UCC
University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

LANGUAGE CENTRE

Language and Academic Skills Semester Abroad programme

For University Partners

Our Language Centre

Established in 1994, the University Language Centre team works with partners from around the world to deliver a range of English language and academic skills programmes.

Our courses are designed to meet the academic requirements of your institution and to enable your students to improve in their English language abilities, academic skills and knowledge to progress in their chosen fields of study and to equip them for success in their subsequent professional careers.

Our university wants our Graduates to be recognized as well-rounded, curious, self-aware individuals who continually learn new skills, are open to new ideas, and make things happen. When you send your students to UCC Language Centre, your students join a dynamic and diverse community with people from across the university supporting them on their learning journeys. The experience can be transformational for them.

We offer two options:

ENGLISH FOR WORK AND LIFE (EWAL)

Who for?	Students wishing to develop their English language skills for life, work or travel
Duration	From 12 to 24 weeks
Start Times	Visit our website for the enrolment dates which are available throughout the year
Level	Elementary (A2) to Proficiency (C2)
Class	20 or 16 academic hours per week + free 2-hour communicative class (and social programme during the Summer School) 9.00 - 13.00 (Monday to Thursday / Friday)
Outcome	Language Centre assessment and certification Academic report
Visit	Our webpage for more information

We offer two options:

ACADEMIC ENGLISH

Who for?	Students wishing to develop their language skills for further study in English
Duration	From 12 to 24 weeks
Start Times	Visit our website for the enrolment dates which are available throughout the year
Level	Pre-intermediate (B1) to Proficiency (C2)
Class	20 or 16 academic hours per week + free 2-hour communicative class and social programme in summer 9.00 - 13.00 (Monday to Thursday / Friday)
Outcome	Language Centre assessment and certification Academic report
Visit	Our webpage for more information

Course outline

ENGLISH FOR WORK AND LIFE

Our English for Work and Life (EWAL) course is available at different levels, from A2 to C2.
The course is designed to help students to improve in all areas of English language ability, but with a particular focus on the development of oral skills communication for use in a range of real-life situations.
This programme also includes a free 2-hour communicative class on one afternoon each week based on topics related to Irish life and culture.
The EWAL course is designed using UCC's connected curriculum to create links between disciplines and to foster real-world usage of the English language in contexts relevant to the students' interests and personal aims.
It is designed for university credit transfer based on equivalencies to ECTS.

Course outline

ACADEMIC ENGLISH

Our Academic English is available to students with a minimum level of B1+ (students starting at a lower level may start in EWAL and change to Academic when they reach the appropriate level).
Academic modules focus on the academic skills and literacies to allow students to study further in institutions where English is the medium of instruction.
Skills covered include, for example, referencing/paraphrasing, critical thinking/textual analysis and academic word list/nominalisation.
Students grow in confidence using English in both academic and general situations in our University and Cork. Our tutors provide regular advice and guidance to help students reach their personal targets in education.
Students joining this programme can also join the free 2-hour communicative class which is based on topics related to Irish life and culture on one afternoon each week.
The Academic English course is designed using UCC's connected curriculum to create links between disciplines and to foster real-world usage of the English language in contexts relevant to the students' interests and personal aims.
It is designed for university credit transfer based on equivalencies to ECTS.

Course assessment

Assessment in both options of English for Work and Life and Academic English is both formative and summative. On registration, students are assessed to establish their language starting points and are placed into an appropriate level learning group.

Students’ progress and performance are monitored and individual tutorials are provided at four-weekly intervals throughout the programme. Combined with this continual assessment, on exit students' level is established and documented in their academic report.

Students are required to have a minimum of 85% attendance to pass the course.

Final transcripts are forwarded to the sending institution for validation within two weeks of the completion of the programme.

Should a partner have specific requirements related to attendance or assessment, we will do our best to meet these.

How we help students study

We know that progress in English for students is a priority and throughout their time with us we will make sure they are in the appropriate level for their English language ability. Together with their teachers we create a personalized study plan, which we track during their stay to ensure they are meeting their learning objectives.

Our Language Centre students have full access to the University Library, and guidance is given how to extend learning beyond the classroom using traditional resources in the library. We also support our students on how to use the many digital tools now available for accelerated language learning.

Our highly-qualified teachers come from all over the world and are experienced and skilled in the design and delivery of engaging and effective teaching. We pride ourselves on our teachers' dedication to providing our students with the very best in the classroom and ensuring that their time outside the classroom allows them to make the most of their stay in our University and city.

Helping students settle in

We place students in suitable accommodation and assist them to adapt and thrive in university life and Irish culture in their time with us.

From the moment of application for our courses to the time of their return home, we take pride in the personal attention we provide to each of our students.

Prior to arrival we ensure they are placed in the right accommodation; either with one of our carefully-selected host families (available throughout the year) or in one of our campus-based accommodation complexes (available in summer months).

Our student support tree shows all the services available to your students as members of the university community

Our facilities

We understand that students' time with us is not just about being in the classroom. Student life is much more than this. At our university, students have access to our state-of-the art leisure complex, the Mardyke Arena. On campus, we also have the Glucksman Gallery with its striking architecture and international art exhibitions.

There are many cafes, bars and the student centre within the grounds of the university. All students receive an identity card which allows them to avail of the University's facilities.

With over 24,000 students, the University has a dynamic and rich- in-range variety of clubs and societies for all interests and tastes.

This is a wonderful way for visiting students to immerse themselves fully into student life and to practise their English with the new friends they make. We support our students in joining these clubs and societies.

Cork city, only a ten-minute walk from campus, is a small and safe city. There is a large student community in Cork and the town is a vibrant place with student-friendly nightlife.

How we work with our partner institutions

For the sending institution there is the reassurance that your students are coming to an award-winning university of high standing where they will receive quality tuition to allow them to reach their specific goals, and that your students' well-being is always of the utmost importance to us.

We work closely with you to ensure we understand the particular needs of your students. Together with you, we can create a Memorandum of Understanding to establish arrangements for our programmes, short or long-term.

We provide you with named individuals in our centre who will respond quickly to both your institution's and your students' requirements as they emerge.

You can be sure when your students come to us for their semester abroad programme, we will provide them with the highest quality teaching. From the point of application to return to their home country we will be with them at each step of the journey as we create together a truly memorable learning experience.

To help us understand your particular needs, please complete this short questionnaire.

What our partners and students say

From 2013, Koeki University has been sending students every summer to the UCC Language Centre on a short-term study abroad programme. Our students can benefit from the excellent English language teaching at UCC, as well as learning about Irish culture through the university lessons and field trips, and also via the homestay programme. In order to strengthen our links with UCC we signed a Memorandum of Understanding in February, 2020, and renewed this in 2024. It is our hope that we can send students in future for longer-term English study. We are very happy that the UCC Language Centre continues to support the learning of our students whether virtually or face-to-face, and we hope to continue our relationship for many years to come.

Edmund Fec
Vice Director, International Exchange Center
Tohoku University of Community Service & Science ("Koeki University")

What our partners and students say

Maya Irie Menzi
Ryukoku University, Japan

Maya Irie Menzl, a Global Studies student in Ryukoku University, Japan, came for her semester abroad in 2018 and returned in 2024 to undertake a Master's in Applied Linguistics here in UCC.
Maya found her experience of the semester abroad inspired her to come back to our University for her Master's. She said her time in the Language Centre was a great experience where she had to work hard to improve her English, but that she found it very rewarding. The teachers were very motivating and helped her to realise what she wanted to study after her undergraduate degree.
The best part for her was making good friends from different countries and she is still in contact with them.
Maya's one *one piece of advice to other students thinking of a semester abroad programme is not to be afraid and to give it a try.*

What our partners and students say

Yusuke Henry Bent
Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

Yusuke Henry Bent came to the Language Centre as part of our partner institution Tokyo University of Foreign Studies' well-established study-abroad programme. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Arts (Language and Area Studies) in 2021 and has now gone on to a Master's in Weseda University's Graduate School of Letters, Arts and Sciences.

Yusuke came to our Centre first in February, 2017 for a six-week English language course and then returned in September 2018 for four months. Yusuke says he admires the way the Irish have respect for their own culture and he returned to Cork for a second visit, staying again with the same local host family. He loved Ireland and the Rebel City and still considers himself part of the Rebel Army as a big supporter of Cork City Football Club.

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http://www.ucc.ie/
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