



GRIFFITH COLLEGE

International Office

Global Engagement Office

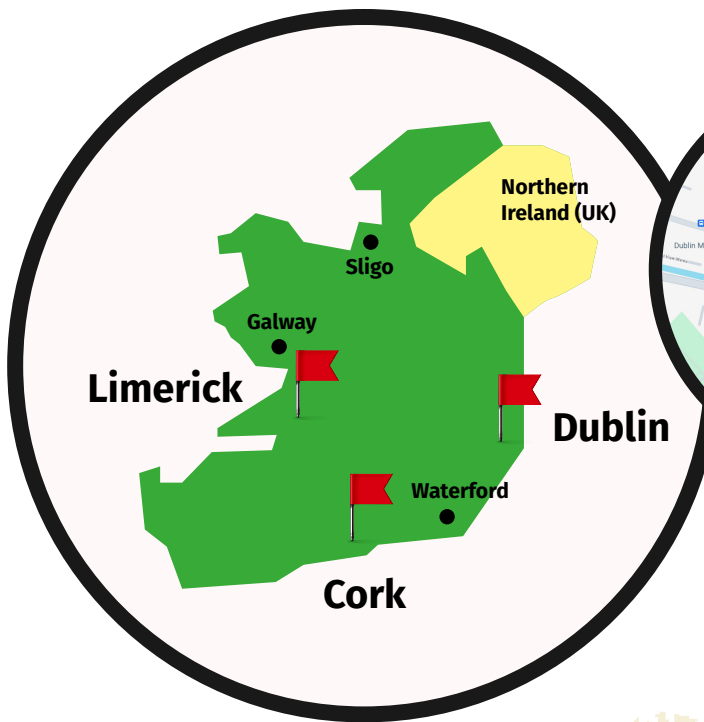
Mini-Handbook for International Students 2025 - 2026

**Welcome to Dublin
and Welcome to Griffith College!**

**We are delighted that you will be joining us
and we look forward to welcoming you to
Griffith College.**



Dublin, Ireland & Europe



**Griffith College
Dublin**



Get to know your Dublin campus!



Section 1

Important Dates!

College Induction!

Griffith College Induction provides an introduction to the College where you will get to meet all new incoming Griffith College students and receive important information from key College staff members.



Induction takes place on
Wednesday September 17th **OR**
Thursday September 18th.

The date of your induction depends on your programme of study. Further details will be sent to you and you will be invited to induction by email.



Key Dates 2025-2026

2025

September	17 OR 18	College Induction The day of your induction will depend on the programme you will be studying with us. You will be sent an invitation and further information by email.
	22	Start of Semester One
October	27	Halloween Bank Holiday  This is a Public Holiday in Ireland. There are usually no classes on Public Holidays, but sometimes extra classes are scheduled, so for further information you can check with your Faculty.
November	03 to 07	Assignment Week There are usually no classes during Assignment Week but sometimes extra classes are scheduled during this week so for further information you can check with your Faculty.
December/ January	19	Last Day of Classes before Christmas Break 
	29 December to 02 January	Study Week There are usually no classes during Study Week, but sometimes extra classes are scheduled during this time, so for further information you can check with your Faculty.

Key Dates 2025-2026

2026

January	06 to 21	Exam Period Your Examination Timetable will be available in October 2024.
	02	St. Brigid's Day ✚ This is a Public Holiday in Ireland. There are usually no classes on Public Holidays, but sometimes extra classes are scheduled, so for further information you can check with your Faculty.
February	03	Start of Semester Two
March	16 to 20	17 St. Patrick's Day 🍀 🥁 🎺 🎩 This is a Public Holiday in Ireland.
		Assignment Week There are usually no classes during Assignment Week but sometimes extra classes are scheduled during this week so for further information you can check with your Faculty.
April	03 to 06	Easter 🥚 There are usually no classes over the Easter weekend, but sometimes extra classes are scheduled during this time, so for further information you can check with your Faculty.
May	01	End of Semester
	04	May Day 🎊 This is a Public Holiday in Ireland. There are usually no classes on Public Holidays, but sometimes extra classes are scheduled, so for further information you can check with your Faculty.
	04 to 08	Study Week There are usually no classes during Study Week, but sometimes extra classes are scheduled during this time, so for further information you can check with your Faculty.
	12 to 27	Exam Period Your Examination Timetable will be available in March 2026.

Other Important Dates!

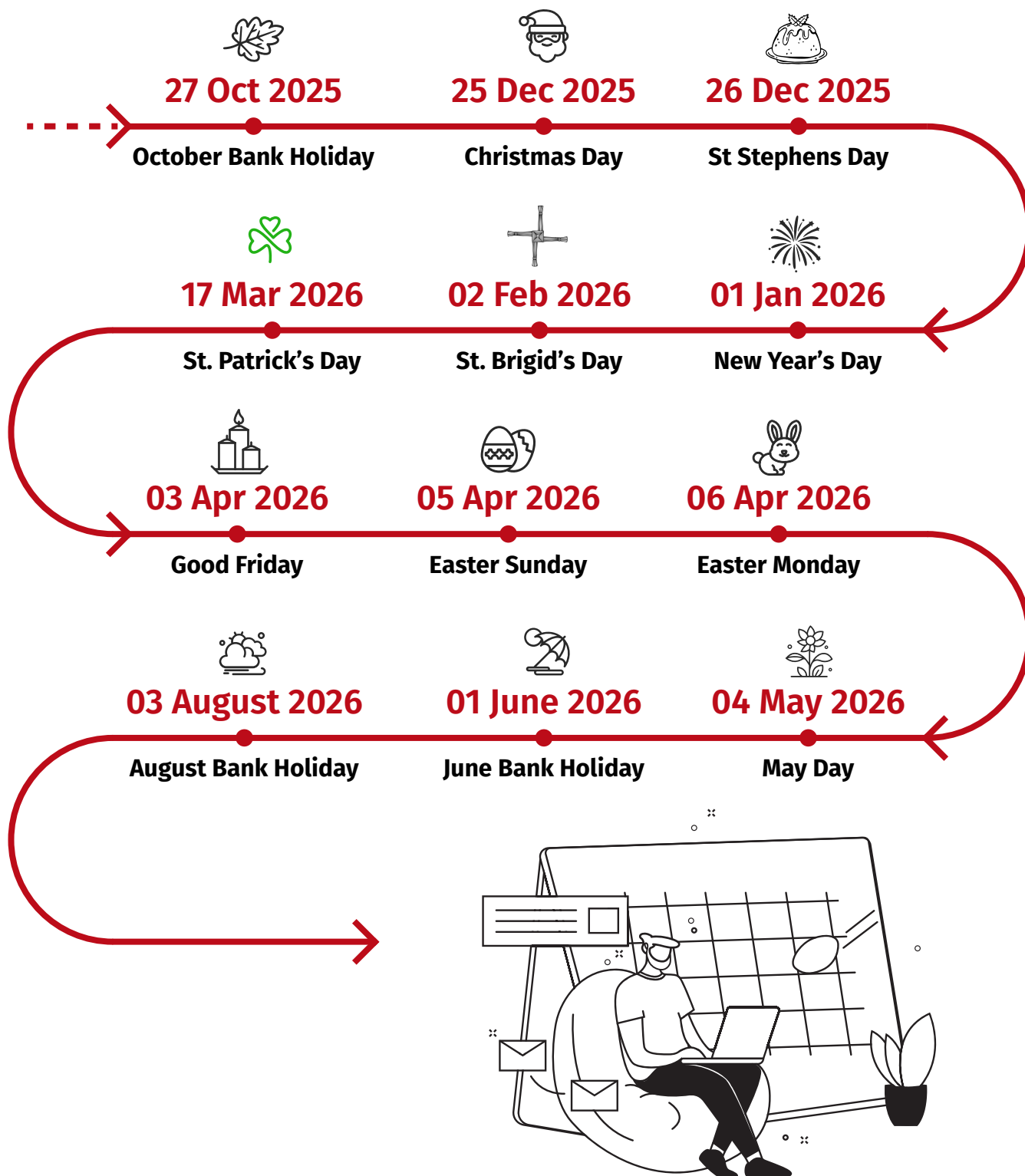
Public Holidays

Public Holidays are also called “Bank Holidays” in Ireland.

The College is officially closed on Bank Holidays/Public Holidays.

Lectures and classes do not normally take place on Public Holidays but this can vary per faculty.

Please check with your faculty for further information.



Section 2 Things To-Do when You Arrive:

Your first steps in Ireland:

- 01 CONTACT YOUR FAMILY AND LET THEM KNOW THAT YOU HAVE ARRIVED.**
They'll be worried otherwise!
- 02 VIEW ANY PRE-SEMESTER INFORMATION SENT TO YOU BY THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE.**
- 03 REGISTER WITH THE COLLEGE - YOU WILL BE INVITED TO REGISTER BY EMAIL.**
(You can also register from your home country before you travel to Ireland!)
 - ✓ Upload a picture of yourself to the online student portal in order to get your Griffith College Student Card. You will need your Student Card to access the College Library services, attend exams and use the college computer labs and print rooms. You do not need a Student Card to enter the College or your classrooms.
 - ✓ You can collect your Student Card in September.



You can watch our **How To Register with the College** video for more information



CLICK OR
SCAN ME

- 04 OPEN AN IRISH BANK ACCOUNT**
Once you've registered, you will be able to order a Bank Letter from the International Office which you will need to open your bank account.
If you open a Virtual Bank Account you don't need a letter!



You can watch our **How To Open a Bank Account** video for more information



CLICK OR
SCAN ME

- 05 GET A LEAP CARD (STUDENT TRAVEL CARD)**
The Leap Card saves students money on public transport services as well as selected retail brands.



You can watch our **Student Travel Card and Transport Information** video for more information



CLICK OR
SCAN ME

- 06 GET A PPS NUMBER (IRISH SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER)**
It is a requirement for all graduating students to have a PPS Number, and you also need it if you want to get a part-time job in Ireland.



You can watch our **How to Apply for a PPS Number** video for more information



CLICK OR
SCAN ME

07**NON-EU STUDENTS: REGISTER WITH THE IRISH IMMIGRATION SERVICE - ISD**
(Formerly known as "GNIB" and "INIS")

All Non-EU students must register with the Irish Immigration Service.



You can watch our ***How To Register with Immigration*** video for more information

**08****ATTEND COLLEGE INDUCTION**

- ✓ Meet your faculty, fellow students and get your timetable
- ✓ You will receive an invite for Induction **by email**

The date of your induction depends on your programme and campus. Further details will be sent to you soon!

Section 3

Getting Settled

Life in Dublin & Ireland



About Ireland

Ireland is an island on the western edge of Europe and is a member state of the European Union (EU). The Republic of Ireland comprises 26 of the 32 counties and its capital city is Dublin. The remaining counties make up Northern Ireland (capital city is Belfast), which is part of the United Kingdom.

Dublin

Dublin began life as a Viking settlement founded over 1,000 years ago on the banks of the River Liffey. Dublin is now the thriving capital of an independent Ireland and is the centre of the political, diplomatic, administrative and commercial life of the country. Dublin is a university city and one of the most vibrant European capitals. It is home to over 1.5 million people, including a large student population.

Electricity / Voltage

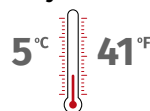
The electrical current in Ireland runs at 220 Volts AC. Please ensure that you have the appropriate step-up / step-down adapter fitted to any electrical appliance that you have brought with you from your home country. Irish plugs have 3 pins, not 2 pins.

Weather, Climate and Clothing

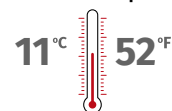
The climate in Ireland is generally mild. Winters are mild with very little snow and the summers are relatively warm. Average rainfall is approximately 1.07m and a raincoat is needed whatever the season! You are advised to bring warm clothes and footwear. Most Irish homes have central heating.

Average temperatures (Celsius / Fahrenheit) are as follows:

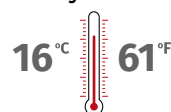
January - February



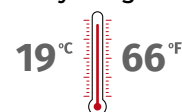
March - April



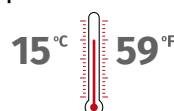
May - June



July - August



September - October



November - December



Equality

Ireland's equality laws protect against discrimination and harassment. It is illegal to discriminate against anyone based on Race, Gender, Religion, Sexual Orientation or Disability.

Punctuality

Irish people might be a bit more relaxed and a little less punctual than people from other countries, but in general you should arrive on time for appointments and if you're running late, inform the person you are due to meet.

Religion

The predominant religion in Ireland is Christianity, with the largest church being the Roman Catholic Church. However, Dublin is a diverse, multicultural city and all the major world faiths worship in the city.

General Politeness

Irish people are quite informal but like good manners. We use "please" and "thank you" and it is polite to say "excuse me" when wanting someone to move out of the way and "sorry" if you bump into someone.



Smoking & Vaping

It is illegal to smoke in enclosed public places such as cafes, bars, restaurants, trains and cinemas. Smoking is not permitted inside any of the College buildings. Most bars and cafes have outside smoking areas. There are no laws about where you can vape in Ireland but indoor vaping is becoming very unpopular and is not permitted in a lot of establishments.

Eating

People generally eat with a knife and fork. If you are in a restaurant it is considered polite to leave a moderate tip (e.g. 10%) for the waiter / waitress but it's not compulsory.

Alcohol

You must be 18 years or over to consume alcohol in Ireland. Some bars have higher age limits for entry. It is common for younger students to be asked for proof of their age, so always remember to bring proof of ID if you are going out to a pub or club.

Queuing / Forming a Line

In Ireland, the custom is for people to form reasonably orderly queues and patiently wait their turn!

Getting Around Dublin

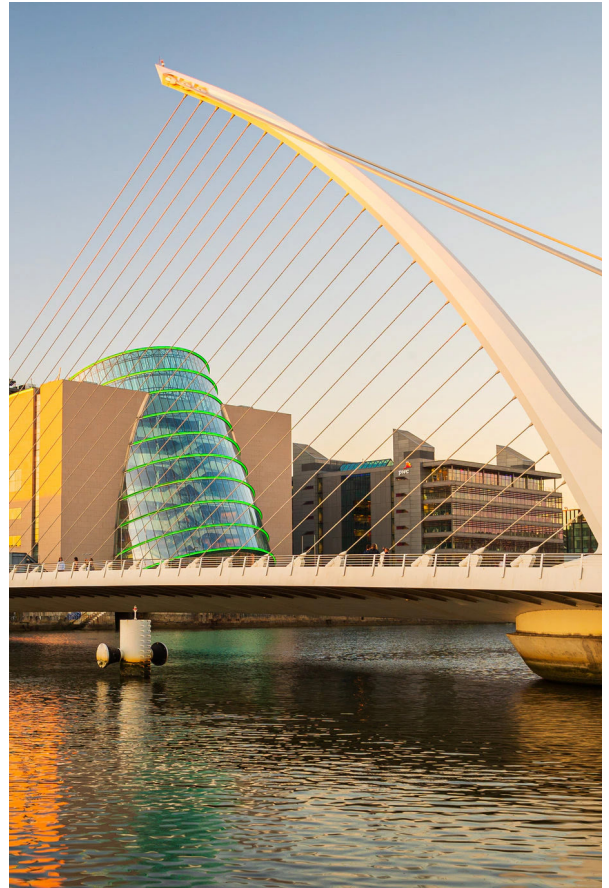
Dublin city is easy to navigate. There are lots of ways to get around using Dublin Bus, DART, Luas, car, bike or taxi.

When you arrive in Dublin you should buy a Student Leap Card. This will give you discounts on public transport as well as discounts in many shops and stores.

Dublin Bus

Dublin Bus runs a large bus network that can take you throughout all of Dublin City and County. Buses start at 06:30 and finish at 23:30. A small number of routes run for 24 hours.

Please see www.dublinbus.ie for further information. Take note that Dublin Bus operates an 'Autofare' system. If you are paying in cash, you must give the exact change to the driver. They do not take notes. Most passengers use the Leap Card rather than paying cash.



Dublin Bike Scheme

Dublin Bikes is a self-service public bicycle rental scheme which has operated in Dublin since 2009. Bicycles are available from Bike Stations located throughout the city, which are operational between 5am and 12.30am, 7 days a week. Cyclists can collect a bike from any station and return it to any station on the network.

For full details go to www.dublinbikes.ie



Section 4

Accommodation



Griffith Halls of Residence - Single room

01

On Campus Accommodation Griffith Halls of Residence (GHR)

Griffith Halls of Residence (GHR) is the on-campus accommodation facility for Griffith College Dublin students.

You can contact GHR at this email address: live@ghr.ie and you can visit their website here: www.ghr.ie.

02

Host Family / Home Stay

If you would like to live with a Host Family you can contact our Accommodation Officer at the following email address: homestay@griffith.ie

The benefits of living with a Host Family include, but are not limited to the following:

- You'll have home cooked meals
- You can use the laundry facilities
- You'll be able to improve your English speaking skills
- You'll get advice and assistance on getting to know your new city

The Home Stay option is most suitable for younger students. Older students may find the house rules restrictive. Host Families tend to be located in the suburbs so the cost and time for the commute is another consideration.

Alternative Accommodation Options

The following are a number of popular websites which provide accommodation independently of Griffith College.

01	Broadstone Hall Yugo	Click here
02	Kavanagh Court Yugo	Click here
03	New Mill Dublin Student Accommodation Yugo	Click here
04	Ardcairn House Residence Dublin Yugo	Click here
05	Highfield Park Dublin Student Accommodation Yugo	Click here
06	Dominick Place Student Accommodation Dublin Yugo	Click here
07	Dublin Student Rooms	Click here
08	Fresh Student Accommodation & Rental Homes	Click here
09	ISA International Student Accommodation	Click here
10	Glenard	Click here
11	Student House Finding Service	Click here
12	The Loom Dublin Student Accommodation Aparto	Click here
13	Dublin - Hubble Student Living	Click here
14	Brickworks Student Accommodation in Dublin Mezzino	Click here
15	Stoneybatter Place Student Accommodation in Dublin Mezzino	Click here
16	Student Accommodation in Dublin City Centre Scape	Click here
17	Aspen, Dublin	Click here
18	Ardee Point Student Accommodation Dublin Nido Living	Click here
19	Destiny Student - New Mill	Click here
20	Amber Student	Click here

BEWARE OF SCAMS!

We would also like to make you aware of possible online “scams” in relation to accommodation, and advice on how to stay safe and protect yourself from online fraud. For further information, you can visit these websites:

The Irish Competition and Consumer Protection Commission

<https://www.ccpc.ie/consumers/money/scams/rental-accommodation-scams/>

Daft.ie Property Website

<https://www.blog.daft.ie/post/accommodation-scams>

Irish Council for International Students - General Advice About Fraud and Scams

<https://www.internationalstudents.ie/info-and-advice/know-your-rights/scams-and-fraud>

Section 5

Money Matters

The Euro

Ireland's currency is the **Euro**. One Euro is divided into one hundred **cents**. All countries in the 'Eurozone' use the Euro - Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Spain.

Opening a Bank Account

You can open a student bank account in a number of banks in the city. You need to be registered with the College to open a bank account, and you need to present your passport and a College letter confirming you are a registered student. Virtual banks are becoming more popular with our students.



You can watch our **How to Open a Bank Account** video for more information



In-Person/“High Street” Banks

Banks are generally open Monday to Friday, from 10:00 to 16:00, although longer opening hours may apply to different branches. **ATMs/Cash Machines** are widely available.

Debit Cards/ATM Cards

Your Debit Card/ATM card enables you to access Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) and pay for goods and services without cash. When you open a bank account, you will be sent your PIN (Personal Identification Number) by post and then, separately you will be sent your Debit Card/ATM Card.

Debit Cards/ATM Cards

Major credit cards are accepted throughout Ireland in shops, hotels, restaurants, etc.

Living Expenses

If you have never lived away from home before, managing your finances could be a challenge! Living expenses in Dublin are estimated at EUR10,000 to EUR12,000 per year. You should devise a budget for your expected monthly bills and outgoings.

This budget should include a list of 'must pay' items, such as the following:

- Rent
- Electricity
- Heating (e.g. gas, oil, etc.)
- College materials
- Food
- Provision for medical expenses
- Travel
- Socialising
- Mobile phone
- Clothes

Do's and Don't

- ✓ **Do** sign any personal documents or bank cards you receive immediately.
- ✓ **Do** keep all of your bank statements and medical bill receipts - you will need them for future financial management.
- ✓ **Do** remember that it can take up to five working days for payments to reach your account and to thus plan your spending accordingly.
- ✓ **Do** look for the best available currency exchange rates - the Post Office often offers better exchange rates than banks or exchange desks at the airport.
- ✓ **Do** report any lost or stolen debit/credit cards to your bank immediately using their 24 hour telephone service. You should also report any crimes you see/suffer to the Garda Síochána (Irish police) as soon as possible.
- ✗ **Don't** spend more money than you have in your bank account as you may incur significant charges.
- ✗ **Don't** carry large amounts of cash on your person or keep large amounts in your accommodation.



Section 6

Healthcare

Medical Insurance

Non-EU Students: All Non-EU students are required to have Medical insurance, which you should arrange before you travel to Ireland.



You can watch our **How to Open a Bank Account** video for more information

Going to the Doctor

If you need general medical treatment, you can go to a “General Practitioner” also known as a “GP”. You have to pay to go to the GP in Ireland.

Optical Treatment

Optical treatment is expensive in Ireland, so it’s a good idea to go for a check-up before you leave your home country.

College Counsellor

A Counselling Service is available to all students. The first four sessions are free of charge. The meetings take place off campus and are completely confidential for any students who wish to avail of the service. Students can phone, text or email to book an appointment from Monday to Friday, 9am to 8pm, with appointments being available within 24 hours. On the weekends, the phone is monitored by a qualified counsellor from 6pm Friday to 9am Monday inclusive.

Medical Emergencies

If you need immediate medical assistance, you can phone **999 or 112**. The call is free, including from a mobile phone, and you will be connected to the Emergency Services. If you need urgent treatment but are well enough to travel, you can make your own way to the Emergency Department (ED) of your nearest hospital.

Dental Treatment

Dental care is expensive in Ireland so we advise you to have dental treatment in your own country before you come to Ireland.

Pharmacies

Pharmacies normally open from 9am to 6pm, with some city centre pharmacies having later opening hours.



GRIFFITH COLLEGE



Have a Safe Journey

We look forward to
welcoming you to the
Griffith community!

International Office Global Engagement Office

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international@griffith.ie