

Your program of study (courses, assignments, course format). Add the exact number of class hours per course.

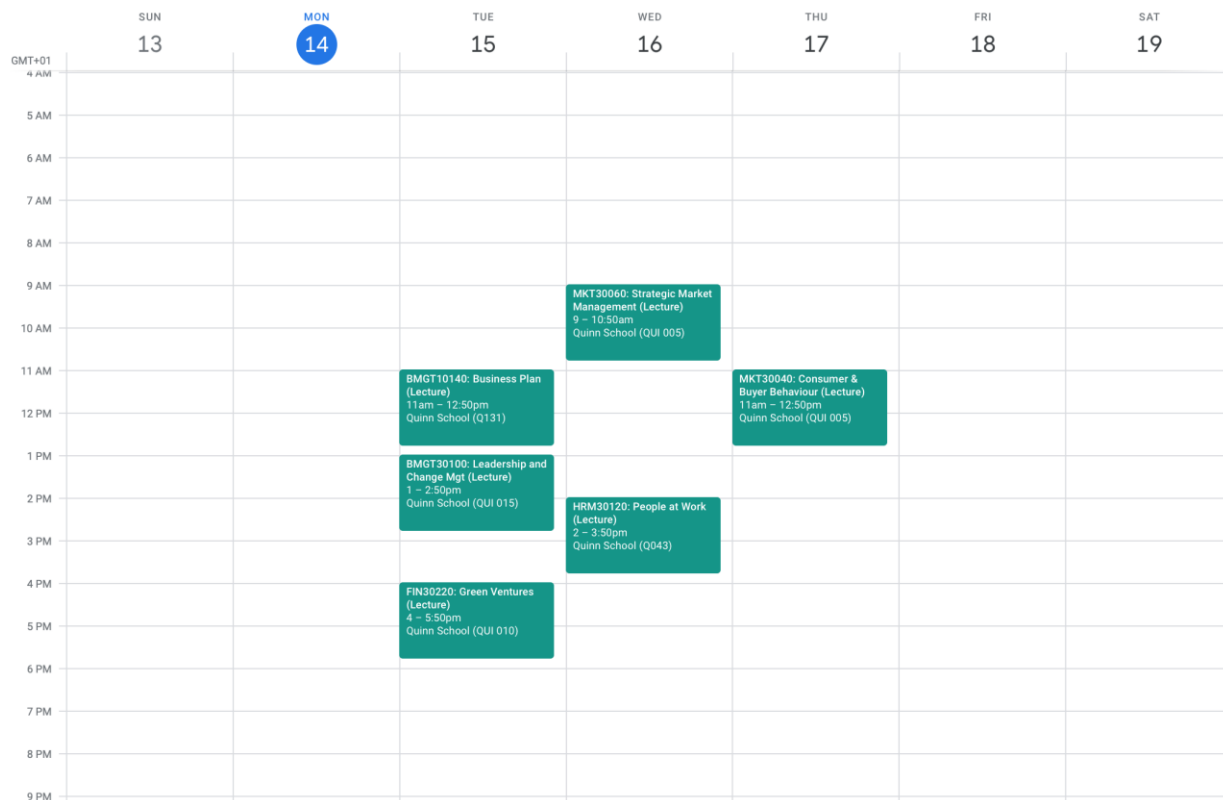
Program: Bachelor of Commence in Management

Each class is structured into the way that it's basically an assignment and an exam. Most of the assignments are in groups (4 out of 6 for me) and each of the team assignments have a presentation as well as a written component to them. It seems like the assignments, at least the presentation components are much easier than presentations in Telfer. We only have 12 weeks in our study term. So far, it's been going by so fast it's crazy!

Each class is only 2 hours per week. Classes can be divided into 2 one-hour sessions or one two-hour session. I only have two-hour sessions and it's allowed me to have weekends that are nearly 5 days long.

A) The timetable (academic calendar, registration dates, orientation, beginning and end of classes, exams, holidays, number of semesters, etc) Please submit the *precise dates so students will know when to book their flights next year.*

Timetable for classes:



Registration dates: August 20th (Very close to the beginning of the semester)

Orientation: September 3rd to 6th

Beginning and end of classes: Starts September 9th and ends November 29th

Exams: Exams begin December 9th and finish December 20th

Holidays: There are no holidays that I no off. No reading weeks or anything like that

Number of semesters: There are three semesters, but I am only here for one

I booked my flight about 2 months in advance but be sure to check when the move in date is in order not to get there too early. My move in date was August 28th so I arrived August 28th. I noticed that I didn't receive a reading week, but some programs did. In addition, some classes, the professors would cancel a lecture during that time period but there is no set reading week for Business classes.

B) Procedures to follow upon arrival. List and description of services offered by the international Exchange Office of the host institution. Registration and course selection. Social activities.

The only thing I needed to do upon arrival was to go to the check-in tent at the Merville Residence to get my welcome pack. That's where you get all the information you need and your UCard.

A great thing they offer for exchange and Erasmus students is the global lounge which is for those students and they often have activities and events they will organize there.

I would highly recommend though going to all the orientation week activities because it's a great way to meet other international students and make friends. I would categorize that as a procedure to follow upon arrival as well.

Course selection like I said was August 20th for me which was just under 3 weeks before classes started.

C) Budget outlining the cost of studying abroad (i.e. airplane tickets, housing, vacation and daily travel costs, textbooks, meals, etc).

Airplane ticket	\$500 - \$1,000
Housing (Belgrove residence)	€4240 = approx \$6,200
Food (€100/week)	€1600 = approx \$2,350
Going out (€50/week)	€800 = approx \$1,175
Travelling	€2,000 = approx \$3,000
Textbooks	\$0
Total	\$13,225 - \$13,725

It's MUCH MUCH more expensive to eat in restaurants than making food. In comparison to Ottawa, eating out is more expensive but groceries are the same as Ottawa if not cheaper. It's highly recommended to make food. Or at least limit eating out.

Textbooks are pretty easy to get for free online and the profs are quite good at posting on Brightspace the readings they want you to do. Rather than getting the book, they'll just send the scan of the chapter of Brightspace so that you can read it. I wouldn't say textbooks are necessary.

D) Application procedures before your arrival (visa deadlines, documents required for visa, course registration, housing deposit, etc)

Luckily for me I was not required to get a visa, but I did need to get permission to stay in Dublin. We are allowed to stay in Ireland for 3 months but since the semester is longer, I need to get an appointment with the immigration office to get permission to stay longer. I would highly recommend **booking the appointment before you leave**. It was much easier to get one before leaving for my exchange because not as many people look at that time. So many people are looking for appointments during the semester that as soon as they become available, they instantly get claimed and it makes it very very difficult to get one.

For the immigration appointment, I need proof of enrollment at the school, proof of payment, proof of financial support (€500 x # of months away) and proof of healthcare.

The module registration is very close to the date that classes start, you can only register for your courses just under 3 weeks ahead of time. I got on the registration a couple hours late after it had opened and a lot of the courses, I wanted to take were full but luckily within the first couple weeks, they all opened up.

Just like at uOttawa, for the housing, I had to put a €400 housing deposit before actually paying my housing fees.

E) Address and description of housing. Cost of housing.

I'm in the Belgrove residence. I picked it because it was the cheapest option and I have to say, it's quite small but it's not too bad. I live with 3 others, 2 girls and 1 guy. There strangely no oven so we need to cook everything on the stove top. I personally think that Belgrove has a great location, it's a mid-distance to everything which is really convenient, you can pretty much get anywhere on campus from Belgrove in under 7 minutes. This residence costs €4240 including the deposit which at the current exchange rate comes out to around \$6,180 for the semester. Clearly, it's much more expensive than uOttawa especially since it's smaller. Nonetheless, it's really great and it is definitely worth it in my opinion.

F) Other comments and recommendations

Buying supplies

One thing I noticed when I got to Dublin was that eating out at restaurants is much much more expensive than simply making your own food. It's strange because buying groceries is actually quite cheap and then eating out is the complete opposite. The first couple days I was in Dublin, I bought all my meals and it definitely added up quickly. It wasn't only due to the fact that I didn't know where the grocery stores were but also that I had nothing to cook with, not bowls, plates or cutlery so even if I went grocery shopping, I couldn't eat anything. I would highly recommend going to IKEA as soon as possible to get stuff because it will save you so much money. The school organizes trips to IKEA, but they fill up quick, if they're full, I'd recommend even going without the school because the bus fare isn't too bad.

Shopping/groceries

Once that's covered, I also would recommend avoiding buying stuff from the Centra on campus as it's a convenience store with groceries but it's way more expensive than going grocery shopping. One thing I would recommend from there is their *chicken fillet rolls*. It's these chicken sandwich's they make that are on a baguette and they are only €3.10 which I personally think is a great price. It's pretty filling and not too expensive and most of all, it tastes really good.

In terms of grocery shopping, there's a store close to campus called SuperValu, it's about a 15-minute walk and they have much better prices but they best places to go are like Tesco, Aldi, Dunnes or Lidl. Those are all grocery stores that actually offer really good prices. They're not as close though so you'd have to bus but it's not bad. From campus there's a bus that bring you to a plaza with a Lidl, a Tesco and an Aldi all nearby, there's even a mini shopping centre that has some good stuff. All you need to do is take the 17 bus and it brings you straight there.

An important thing to note as well is that the big mall to go to for any type of shopping is the Dundrum Centre which is massive and literally has every store you can imagine, it's 4 stories. And luckily, it's only one bus away, the 175 bus goes directly to it.

Buses

On the subject of buses, I recommend getting a temporary leap card from the Centra when you get there because it took like a week before we could get a student one and in that time I think I sent about €50 on bus fares which is like \$73. It definitely adds up and in that first week, there's nothing to do except for go out to the city seeing as classes didn't start until like 11 days after I got to Ireland.

Travelling

If you plan to travel in Europe during the semester as I'd imagine anyone going on an exchange would do, **BOOK FLIGHTS EARLY!!!** The closer to the date the more expensive flights will be. I think the best time for trips is early in the semester, for me the best time was September and October because nothing is going on, there's very few assignments if any due during that time which makes it perfect to travel. In November, that's when all the assignments and

presentations are due, and it starts piling up. So, I would say in short, book flights early as it will be way cheaper and book them for early in the semester when not much is going on (and when you have money). Of course, travelling to other countries is really fun, however, I highly recommend seeing all of Ireland because this country has so much to offer and it is absolutely insane how nice it is. You can do day trips to different places and it lets you see some of the amazing features and sights in Ireland.

My experience

At the beginning when I had first got here in Dublin, I kept telling myself “why am I here?” doubting me being here thinking this was maybe a mistake because it was definitely a big adjustment. I didn’t know anyone and of course, doubt occurred. I then went on to meet some great people and make some great friends from all kinds of different places. Some were from the US, some were from Germany, the Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand, just all over the place and it was really cool. I learned to just embrace the experience and enjoy my time here because it’s scarce. I have a couple trips booked for the end of November and the beginning of December and I realize now that I am so lucky with the opportunity I’ve been given. I think the most important thing I’ve learned is to make the most of things, not just abroad but any time in life because most of these moments only happen once. I’ve tried being more open to experiences and as a result I feel I’ve been doing a lot of great things like going wakeboarding, going on spontaneous trips to different places and just trying stuff like how I went kite-surfing this week. In fact, as I write this I am currently on a bus on my way to Northern Ireland for the weekend. So far, this experience has really opened up my eyes to how there is so much to see and do in the world and I haven’t even scratched the surface but I’ll definitely try to do more. I got here doubting if I should be here thinking that it was a mistake but I see now that it was probably the best decision I’ve ever made.