health promotion, cancer biology, feto-maternal health, neuroscience, cardiovascular and community health. Many of our researchers are based in the recently established National Centre for Biomedical Engineering Science on the main University campus. A state of the art Clinical and Translational Research centre will be opened on the main hospital campus in 2012.



Clinical Science Institute, NUI Galway

Why Study Medicine at NUI Galway?

1. Gain an internationally-recognised Medical degree from one of Ireland's oldest and most prestigious universities
2. Benefit from world-class teaching and research facilities at the Sunday Times University of the Year (2009/10)
3. Gain clinical hospital experience from an early stage through the main teaching hospital, located adjacent to the University campus
4. Acquire important professional skills through our Special Study Module (SSM) Programme
5. Experience living in the beautiful west of Ireland, in a safe and welcoming multi-cultural environment
6. Learn from lecturers who are at the forefront of the latest medical research
7. Join a student-centred university with friendly and approachable staff and small teaching groups
8. Study at a University with a strong reputation for the provision of support services for international students
9. Participate in numerous volunteering and other extra-curricular activities both on and off campus
10. Enjoy a vibrant student life with 85 student societies and over 40 sports clubs



“When I made the decision to study medicine overseas my first priority was finding a university that would provide me with a first class education. NUI Galway is unique in that it is a world-class university in a city with a small town feel. The recently updated systems-based medical program at NUI Galway is comprehensive, modern and evidence based. There are also many opportunities to develop personal interests in medicine through research and special study options. My training here has prepared me to perform well in Canadian electives and provided an excellent foundation for a rewarding and successful career in medicine.”

Kelly Mieske, Canada

MEDICAL PROGRAMME DETAILS

Bachelor of Medicine (MB) of Surgery (BCh) and of Obstetrics (BAO)

The medical degree programme at NUI Galway is an integrated 5 year programme (with an additional Foundation Year for students who do not present the required level of Physics, Chemistry and Biology for direct entry). There are 130-140 students in each Medical School class. Most overseas students enter the 5 year programme directly. Exemptions from some modules may be allowed if the curricular content has been covered elsewhere at third level. There is integration of clinical and basic science subjects throughout the course.

Medical School Hospitals

Galway University Hospitals comprise University College Hospital Galway, (UCHG) and Merlin Park Regional Hospital. UCHG is a 600 bed referral or tertiary level hospital and is located immediately adjacent to the University. Merlin Park Regional Hospital has 200 beds and is 2 Kilometres from the main University campus.



University College Hospital Galway

Communication and the integration of clinical and basic teaching are greatly facilitated by this proximity. Medical students are based in the Clinical Science Institute for their clinical years, which is located immediately adjacent to UCHG and which provides Lecture Theatres, Laboratories, Faculty Offices, Seminar Rooms, Computer Facilities and Common Rooms. A branch of the University Library is also located in the Clinical Science Institute.

Foundation Year (for students who do not have Physics, Chemistry and Biology)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physics • Chemistry • Biology • Foundations of Medicine
Year 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anatomy • Biochemistry • Pharmacology • Physiology • Cardiovascular System • Gastro-intestinal System • Human Nutrition • Renal System • Respiratory System • Professionalism
Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Nervous System • Endocrinology • Genetics • Molecular Medicine • Reproduction and Development • Drugs and Disease • Health and Disease • Organ Failure • Professionalism
Year 3-5	<p>Clinical Laboratory Sciences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathology • Microbiology • Public Health <p>Clinical Disciplines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicine • Surgery • Paediatrics • Psychiatry • Obstetrics and Gynaecology • General Practice • Anaesthesia • Radiology



The Hospital Departments encompass all the important clinical and laboratory disciplines, Medicine, Surgery, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Psychiatry, Radiology, General Practice, the Subspecialties, the Laboratory Departments and Specialist Diagnostic Units.

UCHG is the busiest hospital unit in Ireland, with the largest number of admissions and out patient attendances in the country. The regional specialist units attract a wide variety of specialist referrals. Students also spend one full clinical year at one of four Medical Academies - general hospitals and GP networks affiliated to the School of Medicine in the west of Ireland. These are located in Sligo, Letterkenny, Castlebar and Ballinasloe. Each academy hospital has over 300 beds and the full range of general and specialist services.

Networks of primary care practices are based around Galway and the regional academies. Access to the Galway and affiliated network allows for excellent access to patients, and keeps clinical teaching groups small. In all, the School of Medicine draws on a catchment population of 1 million. These factors, together with the traditional emphasis on small group or individual bedside clinical teaching combined with the availability of the most sophisticated diagnostic techniques, provide the student with ample opportunity to develop the necessary medical skills, attitudes, knowledge and experience.

Special Study Module Programme

A special study module (SSM) is a well established educational tool which heightens medical students' interest in more specialised topics which they study in depth using a largely self-directed approach with guidance from an expert supervisor. At NUI Galway we have developed a vibrant SSM programme which we deliver in years 1, 2 and 4 of our undergraduate MB, BCh, BAO degree programme.

Students are presented with a wide range of SSMs in semester 1 from which they select their top 5 preferences which are then allocated according to demand, taking into account the quality of the student's accompanying testimonial. The majority of students receive their preferred option. Each SSM group elects a student representative who liaises with the SSM supervisor.

The 3-credit SSM constitutes 50% of the marks available for the Professionalism module in semester 2 of years 1 and 2. The SSM is awarded 4 credits in year 4. SSMs are completed over a 10-week period in semester 2 of years 1 and 2 or an intensive 4-week period in year 4 and involve approximately 2 hours of direct contact time with the tutor with an additional 4-5 hours of independent and group learning activities per week. Assessment includes individual and group-based tasks. Examples of group work include preparation of a literature review, a PowerPoint presentation or a group website.

Many of our SSMs have attracted national and international attention and one in particular, Medicine and the Arts, was recently showcased on a national radio programme with half a million daily listeners! The SSM programme in year 4 is directed by Professor Peter Cantillon from the Department of General Practice. The programmes in years 1 and 2 are directed by Dr. Gerard Flaherty from the Department of Medicine. Dr. Flaherty's nephew, Olympic sprinter and NUI Galway medical student (currently on sabbatical), Paul Hession, supervises the Sports Psychology SSM.



“Coming to National University of Ireland Galway to study medicine so far has been wonderful. NUI Galway is unique not only in its location but also in the people who are the face of this place. Every person from every department, from lecturers to fellow doctors, from librarians to administrative staff, they have made my journey that much sweeter. I would recommend NUI Galway to any budding doctor.”

Hooi Tzing Chia, Malaysia



Career Opportunities

At the conclusion of the programme, the student is conferred with the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine (MB), of Surgery (BCh) and of Obstetrics (BAO). This qualification is recognised internationally. After graduation the newly-qualified doctor works in hospitals as an intern for one year prior to obtaining full registration as a licensed medical practitioner. International graduates of the Bachelor of Medicine (MB) of Surgery (BCh) and of Obstetrics (BAO) programme typically find employment in Hospitals, Private Practice, Education and Research or Community Rehabilitation Services. Postgraduate degrees including, M.D., M.Ch., M.A.O., M.Med. Science, and Ph.D. may also be taken in the School of Medicine.

Entry Requirements

To be considered for admission to the School of Medicine, NUI Galway, international students must show evidence of a high level of performance in second-level studies and must be eligible for matriculation in the National University of Ireland. For more information on entry requirements for your home country, please refer to www.nuigalway.ie/medicine/entry.html

English Language Requirements

Applicants from non-English-speaking countries including South East Asia are also required to present results of IELTS (International English Language Testing System) with a minimum average score of 6.5 across all components.

Certificate of Health

Applicants are required to provide a doctor’s report indicating that they are in good health plus completed Health Certificate form including evidence of screening for Hepatitis B. A positive result will debar.

How to Apply

The application procedure for Medicine will depend on your home country.

Applicants from North America should apply via the Atlantic Bridge Programme. See www.atlanticbridge.com for application details. Applicants from Malaysia should apply to the Irish Universities Medical Consortium (IUMC). Please see www.iumc.com.my for details. All other non-EU applicants must be made directly to the University. Please refer to our website at www.nuigalway.ie/medicine/apply.html for application details.

The following SSMS are currently offered to students

- Adolescent Medicine
- Asylum and Refugee Healthcare
- Basic surgical skills
- Community CPR Teaching
- End of Life Enhancement
- Exercise Physiology
- Head and Neck Anatomy
- High Altitude Medicine
- Homelessness Project
- Learning to Teach
- Malaysian Culture and Eastern Medicine
- Medical Electronics
- Medical English
- Medical Humanities
- Medicine and the Arts
- Pre-hospital emergency care
- Presentation Skills
- Regenerative Medicine
- Sign language
- Sports Psychology
- Sports Science Research
- Teanga an Leighis
- Teenage Mental Health Promotion
- Understanding Complementary Medicine



"Medicine at NUI Galway is a great programme, with a lot of people supporting you throughout it – very friendly lecturers and amazing friends. You get to choose modules such as Sports Psychology, Alternative Medicine, teaching CPR to school kids or volunteer. The University offers many opportunities for us medical students, both on the course and in the social life of the college."

Ursula Donigiewicz, Poland

STUDYING AND LIVING IN IRELAND

About Ireland

Ireland is an island in the northwest of Europe with a population of over 4 million. The country has long been a popular destination for international students, who are attracted both by its unique combination of ancient heritage and modern lifestyle.

The country's excellent educational infrastructure has led to the development of a highly-educated and high-skilled workforce, which today makes Ireland a leading location for both high-tech multinationals and creative industries.

Ireland has a young population, with almost 40% of its people under the age of twenty five and the people are famed for their hospitality. In 2008 and 2010, Ireland was named the 'World's Friendliest Country' by the travel publisher Lonely Planet.

Key Facts: Ireland

Population: 4.2 million
Capital: Dublin
Currency: Euro
Climate: Mild, temperate
Languages: English, Irish
Dialling Code: + 353

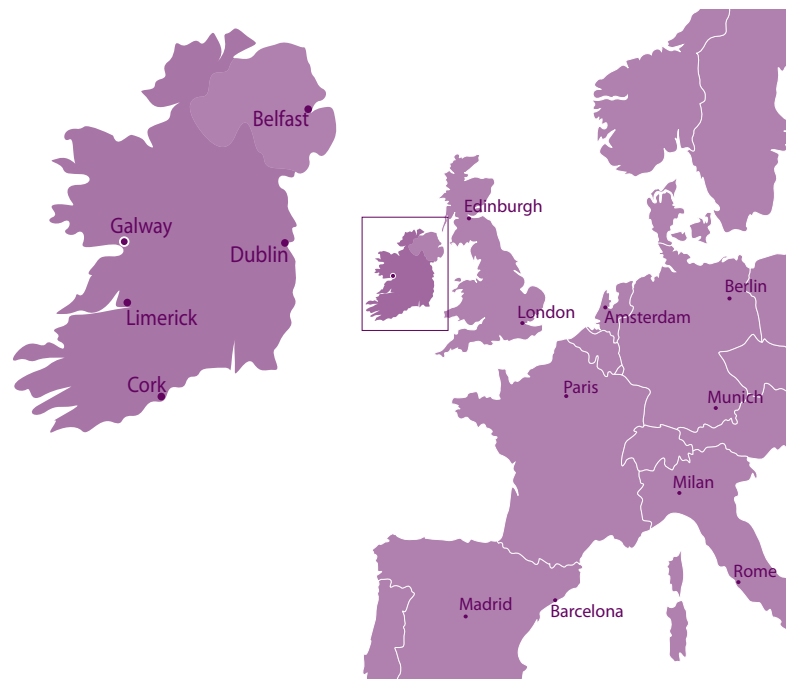
Galway - "Ireland's Cultural Heart"

The unique student experience at NUI Galway owes much to our location in the beautiful west of Ireland. The campus itself is situated on a picturesque 250 acre site on the banks of the River Corrib, just a short stroll from the centre of Galway city.

Galway is a 'University city' in every sense, with students accounting for approximately 20% of the population of the city during term. In addition, the city and its surrounding hinterland - Connemara, the Burren and the Aran Islands - is a major draw for visitors who come west to see the Ireland of rugged countryside, castles, lakes and rivers and savor the unique atmosphere of the Galway's restaurants, cafes and traditional Irish music pubs.

Key Facts: Galway

Founded: 1484
Population: 72,000
Time Zone: GMT
Average Temperature:
January: 6.8 °C (40.6 °F)
July: 16.0 °C (60.8 °F)
Nickname: Croí Cultúrtha na hÉireann (Ireland's Cultural Heart)



Young, vibrant and cosmopolitan, Galway is widely regarded as the cultural capital of Ireland with the world renowned Druid Theatre Company, the Macnas Street Theatre Company and An Taibhdhearc, the national Irish language theatre, are all located in the city.

Although known as a bustling centre of the arts and business, the city retains a relaxed and intimate atmosphere. The youthful energy of the city is reflected in the numerous internationally renowned literary, arts and sporting events that are hosted in the city every year, including

- St. Patrick's Day Parade (March)
- Cuirt International Festival of Literature (April),
- Galway Early Music Festival (May),
- Galway Traditional Irish Music Sessions (June),
- Galway Film Fleadh (July)
- Galway Arts Festival (July)
- Galway International Oyster Festival (September)
- Galway Comedy Festival (October)



STUDENT LIFE AT NUI GALWAY

Clubs and Societies

There is no better way to integrate into the social and cultural life of the University than through membership of one of the University's Student Societies or Sports Clubs. The University's sporting and cultural facilities provide students with excellent opportunities to take part in a wide range of interests, to make new friends, develop real life skills and of course have great fun!



Our indoor and outdoor sports facilities include:

- A six-lane, 25 metre swimming pool
- Squash and racquetball courts
- A National League basketball arena and sports hall
- Gym & Fitness studios
- Climbing wall
- Saunas and a steam room
- Ten natural grass playing pitches
- A synthetic grass pitch (hockey, soccer and football)
- An eight-lane international standard running track

In addition, the University's offers a range of cultural and recreational facilities, including:

- Bailey Allen Cultural Centre, which includes performance facilities, exhibition space and an Auditorium
- Student Theatre and Art Gallery
- Arts Office, which organises literary, visual and performing arts on campus, including the annual Múscailt Arts Festival.

Sports Clubs

- Archery
- Athletics
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Fencing
- Frisbee
- Gaelic Games
- Hockey
- Inline Hockey
- Kayaking
- Mountaineering
- Rowing (Crew)
- Rugby
- Sailing
- Soccer
- Surfing
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Volleyball
- Waterpolo

Student Societies

- Art Society
- Celtic Heritage Society
- Chess Society
- Choral Society
- Comedy Society
- Dance Society
- Drama Society
- Film Society
- Human Rights Society
- International Students Society
- Irish Music Society
- Law Society
- Literary & Debating Society
- Malaysian Society
- Medicine Society
- Music Society
- Orchestra Society
- Photography Society
- Political Discussion Society

Note: This is a select list. Please refer to www.nuigalway.ie/student-life/ for a complete list of clubs and societies.





GENERAL INFORMATION

Health Screening & Garda (Police) Clearance

Owing to National Regulations concerning the immunization status of individuals working in healthcare (www.hppsc.ie), all medical students are required to provide documentation to the School of Medicine, NUI Galway concerning immunization from certain infectious diseases.

NUI Galway offers a number of educational and training programmes that require students to undertake placements, with external agencies, which will bring them into contact with the public and assume positions of trust. To ensure the protection of the public, and to justify public trust and confidence, the University is committed to ensuring that only suitable candidates are permitted to undertake these programmes.

International students offered places on the medical programme at NUI Galway may be required to obtain police clearance in their home country and/or will be required to sign the self-declaration form for police clearance on admission to the University. For more information, please contact the School of Medicine, NUI Galway by calling +353 91 544475 or email medschool@nuigalway.ie

Immigration Regulations

Citizens of certain countries outside the EU may require a visa to enter Ireland. See www.inis.gov.ie/ for more information. All Non EU/EEA citizens must register with the immigration service within 30 days of arrival in Ireland. Non-EU students will be asked to show proof of comprehensive medical insurance when registering with the Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB). Proof of health insurance is also required for student visa applications.

Tuition Fees

For information on current tuition fees, please refer to the University website at www.nuigalway.ie/fees

Cost of Living

The following information gives an indication of the monthly cost of living in Galway. These costs are an approximation only as monthly costs will depend on each student's individual needs and lifestyle.

Monthly	€
Accommodation	340
Food	260
Books and materials	60
Clothes, laundry	60
Recreation	80
Other	100
Total per month	1,000

Student Accommodation

Students are offered the following accommodation options:

- University-approved Student Residences
- Private houses and apartments
- Hostels (Short term)
- Lodgings (Sharing with Owner)

The Accommodation Office (www.nuigalway.ie/accommodation/) is available to assist students in finding housing and provides advice on accommodation issues, e.g. letting agreements, tenant rights and obligations.

Disclaimer: Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this booklet is accurate. However, the University is not bound by any error or omission therein.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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