

Irish American Scholars Program



Student Opportunity for a Tuition Free Semester of Study in Northern Ireland

Sponsored by

Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities
United Methodist Church-Related Colleges and Universities
University of St. Thomas Houston (Catholic Colleges and Universities)

In cooperation with

Queens University Belfast
St. Mary's University College
Belfast Metropolitan College

Ulster University
Stranmillis University College

In association with

STUDY USA of Northern Ireland

Who May Apply

Current sophomore and junior students at U.S. colleges that participate in Study USA may apply. (Note: Institutions that have agreed to host a Study USA student during the current academic year may submit student applications for the Irish American Scholars program even if there is no Study USA student currently on campus.) Students may not attend a school in Northern Ireland for their final semester of study. In order to obtain a Visa, students must show that they are required to return to the United States to complete their education. This means, for instance, that traditional juniors may apply only for the fall semester. Additionally, due to the 3 year curriculum system in Northern Ireland and the higher entry requirements for all of the United Kingdom, students who are currently freshmen will not be accepted as Irish American Scholars. (See reverse for further details.)

If you are interested in the Irish American Scholars Program please visit our website for further details and contact information

www.irishamericanscholars.com

Participating Northern Ireland Institutions

Queens University Belfast is one of the 20 top research-intensive institutions in the United Kingdom. While the university does not offer courses in all disciplines, most U.S. students will find appropriate subjects at Queens University. www.qub.ac.uk

Ulster University has a national and international reputation for excellence. With four distinct campuses across Northern Ireland, students are placed at a specific campus based on their field of study. www.ulster.ac.uk

St. Mary's University College specializes in liberal arts and teacher training, and is integrated into the larger Queen's University system. In 2011, St. Mary's was ranked third amongst all universities in the United Kingdom for student satisfaction with their overall university experience. www.stmarys-belfast.ac.uk

Stranmillis University College is highly recognized for its teacher training curriculum, but also offers courses in early childhood and health and leisure studies. Stranmillis is a college within the system of Queen's University Belfast. www.stran.ac.uk

Belfast Metropolitan College specializes in educating students with strong career goals in vocational areas such as business, marketing, computing, performing arts, communication and Irish studies. www.belfastmet.ac.uk

The programs and faculty at these institutions are of high quality and U.S. students can expect a fulfilling year in Northern Ireland through placement at any of these schools.

Limitations

Schools in Northern Ireland limit the number of students they accept as Irish American Scholars. Acceptance is generally determined by space availability and by a student's GPA. Students who apply for a full year may be offered only one semester because of space limitations. In addition, there are generally fewer opportunities to place students during the spring semester.

Grade Point Requirement

A minimum **cumulative** GPA of 3.200 on a 4.000 scale is required. No exceptions.

Application Process

Students must be nominated by their home institution and submit **all** application materials by February 1, including::

- Completed application & nomination forms.
- An official academic transcript through the fall semester of the current academic year.
- A 500-word essay describing the applicant's educational objectives while studying in Northern Ireland. (Students should determine in advance that their intended course of study is offered at the institutions they select.)
- Two letters of recommendation – one from the student's academic adviser and one from another faculty member or administrator at the applicant's home institution.

More information about the Irish American Scholars Program, as well as the nomination and application forms, can be found on our website:

www.irishamericanscholars.com