
MARY IMMACULATE COLLEGE

Updated: August 16, 2018

OVERVIEW

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

Situated in Limerick, Ireland's National City of Culture 2014 and third largest city, MIC is a College of Education and the Liberal Arts and is the winner of the International College Achievement Award 2017. Majors include English, History, Geography, Mathematics, Irish Heritage Studies, Media & Communication Studies, Music, Philosophy, Psychology, Theology & Religious Studies, and more. The College has a vibrant tradition in the performance and visual arts, and a particularly active drama society which produces plays and musicals. Located at the College is the 510-seat Lime Tree Theatre. The College has recording studios and its own radio station, Wired FM, which offers a free comprehensive training course in all aspects of radio broadcasting to over 150 volunteers each year. MIC also caters for a wide variety of sports and has an award-winning, multi-purpose sports complex.

LOCATION

Founded by the Vikings in the 10th century, the city of Limerick is situated in the west region of Ireland, close to Shannon airport and to a number of popular tourist destinations, including the Cliffs of Moher. The 11th Century St. Mary's Cathedral and the 13th Century King John's Castle testify to its long history. The city offers a variety of historical, artistic, and theatrical activities, as well as a lively pub music scene.

PROGRAM TYPE

Semester or year Exchange or Direct program.

CHANCE OF PLACEMENT

Chances of placement for Exchange are limited; chances of placement for Direct program are excellent.

PROGRAM DATES

Academic Year: early September to mid-May; SM1: September to December; SM2 late January to mid-May.

ACADEMICS

FAST FACTS

[Limerick, Ireland](#) (pop. about 100,000)

Student Enrollment: about 3,200.

Language of instruction: English

[University Home Page](#)

[International Student Homepage](#)

[Course Information](#)

PROGRAMS

MIC offers courses in Liberal Arts and Education. The main subjects available in the Liberal Arts program are: English Language & Literature, French Studies, Geography, German Studies, History, Irish (Gaelic), Mathematics & Computer Studies, Media & Communication Studies, Music, Philosophy, Psychology, Theology & Religious Studies. The main subjects in the Education program are: Learning, Society & Religious Education, Language, Literacy & Mathematic Education, Arts Education & Physical Education, Reflective Pedagogy & Early Childhood Studies, Educational Psychology, Inclusive & Special Education.

ACADEMIC NOTES

Benedictine College students are required to meet the Registrar before going abroad to make sure the courses they intend to take abroad are transferable to Benedictine.

Exchange and Direct students can select classes from different departments. Registration takes place during the first week of the semester.

Students generally enroll in 24 to 30 ECTS per semester (four to five modules), and spend about 15 hours a week in class. Semesters are 15 weeks in length including two weeks of examinations.

Exam sessions: December and-May.

Holidays breaks: Christmas break between the two semester, and Easter break in the spring semester.

TRANSCRIPT DETAILS

Transcripts are generally released in early February for Semester 1 and late June for Semester 2 and Full Year. Transcripts are sent to both the student and to Benedictine College.

CREDITS AND GRADES

The academic credits system in Europe is different from the US, and is based on ECTS credits. Credit conversion is usually determined based on the number of contact hours as specified in the course syllabus. The unofficial credit conversion rule of thumb from ECTS to US credit hours is as follows: ECTS = 1/2 US (example: 4 ECTS = 2 US credits).

Grades are a little bit different than US grades. Below is shown how approximately Irish grades compare to US grades:

MIC Grade	Award Equivalent	Quality Point Value (QPV)	ECTS Equivalent	US Grades
A1	First Honours	4.00	A	A
A2	First Honours	3.60	B	A-
B1	Honours 2.1	3.20	B	B+
B2	Honours 2.1	3.00	C	B
B3	Honours 2.2	2.80	C	B
C1	Honours 2.2	2.60	C	B-

MIC Grade	Award Equivalent	Quality Point Value (QPV)	ECTS Equivalent	US Grades
C2	Third Honours	2.40	D	C+
C3	Third Honours	2.00	D	C
D1	Compensating Fail	1.60	E	C-
D2	Compensating Fail	1.20	Fx	D
F	Fail	0.00	F	F

LANGUAGE NOTES

Language Notes: All courses are taught in English.

Foreign Language classes, as well as Irish language, are available to US students.

SPECIAL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Students must be in good academic and disciplinary standing to apply.

HINTS FOR RESEARCHING COURSES

To have a complete view of the academic offer, click on the [Faculties & Departments](#) link, then click on a specific *Faculty* on the left side and then navigate from there until you get to the course descriptions..

CAMPUS LIFE

HOUSING AND MEALS

MIC owns and operates residential accommodation for 200 students. Students can also live in privately-owned student accommodation for rent in the safe and quiet surrounding neighborhood. The College's Accommodation Office provides assistance to students in student residences or private houses.

Breakfast, dinner and evening meal are available in the College restaurant at reasonable rates for all students who wish to partake of them. A tea and coffee service, together with a wide variety of snacks, is available in the College restaurant throughout the day.

PERSONAL EXPENSES

In addition to lodging and meals students have to budget for books (approximately €150 per semester/approx. \$200) and for their own expenses (traveling during weekends and breaks, social life, etc.)

ORIENTATION

An orientation program is organized a few days before the start of each semester. The program provides information about the College, its academic programs and student facilities. Students meet with their Academic Advisors and obtain advice and assistance in planning their academic program. Social events help students to get to know each other and settle in to their new surroundings.

ARRIVAL DETAILS

The International Office will provide instructions to new students regarding their arrival.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The Students' Union promotes and co-ordinates the activities of numerous clubs and societies. The college has a vibrant tradition in the performance and visual arts. There is extensive opportunity to participate in informal production and public performance. The college has a particularly active Drama Society which produces plays and musicals. Sport and recreation also play an important role in the lives of the students. MIC offers indoor and outdoor facilities including weight room, running track, as well as soccer, basketball, volleyball, tennis and badminton courts.

MINISTRY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The College has a full time chaplaincy Service. The Chaplaincy Team strives to promote the spiritual and psycho/social development of the entire College community, staff and students. The Chaplaincy team arranges retreats for students wishing to partake in spiritual exercises. The College Chaplain celebrates Mass in the College Chapel every day.

See [here](#) for more information.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND COSTS

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Students must turn in a Study Abroad application to Benedictine College. Forms are available [here](#).
2. After the Study Abroad office confirms the student that his or her application has been accepted, the student must complete the MIC application form and send it to MIC with all the required documents within the following suggested deadlines:
 - May 30th for the 1st semester or academic year
 - September 30th for the second semesterLate applications may still be considered if there is enough processing time for both institutions.
3. Once students have been accepted at MIC, they receive an official Letter of acceptance. With this they can apply for a student visa to Ireland (see below.)

STUDENT VISA

US citizens do not need a visa to study in Ireland. However, they will need to show immigration authorities a valid passport, evidence of sufficient funds to support themselves during their stay in Ireland, proof of Health Insurance for duration of stay, and a Student Status Letter (Letter from host college confirming their acceptance and course details).

See [here](#) for more detailed information.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Students will have to get Travel Medical Insurance through Benedictine (\$90). This coverage is essential in case students need to be repatriated for health reasons.

COSTS

Exchange students pay their regular tuition at Benedictine College and can apply their financial aid. In addition to the tuition cost, Benedictine College will charge \$750 study abroad fee, and \$90 Travel Medical Insurance.

Direct students will pay Benedictine College the following charges (AY 2018-2019):

- Study abroad fee - \$750
- Travel Medical Insurance - \$90
- Program Tuition – approximately \$6,000 per semester

Direct students will be able to apply Federal/State aid funds (but no institutional aid) to their semester costs. The office of Financial Aid will instruct students on what steps they will have to take to ensure they obtain funding, in particular about completing a “consortium agreement” with the host institution.

All students are responsible for lodging and meals in Ireland (see Lodging and meals section above).

All students will also have to pay for their plane ticket, as well as books, visa application fees, and personal expenses.