# 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 Ulster University St. Mary’s University College Stranmillis University College Belfast Metropolitan College**

**In association with STUDY USA of Northern Ireland**

**Participating Northern Ireland Institutions**



Queens University Belfast - Stock image

**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](http://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](http://www.ulster.ac.uk/)



Ulster University Historyireland.com

**St. Mary’s University College** specializes in liberal arts and teacher training, and is a part of 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-](http://www.stmarys-belfast.ac.uk/) [belfast.ac.uk](http://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](http://www.stran.ac.uk/)

Stranmillis University College istock.com

**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](http://www.belfastmet.ac.uk/)

**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 3.20 on a 4.00 scale is required. No exceptions. (**This is a highly competitive program and no student from Lyon has ever been accepted with less than a 3.50 GPA.**)

## 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.

**Student Housing**

Each of the partner universities has an accommodation office which offers information on university and off-campus housing options. In general, university housing is cheaper than off-campus. See the document titled “Queens University Housing Rates” to see prices for various accommodation options.

The following are links to housing information for the partner universities:

Ulster University - <https://www.ulster.ac.uk/accommodation>

Queen’s University - <https://www.qub.ac.uk/accommodation/student-accommodation/student-accommodation-belfast/> and <https://qubsu.org/AdviceSU/Accommodation/>

Stranmillis University - <https://www.stran.ac.uk/accommodation/>

Belfast Metropolitan College - Internationalstudents'accommodationGuideofBMC.pdf

St. Mary’s University College - <https://www.qub.ac.uk/accommodation/student-accommodation/student-accommodation-belfast/> and <https://qubsu.org/AdviceSU/Accommodation/>

Additional information can be fund at the Irish American Scholars website at <https://irishamericanscholars.com/living-and-studying-in-northern-ireland/> and specific questions can be directed to Ms. Janna Wofford at janna.wofford@presbyteriancolleges.org

If the housing option you choose offers a self-catering option, you can sign up for a meal. If you choose a homestay, you can also pay to have your meals included. If you select an apartment or shared apartment, you shop and prepare your own meals The cost of living guide below will give you some idea of food prices in Belfast as of May 2020:

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| --- |
| **Cost of Living/Belfast** |
| **Restaurants** |   |   |
| Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant | $14.64  |  |
| Meal for 2 People, Mid-range Restaurant, Three-course |  **$**51.86  |  |
| McMeal at McDonalds (or Equivalent Combo Meal) | **$** 7.32  |  |
| Domestic Beer (1 pint draught) | **$** 5.12  |  |
| Imported Beer (12 oz small bottle) | **$**4.88  |  |
| Cappuccino (regular) | **$**3.25  |  |
| Coke/Pepsi (12 oz small bottle) | **$**1.83  |  |
| Water (12 oz small bottle) | **$**1.50 |  |
| **Markets** |  |  |
| Milk (regular), (1 gallon) | **$**4.03 |  |
| Loaf of Fresh White Bread (1 lb) | **$**1.12  |  |
| Rice (white), (1 lb) | **$**0.49  |  |
| Eggs (regular) (12) | **$**2.17  |  |
| Local Cheese (1 lb) | **$**3.65  |  |
| Chicken Fillets (1 lb) | **$**2.95  |  |
| Beef Round (1 lb) (or Equivalent Back Leg Red Meat) | **$**3.72  |  |
| Apples (1 lb) | **$**0.98  |  |
| Banana (1 lb) | **$**0.47  |  |
| Oranges (1 lb) | **$**1.14  |  |
| Tomato (1 lb) | **$**0.82  |  |
| Potato (1 lb) | **$**0.71 |  |
| Onion (1 lb) | **$**0.68  |  |
| Lettuce (1 head) | **$**0.98  |  |
| Water (1.5 liter bottle) | **$**1.13  |  |
| Bottle of Wine (Mid-Range) | **$**9.76  |   |
| Domestic Beer (0.5 liter bottle) | **$**2.26  |   |
| Imported Beer (12 oz small bottle) | **$**2.51  |  |

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| **Transportation** |  |  |
| One-way Ticket (Local Transport) | $2.56  |   |
| Monthly Pass (Regular Price) | $70.77  |  |
| Taxi Start (Normal Tariff) | $3.66  |  |
| Taxi 1 mile (Normal Tariff) | $1.96  |  |
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|  |
| **Utilities (Monthly)** |   |  |
| Basic (Electricity, Heating, Cooling, Water, Garbage) for 915 sq ft Apartment | $91.74 |   |
| 1 min. of Prepaid Mobile Tariff Local (No Discounts or Plans) | $0.09  |   |
| Internet (60 Mbps or More, Unlimited Data, Cable/ADSL) | $33.42  |   |
| **Sports and Leisure** |   |  |
| Fitness Club, Monthly Fee for 1 Adult | $30.97  |  |

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| **Rent Per Month** |  |  |
| Apartment (1 bedroom) in City Centre |  $768.44  |  |
| Apartment (1 bedroom) Outside of Centre | $547.67  |  |



*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