



Waterford Institute of Technology  
INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA PHORT LÁIRGE

# Study Exchange

## Student Information Booklet



**Welcome from the  
International Education  
Manager**

# Welcome from the International Education Manager

Dear Student,

I wish to extend a warm welcome to you as you embark on your Student Exchange Programme here at WIT.

We understand many of you will be travelling a significant distance from home and we hope this experience will leave you feeling fulfilled both academically and socially as well as giving you a unique insight into Irish life and culture. We have a diverse student population here at WIT with students coming from over 60 different nations. In addition to students from Europe, we welcome students from the United States and Canada, Australia, South America, Africa, the Middle East and the Far East.

To enable you to settle into student life here at WIT we have designed this handbook which profiles Ireland and the city of Waterford as an attractive destination for study abroad as well as providing an insight into WIT and the student facilities available here.

Ireland is a modern and dynamic English speaking nation within the European Union that has a long history and a strong sense of its own culture. Waterford is Ireland's oldest city, celebrating its 1100<sup>th</sup> birthday this year! It is the commercial capital of the South-East region.

WIT is one of the largest and most academically reputed state colleges in Ireland. Founded over 40 years ago, it has constantly evolved to cater to the educational needs of our region and further afield. WIT and its staff members are committed to both the academic and personal development of all its students, thereby ensuring that your choice of college is a worthwhile investment in your future.

Please read this handbook carefully. We welcome your interest in WIT, and will be glad to answer any query that might help.

As we say in Irish, "Go n'éirgh an bóthar libh!". Literally, this means "May the road rise to meet you", and it's a way of wishing you good luck.



Ms Sinead Day

International Education Manager



## A reputation to deliver

WIT has been educating achievers for more than 40 years and will continue to do so long into the future. The Institute's student cohort has grown considerably in that time to be in excess of 10,000.

The range of academic courses is extensive covering the Humanities, Health Sciences and Nursing, Science and Informatics, Engineering and Architecture, Business and Education. WIT now confers its own awards at all levels from Higher Certificate to PhD.

## The future is bright

Studying at WIT is not just about getting you a job. It's about getting you the best job possible, starting you on the road to a rewarding and enjoyable career. We've been doing that for years now, so much so that the *Sunday Times* University League Table ranked us number 1 for graduate employment for the past four years running and voted us "Institute of Technology of the Year 2009/2010".

## A friendly place to study

WIT truly is a community, where staff and students alike tend to know each other's names, say hello in the hallways. Campus life is friendly, relaxed (well, perhaps not around exam time) and social with small classroom teaching helping students to learn quicker, integrate faster. Our students tell us that they love WIT and love Waterford city. It's a lively, fun, challenging and safe place to study and to live.

## A sporting life

If sport is your thing (at any level or perhaps you are a keen follower) WIT is most certainly the place for you. The college is renowned for its sporting prowess, most notably on the hurling pitch, but also across a broad range of sports and clubs to suit just about every whim and fancy.

## A modern campus

Providing the best education in the best possible facilities is a key aim at WIT and the Institute has invested heavily in its facilities for students over the last number of years. In our four campuses across Waterford city, recent developments have included the state-of-the-art Tourism & Leisure Building, Library Luke Wadding, Walton ICT Building, Student Restaurant & Gallery, Nursing & Health Sciences Building, St Dominic's Complex, ArcLabs Research & Innovation Centre, Irish National Biodiversity Records Centre and WIT Corporate Headquarters.

Other projects in the pipeline include the Architectural Studies Building, Engineering & Science Building, Business & Enterprise Building and Student Services Building. Phased development of the 150-acre Carriganore Campus to include academic, residential, sports and catering facilities is well underway.



## About Waterford



### Wonderful Waterford

Waterford, the oldest city in Ireland, is a wonderful mix of the old and the new, history, culture and innovation. It is a city of colour and excitement. A rapidly developing and progressive city, Waterford has many attractions - its galleries and Museums, its busy streets full of fascinating shops, small lanes to stroll through with 1,000 years of history meeting you on virtually every street corner, choice cuisine to suit every taste and every pocket, lively pubs and friendly smiles.

### The Sporting Life

Sport is a major part of everyday life in The Déise, be it participating or merely shouting on your team. Hurling is the first thing that springs to mind but the story doesn't just end there. Waterford is surrounded by water, both rivers and sea. There are lots of beaches in the county, with buses every hour to nearby Tramore, where students can take part in swimming, sailing, surfing and kite surfing. Waterford also has great facilities for horse riding, golf, GAA, walking trails, tag rugby, badminton and running. The list truly is endless. The Regional Sports Centre and the Kingfisher Club with its gym, pool and spa facilities are both within five minutes walk of the main campus at WIT.

## Nightlife

Waterford has a great variety of pubs and nightclubs and a long theatrical and musical tradition. The local arts centre, Garter Lane, holds many exhibitions of art, design and photography and it runs regular workshops where young people can participate in drama, dance and other artistic activities. Garter Lane also has a modern theatre where the acclaimed Red Kettle theatre company stages most of its productions. The Theatre Royal hosts the Waterford International Light Opera festival each year along with a variety of other productions.

College Hall on WIT's campus is now the centre of choice for large-scale musical events. Waterford has become a haven for good food at reasonable prices. Gourmet, vegetarian, ethnic, pizza and pub grub.....there's something to suit every taste.

## Shopping

Waterford offers a choice to shoppers ranging from sophisticated fashion shops, craft shops, modern malls including City Square to superb delicatessens and colourful traditional, family owned shops. As the South East's shopping capital, the shops open seven days and late nights. If you want something a little less high-street, there are many exquisite and imaginative hand-crafted products produced in the city and county.



# International Office at WIT

The International office co-ordinates the admission, administration and support for International students and Exchange Students. We recruit students from China, India, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Malaysia, Japan, Korea, Africa, USA, South America and many more countries worldwide. We have over 80 partnership agreements worldwide and welcome almost 200 exchange students to WIT each year.

We provide information to all our International students relating to Immigration, visa queries, subject registration etc.

The International office is also responsible for:

- Erasmus exchange programmes with the European Union Universities.
- International Exchange programmes with our various partner Universities.
- Study Abroad programmes in cooperation with American and Canadian Universities.

## Staff Contact Details

Title	Name	Email	Telephone	Query
International Education Manager	Ms. Sinead Day	<a href="mailto:sday@wit.ie">sday@wit.ie</a>	+353 51 845515	North America, Russian & CIS
Exchange programmes Co-ordinator	Ms. Sonya Walsh	<a href="mailto:scwalsh@wit.ie">scwalsh@wit.ie</a>	+353 51 845506	European & International Exchange
International Student Support	Ms. Mary Cronin	<a href="mailto:mcronin@wit.ie">mcronin@wit.ie</a>	+353 51 302724	Administration

## Office Contact Details

**Opening Hours: 10:00am – 12:00pm & 2:00pm – 4:00pm**

Address:

International Office

WIT, Cork Road Campus, Waterford, Ireland

Telephone No: + 353 51 845506

Email: [scwalsh@wit.ie](mailto:scwalsh@wit.ie)

Website: <http://www.wit.ie/exchanges>

## Documentation for Exchange

It is the responsibility of the exchange student to ensure that you have completed all documentation prior to departure from WIT.

**Failure to complete your documents whilst in Waterford could lead to problems with your home university and delays in your Erasmus grant or funding.**

Please see checklist below.

- Learning agreement
- Certificate of arrival (if required by your home university)
- Certificate of Departure (if required by your home university)
- Ensure you have updated your postal address for your home country prior to departure to ensure Examination results and WIT correspondences are sent to the correct postal address.

**NOTE: It is the responsibility of all Exchange Students to have a health insurance policy in place that covers their study period at WIT.**





## Holders of non-EU Passports:

### IMMIGRATION INFORMATION

For further information on your rights as a non-EU passport holder in Ireland please see: <http://www.immigrantcouncil.ie/factsheets.htm>

### Visa Requirements

It is the responsibility of applicants to check the visa requirements for study in Ireland. Please contact the Embassy of Ireland or the Consulate in your home country. The Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service at the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform is responsible for determining Irish immigration policy. Please see their website: <http://www.inis.gov.ie/>

Some Non-EU applicants do not require an entry visa for Ireland – please see the Frequently Asked Questions section on [www.inis.gov.ie](http://www.inis.gov.ie) for more details. However, you must register with our Immigration officer within 30 days of arrival. The International Office will provide supporting documentation and arrange an appointment with the local Immigration Officer. The cost of a study visa for either a semester or the full academic year is €300.00.

Students will also be required to supply the following information:

- Valid passport
- Letter of support from the International Office
- Bank statement – need to show a minimum of €1500 for a semester or €3000 for a full year
- Evidence of Health Insurance (minimum cover of hospital expenses)

### Useful Contact Details:

Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service

Visa Section,

Department of Justice & Equality

13-14 Burgh Quay

Dublin 2

(8.30am – 2.30pm, Mon – Friday)

Email: [visamail@justice.ie](mailto:visamail@justice.ie) or [studentreviewgroup@justice.ie](mailto:studentreviewgroup@justice.ie) Website: [www.inis.gov.ie](http://www.inis.gov.ie)

## Living Costs

The cost of living in Waterford is significantly lower than the cost of living in Dublin. Here are some guidelines about costs for an average student: All prices are in Euro

**Accommodation:** €75 - €85 single room per week (college managed)

**Meals on campus:** There are a number of restaurants on campus. These all serve meals daily with a basic meal costing approximately €5.00 - €6.50.

**Transport:** W.I.T. operates a free bus service for students traveling from college managed apartments to the main campus. Students must show their WIT card to avail of this free service.

If students wish to travel to Dublin, they can do so with Rapid Express coaches [www.rapidcabs.com](http://www.rapidcabs.com) The prices are below are student prices on production of their WIT card.

- Waterford to Dublin                      Single: €11.00              Return: €13.00
- Waterford to Dublin Airport              Single: €16.00              Return: €24.00

Bus Eireann - [www.buseireann.ie](http://www.buseireann.ie) - operates a daily bus route from Waterford city to WIT. Prices are approximately €1.45 single fare.

## Accommodation

Student apartments are clean, comfortable and well furnished. They are safe, near the campus and customised for the needs of students. Staying in WIT Managed accommodation is also a good way to meet other students and to make friends. We advise you to book your accommodation as soon as you receive your acceptance letter.

**Riverwalk Student Accommodation:** The 2, 3 and 4 bedroom apartments are located within walking distance of WIT campuses:

Email: [info@riverwalkwaterford.com](mailto:info@riverwalkwaterford.com)      Tel: + 353 51 856704

<http://www.riverwalkwaterford.com/>

### College Managed Accommodation:

There are a number of college managed accommodation options available to students studying at WIT. These are located in various parts of the city. Please consult the campus accommodation website at <http://witcampusservices.ie/accommodation>

## Getting to WIT

Most International flights go direct to Dublin airport. From Dublin there are a number of possibilities of getting to Waterford. Regular bus services connect Dublin airport to Waterford city either with Rapid Express bus services [www.rapidcabs.com](http://www.rapidcabs.com) or with Bus Eireann [www.buseireann.ie](http://www.buseireann.ie)

This journey takes approximately 3 hours and the fare is €16.00 single. You can also get to Waterford by train. You can get a local bus from the airport directly to Heuston station, then catch a train from here directly to Waterford. From Waterford train station you can get a taxi or local bus to WIT or your accommodation.

**Timetables: [http://www.irishrail.ie/your\\_journey/timetables.asp](http://www.irishrail.ie/your_journey/timetables.asp)**