

SEMESTER STUDY ABROAD

in

IRELAND



Semester Study Abroad in Carlow, Ireland

2025-2026

Program Overview

Study abroad in the Emerald Isle at Carlow College, St Patrick's! The Illinois Consortium for International Studies and Programs (ICISP) is pleased to provide a semester study abroad program to Carlow, Ireland available in the fall and spring semesters. A perennially popular program, this semester abroad program provides a perfect opportunity for students to enhance their educational experience, make new friends and try life abroad for the first time. Choosing to study in Ireland for a semester is a wonderful way of broadening your horizons, growing as an individual and making lifelong friends from around the world!

Carlow, Ireland, affectionately known as Carlowtown, is the quintessential Irish country town. With a population of 25,000 people, Carlow is home to two colleges including Carlow College, known to locals as St. Patrick's College. Learn more about Carlow College at www.carlowcollege.ie and about Carlowtown at www.carlowtourism.com. Dublin is about an hour away and is easily accessible by both train and bus.

Carlow College, St. Patrick's is situated in its own grounds on an eighteenth-century parkland and is known locally as St. Patrick's College. Carlow College is ideally located in the heart of Carlow town. Tullow Street is located near the college, and provides students with access to banks, shops, food outlets and a wide variety of social venues on the doorstep.

Program Dates

Fall 2025: August 29 – December 20, 2025 (Last day to remain in housing is December 20.)

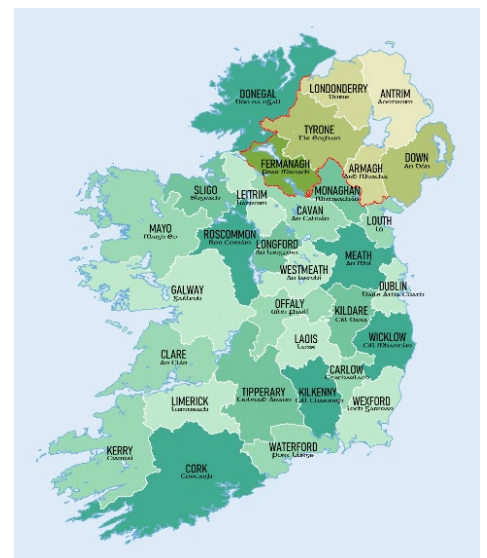
Key Dates (subject to change):

- Induction/Orientation Week: September 1-4, 2025
- Midterm Break: October 27-31, 2025
- Exams: December 8-17, 2025

Spring 2026: January 9 – May 16, 2026 (Last day to remain in housing is May 16.)

Key Dates (subject to change):

- Induction/Orientation Week: January 12-15, 2026
- Bank Holiday: February 2, 2026
- Reading Week: February 16-20, 2026
- Bank Holiday: March 17, 2026
- Easter Break: April 3 – April 10, 2026
- Reading Week: April 27-May 1, 2026
- Exams: May 5 -15, 2026





Admission Requirements

This program is open to serious students who have a strong interest in immersing themselves in Irish culture and heritage. All applicants are required to complete an ICISP consortial application form and submit with required documents. To be considered for admission, students must meet the following minimum admissions requirements:

1. Age 18 or older by the program start date. The minimum age requirement is strictly upheld.
2. Completion of at least 12 hours of college-level coursework by the intended program start date.
3. Completion of one college writing course, commonly known as English Composition I and/or II (IAI C900, C1901R, C1900R or C1900) or the equivalent, with a B or higher.
4. Cumulative college earned grade point average of 2.50/4.0 or higher.
5. Approval and recommendation of their campus ICISP representative.

In addition, students must complete the supplemental Carlow College semester study abroad application form provided by their ICISP representative. An unofficial transcript may be submitted to meet the admissions requirements so long as the ICISP application form and transcript have been reviewed and signed off by your ICISP representative (study abroad advisor).

A personal interview with the program coordinator may be held to determine the participant's maturity and adaptability to a foreign environment. Successful completion of the application process is required for admission to the program. Students with requests for disability accommodation should make such requests as soon as possible. Requests for accommodation are welcome and have no bearing on an applicant's admission to the program. The program will attempt to make reasonable accommodations within the capacity available at Carlow College. Disability accommodations will vary according to need and what can reasonably be provided by a foreign institution.

Academics

Students in this program will enroll as full-time students at Carlow College, earning 12 – 15 semester credits. The cornerstone of the program is The Irish Experience, a course that provides students with an introduction to the history, culture, and people of Ireland. This course includes cultural excursions around Ireland. The remaining course options are available in disciplines such as humanities, psychology, social sciences, and writing. ICISP representatives have a list of courses offered at Carlow College each term.

Students are only permitted to enroll in classes approved by ICISP. Courses at Carlow College are heavy in writing and differ in the American classroom style. Students should expect small class sizes, extra class meetings called "Tutorials," caring faculty, lecture-style teaching with engagement expected from students, and exams and papers for assignments. Students will pre-select their courses during the admissions process. It is important that applicants list their preferred courses, in order of preference, on

the ICISP application. Upon acceptance into the program, students will pre-register for classes with Carlow College before departure. However, the finalization of classes will occur upon arrival in-country, once the semester timetable is established.

The Irish Experience course will run only with sufficient enrollment. In the rare instance that the enrollment minimum is not met, students will be required to take Irish History or a similar class. All cultural excursions/field trips will remain the same and will not be impacted. Applicants will be notified by email if the enrollment minimum is not met.

Carlow College provides exceptional student support services and small classes with knowledgeable and caring faculty dedicated to academic success.



Cultural Excursions

The foundation of the program is the exciting cultural excursions included as part of the Irish Experience course. Students on past programs have reported these field trips to be the highlight of the program! Examples of excursions include a three-day excursion (Friday-Sunday) to County Kerry (Killarney/Dingle); County Carlow/Wexford including Dunbrody Famine Ship, St Mullins and Mount Leinster; Dublin City including The Book of Kells and Dublin Castle; Glendalough; Kilkenny City, including Kilkenny Castle and St Canices Cathedral, and Belfast City including the Crumlin Road Gaol and a political murals tour of West Belfast.

The cost of transportation and entry fees for all cultural excursions are included in the program cost. When booked independently, the cost of cultural excursions can run three to four times the discounted rate of the program! Be sure to bring comfortable walking shoes, your camera or phone with a camera, and lots of energy to create what is to be sure memories to last a lifetime.



Housing and Meals

The cost of housing is included in the program fee. Housing is provided at Lennon House, a renovated co-ed residence hall on the college campus. Lennon House is situated within a short distance from the main college buildings and within easy walking distance of the Carlow town center. Residing at Lennon House is required. Each student will have a private or shared bedroom and will share a living space, kitchen, and bathroom with two or three other students, based on gender. WiFi and laundry facilities are located on the premises. Bed and bath linens are provided.

Meals are not included in the program fee, but there are fully functioning kitchens available for student use. An optional meal plan that includes breakfast and lunch, Monday to Friday during term time (excludes bank holidays and College breaks) is also available for an affordable cost. The cost of the meal plan is €975 for Fall 2025 and Spring 2026, payable directly to Carlow College after acceptance into the program and prior to pre-registration for courses. Once a student opts into a meal plan and remits payment, they cannot opt out. Ask your study abroad advisor for more information about the meal plan.

Students can also cook or provide meals for themselves. Many students enjoy group dinners in the common area in Lennon House. Additionally, a nice selection of grocery stores and eating establishments are located within walking distance.

Please note that the goal of the program is to provide students with a private room. The program price for each semester reflects this price. Students will only be assigned to a shared room in the event that capacity in the program exceeds available single rooms.

Faculty Liaison

Most terms a faculty member from an ICISP member institution will be on-site in Carlow to serve as a visiting faculty liaison to students, the Carlow College faculty and administration, and ICISP. While this individual will be a support for students, they will also provide service to Carlow College as a visiting professor or in another mutually agreed upon capacity.



Passport and Visa

Students will need to acquire or have a current passport before departure. Applicants should allow ample time for standard passport processing. Information on applying for a passport is available at travel.state.gov. Passports must be valid for six months after the program ends.

A visa is necessary and will be obtained at the Immigration Office in Ireland after the term begins. The visa fee is €300 and is payable directly by the student by credit card to Irish immigration authorities. The visa is typically issued for the duration of the program; students will need to exit Ireland after the program ends. Evidence of sufficient funds in the equivalent amount of €2,340 for Fall 2025 and €2,925 for Spring 2026 is required to be shown to Irish immigration authorities for all students upon entering Ireland. Students should plan to have a debit card that is able to access the funds on the bank statement that is shown to Irish immigration authorities. A credit card is recommended for all participants as well; Visa and Mastercard are widely accepted.

Pre-Departure Orientation

Participation in a pre-departure orientation is mandatory. The orientation will be held virtually or at Heartland Community College approximately four to eight weeks prior to departure. Details will be sent upon acceptance. Carlow College provides an in-country orientation as well during the first week.

Fees and Payment

The cost to participate in this program for the 2025-2026 academic year is \$8,950 for Fall 2025 (16 weeks) and \$9,200 for Spring 2026 (18 weeks). The prices quoted reflect private rooms. In the event of shared rooms, pricing will be adjusted accordingly.

A \$500 deposit, taken off the total program cost, is due with the completed application form and subject to the cancellation and refund policy as outlined in the application. Please note the program price is subject to slight change due to changes in currency values beyond the control of ICISP. Applications received after the final deadline will not be considered.

Please submit all payments to the ICISP representative at the applicant's home institution. Final payments must be made to the home institution prior to the orientation date. Payments must be made on schedule, or the student risks being dropped from the program.

The application deadline is May 15 for the fall term, and October 15 for the spring term. Applications must be received at the ICISP office by this date. However, the program will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis, so prospective applicants are encouraged to apply early.