Welcoming our new International Students

INFO PACK

24/25

Galway & Connemara Campus

Your Future is Here
WELCOME TO ATU GALWAY

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Fálte!

I am delighted to welcome you to Atlantic Technological University (ATU).

We are very proud of our diverse range of programs offered at our campus in Connemara, Donegal, Galway City, Mayo, Mountbellew, and Sligo. Between our campuses, we offer 600 academic programs from pre-degree to doctoral level to a population of 23,500+ learners.

We offer a rich combination of academic and research excellence, quality of life, and opportunity - all of which can be experienced in the beautiful west and north-west region of Ireland.

We deliver practice-oriented study and research that seeks to address the major global challenges facing society.

If you join the ATU family, we will welcome you and provide all the guidance and support you need to fulfill your potential.

We are dedicated to enabling sustainable economic, social, and cultural development; connected to and serving our region and with a mindset that reaches far beyond it.

The future is here.

Dr Orla Flynn
President of ATU
Dear Student,

On behalf of all the staff in ATU and ATU Global, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you as you commence your studies here in Atlantic Technological University (Galway-Mayo). We are delighted that you have chosen to study here. International education gives you an opportunity to both study abroad and immerse yourself in a different culture.

Galway City you will find is a perfect location in which to spend either a semester or full year, cosmopolitan but yet not too large, friendly yet large enough to be able to maintain your own independence, and offering a wonderful backdrop of sea, lakes, wonderful countryside and a city steeped in culture and history.

Academically we want to challenge you, introduce you to new ideas and concepts, immeasurably improve your spoken English and see you return to your own country to tell your fellow students and lecturers how wonderful your experiences in ATU and Ireland have been. Many of you may also decide to remain in Ireland to work upon graduation, utilising the post-study stay back option provided by our Government. We have no doubt, that you will have a successful career, either in Ireland, at home, or wherever else in this globalised world that your career takes you.

You should note that ATU is now one of the largest universities in Ireland, with campuses spread across counties Sligo, Donegal, Mayo and Galway, all in the West and North West Regions of Ireland. ATU Global will be organising events throughout the year which will give you an opportunity to visit our other campuses and to meet all our international students, who are studying at our beautiful locations across the West and North West coastline.

During the course of the year, please feel free to contact ATU Global with any queries you may have. Elaine, Jorge, Noreen, Caio, the Senior ISA and I are here to help you.

Finally, I would encourage you to connect with us on Facebook.com/ATUGlobalGalway, Twitter or Instagram @atuglobalgalway so we can keep in touch throughout the year.

We wish you every success in the weeks and months ahead.

Your Sincerely,

John Joe O’Farrell,
Director of International Engagement (Galway-Mayo)
ATU Global
PART 1

PRE-DEPARTURE
We encourage students who have not yet secured accommodation in Galway/Connemara campus for the academic year ahead to do so as soon as possible.

Types of accommodation options for students include private rented accommodation, or student accommodation:

**Connemara Student Accommodation (Letterfrack)**

Áras Ghuaire
Is a student accommodation apartments set within the highly scenic town of Letterfrack just across the road of ATU Connemara
For more information, please visit [HERE](#)
Phone Number: 087-7057753
Email: letterfrackaccommodation@gmail.com

**Galway Student Accommodation**

Glasán
Is a purpose built student accommodation complex, affiliated with ATU Galway situated directly across from the main entrance.
For more information, please visit [HERE](#)
Phone Number: 091-773333
Email: info@glasan.com

Cúirt na Rásaí
Is an exclusive apartment complex situated just minutes from Galway City.
For more information, please visit [HERE](#)
Phone Number: +353 91-764131
Email: info@cuirtnarasai.com

Ceann Bóirne
Is a student accommodation apartment complex situated directly across from the main entrance to ATU Galway.
For more information, please visit [HERE](#)
Email: ceannboirneapplications@gmail.com
We advise you to act promptly if possible to ensure you have a room. We also advise you to request to be included in the waiting list if the accommodation provider indicates no availability.

Avoid Scams!!

Don't forget to be cautious if a place to stay seems too perfect and try to verify the authenticity of the accommodation provider before completing a booking or providing any personal information. (i.e. Arranging a video call to see the accommodation before making any payments)

Please get in touch with us if you have any questions about accommodation.

ACCOMMODATION

Private rented accommodation

Information about private accommodation options is available online from ATU’s Students’ Union on their accommodation portal, if you have not yet booked.

Or you can try to find rooms, apartments and houses in private rentals accommodation on websites such as:
- Daft.ie (most popular)
- Rent.ie
- MyHome.ie

*Please note that all accommodation is privately owned, and is not vetted or approved by ATU Global*
We have compiled a checklist for your reference and convenience before you depart for Ireland. This is to ensure you are well-prepared for your new journey to Ireland. (This is not an exhaustive list; you might identify additional items which you deem necessary to prepare/pack.)

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**Pre-departure checklist**

**IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS**

- [ ] Passport (with your valid entry visa if you require one)
- [ ] ATU Galway-Mayo Offer Letter
- [ ] Evidence of Guardianship Letter (for under 18 years old)
- [ ] Flight Ticket
- [ ] Medical / Health Insurance
- [ ] Proof of Accommodation (confirmation of booking or address you will be staying at when you arrive)
- [ ] Amount of cash (optional)
- [ ] Receipt of tuition fees payment

More Information about important documents required can be found on ATU International website.

*Note: Make sure to check with your doctor about any medical condition you might have before coming to Ireland.*
PART 2
ON ARRIVAL
ARRIVAL AT DUBLIN AIRPORT

Transport from Dublin airport to Galway

There will be **FREE** private bus collection from Dublin airport to Galway provided by ATU Galway-Mayo Global Office, but only on certain dates and times.

Please see the airport collections pick-up dates and times below:

- 2nd September (Monday) departing at 2pm
- 6th September (Friday) departing at 4pm
- 9th September (Monday) departing at 4pm

**Seats must be pre-booked by filling the form below:**

https://forms.office.com/e/nMu5Lvy1vL

For other arrival dates and times, students will need to book a direct public bus from Dublin Airport to ATU Galway & Galway Coach Station.

The bus schedule is available here.

**Drop-Off at ATU Galway**

Route 763: (Around 4 hr)

**Drop-Off at Galway Coach Station**

Route 760 / 720 / 761: (Around 2.5-3 hr)

If you are from ATU Connemara in Letterfrack, you need to get another bus from Galway Coach Station to Letterfrack. The bus schedule is available here.

**Drop-Off at The Country Shop-Letterfrack**

Route 923: (Around 2 hr)

Bus tickets can be purchased through the following link: https://www.citylink.ie/
ARRIVAL IN GALWAY

Drop-off
While being transported from Dublin Airport, you will either be dropped off at Galway coach station or ATU Galway bus station.

Transport to your accommodation
After arrival, you can call a taxi at the station or book a taxi through the FreeNow app (Galway) to send you to your home address. We recommend preparing €20 cash for the taxi as some taxi does not accept card payments.

- Galway Taxis (+353 091 561111)
- Letterfrack Patsy’s Taxi (+353 (0)95 43453)
PART 3

START YOUR STUDENT JOURNEY
# ACADEMIC JOURNEY

## Semester 1: Key Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Induction Week*</td>
<td>10 September - 13 September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start of Semester 1</td>
<td>Monday, 16 September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Holiday</td>
<td>Monday, 28 October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Week - no classes</td>
<td>29 October - 1 November</td>
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<tr>
<td>End of Semester 1</td>
<td>Friday, 20 December</td>
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<tr>
<td>University Closed</td>
<td>25 December - 1 January</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winter Exams</td>
<td>3 January - 15 January</td>
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*All inductions are mandatory

You can find the detail calendar by clicking [HERE](#).
GETTING A SIM

There are several mobile network providers in Ireland. They offer a range of different options and price plans.

Main SIM providers:
- 3 Mobile
- GoMo
- 48
- Eir
- Vodafone
- Tesco Mobile
- Lyca Mobile

Some providers offer special plans for students with competitive rates for calls and data.

To compare the prices you can CLICK HERE

Types of SIM Cards:
- **Prepaid**: Pay-as-you-go per month (most common plan option).
- **Postpaid (Bill Pay)**: Requires a monthly contract plan

**Note**
If your phone is locked in your country, make sure to unlock it before coming to Ireland so you can change your SIM freely.

Choose the right plan for you having in mind data, calls and text not only the price!
IRISH RESIDENCY PERMIT APPOINTMENT PROCEDURE (IRP CARD)

All non-EU students are required to get an IRP card while in Ireland. You must book your IRP card appointment with ATU Global for your Immigration Appointment at Garda Station Galway opposite ATU Galway (garda means Police).

Please note that ATU Global will release the booking list in early October.
You must prepare all the following paper-documents before you attend your appointment:

- A letter from ATU Global confirming that you are fully registered for the Academic Year 2024/25. You can request the letter HERE using your ATU student account.
- Passport
- Proof of your address in Ireland (Any utility bill or letter from landlord)
- Proof of medical insurance
- The fees for the IRP card is €300 payable during your appointment.

Payment is accepted only via physic debit/credit card, which must be verified by Chip & Pin or signature. Please note that cash payments and tap your card are not accepted

- Bank Statement with evidence of €4,500. *only for students that did NOT need a visa to enter Ireland*

More Information about visa documents can be found HERE
OPEN AN IRISH BANK ACCOUNT

You need to open an Irish bank account when you are studying at ATU Galway.

There are different banking options available to you:
- AIB (Allied Irish Banks)
- BOI (Bank of Ireland)
- Permanent TSB
- Revolut (Digital Bank)

The bank will require you to have the following with you when opening your account:
- IRP Card & Passport
- Proof of your address in Ireland (Any utility bill, rental agreement, or a letter from your landlord)
- Letter from ATU Galway

Click AIB or BOI to look at the guide to set up a bank account.

Revolut is now a licensed Digital bank in Ireland with Irish IBAN.

While you are waiting for your IRP card, you may consider setting up an account with a digital bank such as:
- N26
- Money Jar
- Wise
ESSENTIAL PLACES TO KNOW IN GALWAY
(The approximate time provided is measured from ATU Galway main campus)

ATU Galway Campus
The place you call your new home! It is located on Dublin Road. It is approximately 12 minutes bus distance from the Galway Town.
Check out the ATU Galway Campus virtual tour by clicking HERE!
Address: (ATU) Dublin Road, Galway, H91 T8NW, Ireland

Allied Irish Bank (AIB)
The nearest AIB Bank from campus. It is located in the middle of shop street (Galway Town).
Address: Lynch's Castle, 40 Shop St, Galway, H91 W400
Approx. bus time: 12 minutes

Salthill Promenade and Blackrock Galway
Where you can walk along scenic coastal views, or enjoy the iconic diving board and leisurely strolls at Blackrock Galway
Address: Salthill Prom, Unnamed Road, Co. Galway
Approx. bus time: 40 minutes

Galway Garda Station (Police Station)
This is where you will be going to register for your Irish Residence Permit (IRP)/ Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) Card. It is just opposite our Galway Campus!
Address: (Dublin Road Garda Station) Dublin Road, Galway, H91 D2KF, Ireland
Galway Coach Station
If you need to travel to other counties by bus, this is the bus station. It provides bus services to Dublin, Cork, Athlone, Limerick, etc.
Address: Fairgreen Rd, Galway, H91 CX90
Approx. bus time: 10 minutes

Galway Train Station (Ceannt)
If you need to travel by train here is the Galway Train Station.
Address: Station Rd, Galway
Approx. bus time: 12 minutes

Eyre Square (Town)
The public park located in the heart of Galway City.
Address: Eyre Square, Galway
Approx. bus time: 12 minutes

Eyre Square Centre
Here you can shop for a wide range of items, from grocery to pharmacy, household items, SIM, food, and drinks. Check the website for more information http://www.eyresquarecentre.com/.
Address: Eyre Square Centre, Galway
Approx. bus time: 12 minutes

Grocery Store List
- Tesco - British multinational retail chain
  Address: Ballybane Shopping Centre, Ballybane Rd, Galway, H91 C862 (Nearest to campus)
  Approx. walking time: 10 mins
- Dunnes Stores – Irish multinational retail chain
  Address: Eyre Square Centre, Galway
  Approx. bus time: 12 minutes
- Lidl – German global supermarket chain
  Address: Unit 5 & 6, Wellpark Retail Park, Wellpark Rd, Galway
  Approx. bus time: 6 minutes
- Spice Bazaar Galway – Indian, Filipino and African market
  Address: Unit 4, Doughiska Road Industrial Estate, Doughiska, Co. Galway, H91 W9NC
  Approx. bus time: 14 minutes bus
- Asiatic Manila – Asian market
  Address: 50 Abbeygate Street Upper, Galway, H91 XW6D
  Approx. time: 12 minutes bus & 5 minutes walking
ESSENTIAL PLACES TO KNOW IN LETTERFRACK
(The approximate time provided is measured from ATU Connemara - Letterfrack)

ATU Connemara Campus (Letterfrack)
The place you call your new home!
Check out the ATU Connemara Campus video tour by clicking HERE!
Address: ATU Connemara, Letterfrack, Co. Galway, H91 AH5K

Molly's Bar
A traditional Irish pub in the heart of Letterfrack.
Address: Letterfrack, Co. Galway, H91 X3A2
Approx. walking time: 4 minutes

Connemara National Park
Is renowned for its breath taking landscapes, diverse wildlife, and excellent hiking trails, perfect destination for nature enthusiasts. Click HERE for more information about the park.
Address: Connemara National Park Letterfrack, Co. Galway
Approx. walking time: 17 minutes

Letterfrack Country Shop (Grocery Store)
Address: N59, Letterfrack, Co. Galway, H91 YE84
Approx. walking time: 1 minutes
OTHER INFORMATION

Ordering Food Online
In Galway, there is few apps you can download to order takeaway.
- JustEat
- Deliveroo
- UberEats

Ordering Grocery Online
There are a few handy websites where you can order groceries online. Most of them will deliver the goods to your doorstep with minimal charge.
- Dunnes Stores
- Tesco

Young Adult or Student Leap Card
Get 50% off adult public transport fares with the Young Adult (19-25) or Student Leap Card
To Apply:
Click here

For more information about Leap Card CLICK HERE!
Follow us

ATU Global Relations Galway
@atuglobalgalway
@atu.internationalsociety

Contact us

If you have any queries or issues, please contact us:

ATU Global (International Office)
Email: international.galwaymayo@atu.ie

Gabriella Cardoso - Senior International Student Ambassador
Email: gabriella.cardoso@atu.ie

Lee Ren Yee - Senior International Student Ambassador
Email: leeren.yee@atu.ie

Health Service
Reception: +353 (0) 91 74 2228 / 087 9971574
Email: Studenthealthunit.galwaymayo@atu.ie

Counselling Service
Reception: +353 (0)91 74 2118
Email: counselling@atu.ie