

## ***University College Cork***

### ***Early Start Semester Program Descriptions***

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These intensive four-week programs begin before the start of the fall semester. This allows you to comfortably settle into your new surroundings before the academic year begins and earn four credits toward your total course load. You can select one of the eight programs available.

#### **Early Start Semester in Archaeology**

This program provides an historic and current overview of the physical and cultural landscapes of Ireland. Weekly field trips illuminate the sites discussed in class. A weekend field-study excursion in November visits the Burren, an area on the west coast of Ireland that is rich with archaeological remains. Attention is focused on:

- The transformation of the physical environment by human intervention.
- How invasion impacted the cultural change in prehistoric Ireland.
- Colonist and nationalist agenda in Celticism and the "problem" of the origins of the Irish.
- Role of archaeology in the construction of Irish identities.
- Cultural, ethnic, religious and linguistic heterogeneity of medieval Ireland and its implications for modern Ireland.

#### **Early Start Semester in History of Modern Ireland**

This program provides an introduction to major issues in the modern history and politics of Ireland. A series of excursions and field trips around the Cork area illuminates studies. There is also an extended field-study trip to Dublin that includes visits to the National Archives and the Dáil Éireann (Irish Parliament). Attention is focused on:

- The crisis of government in Ireland from 1912-1922, with reference to Home Rule, the 1916 Rising, and Michael Collins and the War of Independence.
- Irish-America, nationalism and partition.
- Outbreak of civil war in the south and intense communal unrest in Northern Ireland.
- Consolidation of state authority, with reference to the role of the Unionist Party in Northern Ireland and party system in the Free State.
- Outbreak of "the Troubles" and their impact on social and political life north and south of the border.
- Origins and development of the Peace Process, with reference to the role of American peace envoy George Mitchell.

#### **Early Start Semester in Irish Law**

This program is designed to provide an introduction to the Irish legal system in a European and international context. The course examines the breadth of Irish legal issues from a many differing angles. Local excursions to the District and Circuit Criminal Courts and Cork Prison help augment the course, as does a weekend trip to Dublin to visit the Dáil Éireann (Irish Parliament), the Four Courts, and Dublin Castle. Attention is focused on:

- Legal Research Methods
- The Irish Legal System
- Irish Constitutional Law
- Irish Criminal Law
- European Law and Policy

#### **Early Start Semester in Irish Literature**

This program introduces a wide range of Irish writings from the year 1200 to the present. Topics that are discussed include Irish cinema, Irish mythology, literature in the Irish language, and Irish women's writing. The program includes field visits to areas of literary interest such as the Great Blasket Island where Tomás Ó Crohan wrote *The Islandman* and the Aran Islands where John Millington Synge wrote *The Aran Island Journals*.

#### **Early Start Semester in Irish Ecosystems**

This program explores Ireland's wide range of habitats and its distinctive biodiversity. Field study supplements almost every lecture and enables program participants to gain experience in practical sampling and analytical techniques for the animal and plant populations found in Irish ecosystems. A wide variety of sites is visited including Lough Hyne, the Gearagh, Killarney National Park, Kilcolman Wildfowl Refuge, Fota Wildlife Park, and the Burren. Attention is focused on:

- Scope and science of ecology and ecosystems in the context of the Irish environment.
- Soil.
- Irish flora and fauna.
- Freshwater systems.
- Grasslands, woodlands and agricultural landscapes.
- The marine and coastal realm.

### **Early Start Semester in Irish Folklore and Ethnology**

This program examines the customs of Irish culture from a traditional and modern perspective. The course delves into ancient Celtic rituals that helped shape the country, and how Ireland has evolved, while not losing a sense of its past. Visits to sites in Cork and stretching all the way to Northern Ireland give a broad view of a variety of Irish customs. An extended excursion to Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare, takes place during a traditional Irish "Match-making" festival.

### **Early Start Semester in Management and Marketing in the European Union**

In the growing European Union Ireland has played a very special role as a small member state with strong vibrant economy; the program explores how this occurred and what effect it has had on different business types in the country. Weekly excursions to establish businesses reinforce the principles established in course work. Attention is focused on:

- Examines European business culture and management practice
- Understanding the impact of the EU in Ireland
- The effects of the EU on multi-national companies in Ireland and small native industries

### **Early Start Semester in Music in Ireland**

Known globally as a bastion of music, this program explores the rich variety of musical traditions in Ireland. Studies begin with traditional Irish folk music through to the popular music of today and how all music in Ireland are inter-connected. The impact of outside musical influence is also examined. Field trips offer first hand experiences of Irish music, both locally and nationally. Attention is focused on:

- Traditional Irish Music, Irish Popular Music, and European Art Music
- Ireland's largest Jazz Festival in Cork, occurring during the Early Start Semester
- Revival of the Irish Harp