

Academics: Course and Credit Information
University of Limerick

Choosing the Right Subjects

The University of Limerick course catalog is accessed through the GlobalLinks Learning Abroad website via <http://www.globalinksabroad.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
 - Expand the “Advanced Filters”
 - Semester – Select relevant semester
 - Undergraduate - Select Undergraduate
 - Do NOT check the box “Only Include Modules Available to Visiting Students”, as this will affect your search results
 - Click the grey arrow button

- Search by module title
 - Enter module title in the search box
 - Click the magnifying glass

The search results will show up in the lower part of the screen in “detail view” with the full class description listed for each class. Classes can be viewed one at a time in “detail view.” You can also view your search results in “list view” by clicking on the list view logo in the top left hand corner of the page. If you would like to export the information into PDF format, you can do so by clicking on the PDF logo which is also on the top left 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 first number in the code indicates what type of course it is. **Study abroad students can only take courses that have a number 4 as the first number in the code.**
- 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.
- As a general rule of thumb, modules that end in odd numbers are offered during the Fall semester and modules that end in even numbers are offered during the Spring semester
- 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.

GlobalLinks Learning Abroad

- ‡ Module has weekly studio/design hours allocated outside of classes/tutorials

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.
- 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 GlobalLinks Learning Abroad 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. GlobalLinks Learning Abroad 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 GlobalLinks Learning Abroad program you will be asked to submit an Intended Subject Plan listing 8-10 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.

GlobalLinks Learning Abroad

- Be sure that you have submitted updated transcripts to GlobalLinks Learning Abroad 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

- 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 December with lectures and exams completed prior to the Christmas holiday break. The Spring semester is from January to May with lectures completed in April/May and exams taken mid to late May.

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.

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@globallinksabroad.org | www.globallinksabroad.org