



IRELAND

National University of Ireland, Maynooth

University:

The NUI is the second oldest university in Ireland. It is located in a small town called Maynooth, 20 km west of Dublin. There are four faculties and over 8,400 Students at the university. NUI has a huge library with internet access and available laptops to borrow. Maynooth university has it's own bookshop, grocery shops, student clubs, art & fitness facilities. Further information: www.nui.ie

Accommodation:

There is a student residence available on the campus. The rent is between 400 – 450 Euros per month. It is necessary to apply about 3-4 months before in order to get a room in the residence. Cost of living is generally very expensive in Ireland and it is therefore helpful to look for a part-time job in Dublin or Maynooth. → www.fas.ie

Another possibility is to find accommodation in Dublin. There are trains going to Maynooth every 40 minutes. It takes about half an hour to travel from Dublin to Maynooth. If you prefer to live in Dublin, I suggest to start looking for a room approximately 6 months before moving to Ireland! It is difficult to find accommodation in Dublin City for a reasonable price. Rent for rooms near the City Centre is between 400 – 700 Euros and young people mostly share houses. For more information: www.daft.ie

Studying and work placement:

If you are interested to study in Maynooth, you have to check with our international office, if the Erasmus contract with Maynooth can be extended. The FH Koblenz organised a contract renewal for my stay in Ireland after some difficulties. I got the address of a contact person in Maynooth but the email contact was rather slow. I chose subjects from the department for Sociology and Applied Social Studies. The university is big and the atmosphere is rather anonymous. All tutors assisted me whenever I had questions, otherwise I had to organise my course schedule by myself.

I lived in Dublin because I already had some contacts there and knew the City. It is an advantage, if you are familiar with the English language and the Irish system. The main reason for choosing accommodation in Dublin was the need of a part-time job and the preference to complete my work placement in Dublin. Maynooth is a beautiful town and the student residence on the campus is very effective for students who prefer to spend most time with other Erasmus students. In Maynooth are only a few possibilities to work or find an opportunity to complete a work placement.

An Erasmus student can achieve a maximum of 30 Credits per Semester. The courses, which I completed in Maynooth, were all recognised from the FH Koblenz and I achieved 27.5 Credits for the study semester and 25 Credits for the work placement.

I completed the work placement in the Vincentian Refugee Centre in Dublin during my second semester in Ireland. The work included service and support for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. People from many different nations dropped into the centre to get assistance or information. It was a great experience and challenge to work in the centre. My colleagues were very open and always ready to support me. I was free to decide how much and which work I am capable to do. I arranged my own project with a group of African women.

I had to arrange the work placement by myself. Even though there is information available from the University in Maynooth, most places are already reserved for Irish students. It makes sense to send applications 6 months before starting the placement. I was a late and had some difficulties to find a placement.

Dublin:

Dublin might be the most chaotic Capital in Europe with all its busses and narrow streets - nevertheless it is unforgettable! Surrounded by the Irish Sea on the east side and the Wicklow mountains on the west - it is situated in a beautiful area. Dublin is a multicultural city with all types of art, music and Irish traditions! Pubs, clubs and museums offer many possibilities to enjoy the diversity of Dublin and Ireland.

→ www.dublin.ie or: www.discoverireland.com

I really enjoyed studying and working in Ireland and I recommend it to everyone who is interested in improving English and getting to know a small but beautiful country full of warm-hearted people with a remarkable sense of humour!

Johanna Krieg (jkrieg@fh-koblenz.de)

