

# Support and services to incoming and outgoing students



**UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK,  
IRELAND**



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of  
LIMERICK**  
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

# Profile of UL

- Located in the west of Ireland, on the banks of the river Shannon
- Established in 1972
- Campus-based university
- Open campus
- 24 buildings / 5 on-campus student villages



Students: 13,000+

Staff: 1,500+

Faculties and Schools:

- Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences
- Education & Health Sciences
- Science & Engineering
- Kemmy Business School
- Irish World Academy of Music & Dance
- Graduate Entry Medical School (GEMS)



# Services & Support for Incoming students



- **PROFILE OF INCOMING STUDENTS**
  - **PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION**
    - **ORIENTATION WEEK**
    - **ACADEMIC PROGRESSION**
  - **INTEGRATION ON CAMPUS**



# Profile of Incoming students



- Erasmus+
- Erasmus Mundus
- Non-EU Exchange
- Study Abroad
- Full-time, non-EU undergraduate students
- Summer School



# Pre-departure Information



- Pre-arrival packs
- Airport collection
- On-campus accommodation
- Visa information
- Countdown emails and posts on Facebook and Twitter
- Google hangouts/Periscope



# Orientation Week



- Information sessions with guest speakers
- President's Welcome address and dinner
- Campus tours
- Workshops: Intercultural training, Health & Wellbeing, Intro to Irish language, "A taste of Irish cooking" and Go Gaelic Hurling
- Photo booth
- Movie night / Irish traditional music night
- Shopping trips
- Campus 5k run



# Academic Progression



- Language Centre offers free English language courses at different levels
- Writing Centre offers complimentary workshops to enhance writing skills
- Study Skills sessions offered every semester.

Topics covered : UL learning platform (sulis), grading system, exam format, exam preparation, time management, plagiarism, referencing, etc.



# Integration on campus [Social Integration]



- Buddy Programme
- Clubs & Societies: 45 Sports Clubs and 25 Societies, including the International Society
- Erasmus bike fleet
- Dublin travel pack
- Free concert tickets for University Concert Hall and Munster rugby matches, free gym membership
- Annual International Culture Festival



# Integration on campus [Pastoral Care]



- Student Support Officer within the International Office to support and advise students
- Informal coffee mornings with International team
- Celebration of cultural activities such as Thanksgiving, Diwali, Chinese New Year
- UL support services:
  - Medical Centre
  - Counselling
  - Chaplaincy
  - Disability Support



# Services & Support for Outgoing students



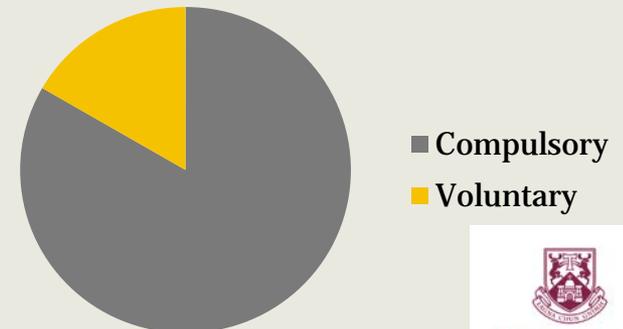
- **PROFILE OF OUTGOING STUDENTS**
- **PREPARATION FOR THE STAY ABROAD**
  - **ON-GOING SUPPORT**
  - **POST-ERASMUS FEEDBACK**



# Profile of Outgoing students



- Erasmus+ and International Exchange
- 17 degree programmes with integrated external study placement
- “Voluntary” students (Business, Law, Architecture, Product Design, Music & Dance, Sport Science, Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering)
- AY 16/17: 463 Erasmus+ students  
386 compulsory students  
vs 77 voluntary students



# Preparation for the stay abroad



- Study Abroad fair
- General information sessions
- Country-specific sessions
- Publication of detailed Outgoing Student Guide
- Pre-departure information packs
- Integrated module to prepare students for the year abroad: *Preparation for External Study and Work Placement* (3 hours per week / 6 ECTS credits)



# On-going support



- International office open all year  
Mon-Fri from 9.30am to 4.30pm
- Website with dedicated page for each exchange partner with fact sheet, application procedures, student reports, etc
- Visa advice
- Setup of internal online platform allowing students to upload all Erasmus documents and Departmental coordinators to access Learning agreements and TORs (Sept. 2016)



# Post-Erasmus feedback



- Welcome back dinner every semester
- Students' reports
  - Student experience
  - Institutional practices, support
  - Cultural differences
  - Hints & Tips





**THANK YOU!**



# CU4013 - PREPARATION FOR EXTERNAL STUDY AND WORK PLACEMENT



- Module Code - Title: CU4013 - PREPARATION FOR EXTERNAL STUDY AND WORK PLACEMENT
- Hours Per Week: *Lecture: 2 / Tutorial: 1 / Credits: 6*
- Rationale and Purpose of the Module:

Created to support students in their preparation for external work and study placements. It will integrate practical stages of work and study abroad preparations with intercultural learning elements in order to show how it impacts upon our ability to understand and function in new environments. Students will identify necessary skills for work and study placements and have peer-tutoring sessions with students who have returned from work and study placements. Proactive and practical support at an early stage will help to minimise feelings of disorientation and lead to effective participation and successful external study and work placements. The students will gain an understanding of different cultural backgrounds as topics covered will include culturally linked differences in business relationships and structures and academic institutions. They will learn how to develop intercultural competence and culturally sensitive behaviour in the workplace and at university in Ireland and abroad.

- Syllabus:

This module will prepare students for their external work placement and their study abroad period. It entails career development units and gives students an understanding of different cultural backgrounds and economies. Among the topics covered will be culturally linked differences in business relationships and structures, and develop their intercultural competence both in the workplace and at universities in Ireland and abroad.

- Learning Outcomes:

*Cognitive (Knowledge, Understanding, Application, Analysis, Evaluation, Synthesis)*

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to: Identify skills they need for work and study abroad placements; Prepare a portfolio including a description of another university, a comparative essay on academic structures in Ireland and abroad; - Develop a range of interpersonal skills, critical self-awareness and problem-solving abilities; - Present an understanding of theories of culture shock and strategies to develop intercultural competence

*Affective (Attitudes and Values)*

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to: Show a mature awareness of international business and academic cultures and procedures, positive attitude towards foreign language learning; Develop intercultural sensitivity and awareness; Acquire some levels of autonomous learning with the aid of material provided, peer tutoring and online resources

- How the Module will be Taught and what will be the Learning Experiences of the Students:

The course consists of faculty-led lectures, tutorials, workshops and semi-structured peer-learning sessions with returned coop and Erasmus students. Students will be engaged in active learning both inside and outside the classroom and will be encouraged to develop autonomous learning strategies.



# ***ECHE: Make It Work For You!***



Following the European Commission's analysis of Erasmus+ student and staff reports from 2014/15, the first year of Erasmus+, the University of Limerick has been identified for its good performance in the implementation of the following principle of the ECHE:

*The University fosters the integration of the incoming mobile participants.*

UL will be featured in the EU best practice tool, entitled *ECHE: Make It Work For You!*, as an example of a university whose best practice inspires other institutions throughout the EU to implement similar programmes and enhance the integration of incoming students with local students.

