COVER IMAGE: The River Liffey and Ha’Penny Bridge in Dublin city.

ON THIS PAGE: Celebrating St. Patrick’s Day.
Since 1962, BCA Study Abroad has been committed to helping students understand the complexities of the contemporary world by providing challenging academic programs and cross-cultural learning in locations around the globe.

From this start, BCA focused its educational mission on engaging students with ideas that matter.

As educators, we are convinced that no genuine understanding of global issues can be gained without a strong intellectual grounding in the histories, societies and cultures of the region in which our students pursue their studies.

Furthermore, we believe that student learning depends heavily on meaningful direct contact with local people whose lives are entwined with and affected by the issues we aim to understand.

By design, a significant component of BCA’s study abroad programs, both through traditional classroom education and infield learning, is grasping the historical, social and cultural context of the big questions of the human condition.

Through this model, BCA strives to convey a more comprehensive and precise understanding of the world to the students who participate in our programs.

**BOGSIDE MURAL: CIVIL RIGHTS, THE BEGINNING**

Murals produced by the Bogside Artists occupy walls on Rossville Street in the Bogside Area of Derry. Known as ‘The People’s Gallery’, the collection depicts historical events that occurred in the area of Derry that experienced the worst of The Troubles throughout the long conflict.
IMAGE OF PEACE

"Reconciliation/Hands Across the Divide" Statue, west end of Craigavon Bridge in Derry.
About the Program

BCA Study Abroad’s innovative program in Ireland provides extensive academic courses in a wide variety of disciplines, with more experiential learning focused on the cultural, political and sociological bases for institutionalizing a peaceful and just society. Given the tempestuous social and political challenges we are likely to continue to face around the globe, the components of our program in both Dublin and Derry will allow all students to explore the social, psychological and political consequences of prolonged conflict, and what concrete initiatives are necessary to institutionalize peace.
THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND AT MAYNOOTH

For students in all academic disciplines, the National University of Ireland at Maynooth provides a first rate academic experience. According to the 2012 edition of the Princeton Review, the National University of Ireland at Maynooth is one of the world’s best institutions for undergraduate education. Similarly, in the 2011 International Student Barometer (ISB) survey, the University ranked first for the expertise of the academic staff, the quality of their teaching and facilities for teaching and learning.

In addition to taking advantage of the rich academic offerings at the Maynooth campus, BCA Study Abroad students can also participate in specially designed programs of the Edward M. Kennedy Centre for Conflict Intervention on campus, which was created by the Irish government in honor of the late United States Senator.
Student Learning

This program is designed to facilitate student understanding of traditional academic topics while providing deep insight into the nature of contemporary conflicts and the challenges in institutionalizing a peace process. With superb guidance by our on-site resident director and other professors from the National University of Ireland, the Edward M. Kennedy Centre for Conflict Intervention and the International Conflict Research Institute in Derry, students gain the contextual knowledge necessary to contribute to conflict resolution and creating a peaceful social order.

The more traditional academic aspects of the program are conducted at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth campus, in the suburbs of Dublin city, the capital of Ireland, while the more experientially engaged aspects of the program are held in Derry, in Northern Ireland.

As the academic core of the program, students are able to choose from a wide variety of courses that will help them to meet home institution requirements as well as contribute to an understanding of Irish life and Ireland’s role in global affairs. While students can take classes in a variety of academic departments, we encourage students to focus on the following subjects that will enhance their understanding of the program theme, such as: Anthropology, European Studies, Applied Social Studies, History, Irish Studies, Medieval Irish & Celtic Studies, or Law.

Recommended Courses

This is just a sampling of the rich array of courses offered at the University. To view more courses, visit our website at www.BCAstudyabroad.org.

Politics of Ethnic Conflict in Europe and the Wider World

This course introduces students to the causes, nature and consequences of ethnic conflict in Europe and the wider world. It aims to familiarize students with the theoretical debates surrounding ethnicity and nationalism in the contemporary world and moves from the general to the particular by introducing a series of case studies which emphasize the importance played by ethnicity in divided societies.

Political Institutions and Civil Society in Ireland

This course seeks to introduce students to the principal institutions, processes and networks that define politics on both sides of the Irish border. The lectures will critically examine the principal agencies of the state and the nature of Irish civil society, including the role of social movements and community groups in complementing and contesting the functions and authority of the state.

Irish Public Policy

This course explores how Irish public policy has come to center on interlocking core elements which break with the cultural, political and religious aspirations which fuelled the nationalist struggle for Irish self-government and shaped government policies in the early decades of independence.

Environmental Politics

The course provides an introduction to theoretical thinking relating to the areas of environmental politics and policy-making, as well as studying the history of the environmental movement and the emergence of “green parties” in western democracies.

Independent Study Projects

Under the guidance of the BCA resident director, as well as staff at INCORE in Derry and the Edward M. Kennedy Centre for Conflict Intervention at Maynooth, students will define an independent study project focused on aspects of the conflict and peace process in Northern Ireland. In this educational component of the program, students will choose, refine, and research a project that will be presented to the entire group of BCA students during the Study Week of the program. Possible topics include:

- Understanding sectarianism
- The role of identity in The Troubles
- Culture and peacebuilding
- Integrated schools
- Republicanism
- Nationalism
- Unionism
DIVIDED SOCIETIES CONFERENCE

Students from around Europe join American students studying abroad to learn about and discuss some of the most intractable conflicts we face. The conference, which was launched in 2008 by BCA Study Abroad, is sponsored by AEGEE (European Students’ Forum) and the Institute for American Universities in France.
BCA Signature Courses

BCA’s Signature Courses focus student learning on intellectual development, cross-cultural awareness and trans-disciplinary study, both through traditional classroom learning and in-field experience. Much of this learning depends heavily on meaningful direct contact with local people whose lives are entwined with and affected by the issues we explore.

Required Pre-semester Course: The Troubles and the Peace Process in Derry

BCA Study Abroad students will spend the first two weeks of each semester exploring the roots of The Troubles in Northern Ireland; the political, social, and psychological consequences of the prolonged conflict; and the challenges of institutionalizing an enduring peace in the context of the “Peace Process” established in 1997.

The experience includes classroom lectures and discussions as well as significant field experience with community members from nationalist, republican, unionist, and loyalist perspectives to facilitate both a cognitive and experiential understanding of The Troubles and the difficulties associated with institutionalizing peace.

Specific Educational Goals and Outcomes of BCA in Dublin–Derry

In our Dublin–Derry program we expect participating students to flourish in a number of ways:

- Gaining an ability to understand The Troubles and the challenges of institutionalizing peace after a protracted conflict.
- Acquiring detailed knowledge of Ireland’s geography, history, artistic heritage and social values.
- Understanding some of the general contours of Irish politics, as well as the political relationship between Ireland and Britain, in addition to Ireland’s evolving position in a globalized world.
- Gaining a historical perspective, including an awareness of the complex history informing the relationship between Ireland, Britain, and the European Union.
- Developing skills in learning about and adapting to another culture.
- Developing scholarly and practical research skills conditioned by the Irish and British contexts.

DERRY, NORTHERN IRELAND

In a collaborative effort with scholars from the Kennedy Centre at Maynooth and those at INCORE (International Conflict Research Institute), BCA Study Abroad students will spend the first two weeks of each semester exploring the roots of The Troubles in Northern Ireland, the political, social, and psychological consequences of the prolonged conflict, and the challenges of institutionalizing an enduring peace in the context of the “Peace Process” established in 1997. Students enrolled in the fall semester program will also have the opportunity to participate in the “International Student Conference on Divided Societies” in Derry.
Living in Ireland

As the capital city of Ireland, Dublin is one of the most vibrant, youthful cities in all of Europe. In addition to a lively pub and club scene, occasionally punctuated by traditional Irish music and dance, Dublin has a rich cultural, literary and artistic heritage.

As a UNESCO City of Literature, Dublin’s literary history is justly famous for native Nobel laureates such as William Butler Yeats, George Bernard Shaw, Samuel Beckett, and its contemporary resident, the poet Seamus Heaney, who originally hails from Derry. Other Dublin writers and playwrights who have profoundly influenced its traditions include Oscar Wilde, Jonathan Swift, and Bram Stoker (the creator of Dracula).

There is also thriving theater life in Dublin, which has nourished the careers of several world famous Irish actors including Colin Farrell, Colm Meaney and Gabriel Byrne. In addition to theater, Dublin is also the center of Irish artistic life where students will be able to view the illuminated manuscript known as the Book of Kells, produced by Irish monks in AD 800 and now housed at Trinity College. Other examples of Dublin’s rich cultural life can be found in the Chester Beatty Library, the Irish Museum of Modern Art, the National Gallery, and many other galleries and museums.

About Derry

Although inhabited since prehistoric times, Derry is one of the oldest continuously inhabited places in Ireland. The original settlement that is possible to date occurred in 546 AD, when Saint Colmcille founded a monastery on the east side of the Foyle River. Following the city’s destruction in 1608 in the aftermath of the Tudor conquest of Ireland, it was rebuilt and enclosed by its now famous walls—one of the finest examples of a fully intact walled city in all of Europe. It is not only the walls however that have made the city famous, but its dramatic and tempestuous history—from the Siege of Derry in 1689 straight through to the Battle of the Bogside, and the start of The Troubles in 1969.

And like Dublin, Derry is known for its lively cultural scene, and was awarded the title of UK City of Culture for 2013 in a competition across the United Kingdom. The Playhouse in Derry, for example, has been the scene of a wide range of theatrical events including the Theatre of Witness productions which have contributed to the city’s efforts to transcend the personal consequences of decades of conflict. Derry also has a rich and innovative artistic community, much of which is centered around VOID, the contemporary art gallery. In addition, the city has links to the Irish cultural traditions of nearby County Donegal with its wild natural beauty. It is little wonder then that there are few, if any, citizens of Derry who cannot chant the words to Phil Coulter’s famous song about the city, “The Town I Loved So Well.”

Housing and Student Life

During the Derry portion of the program, students will be housed in student hostels. During the Dublin section of the program, accommodation will be in shared student apartments. Each student will receive a meals stipend and advice and guidance will be provided on shopping and economical student cafes and restaurants. An estimated food budget will be provided.

EDUCATIONAL EXCURSIONS

In addition to educational excursions in Northern Ireland during the initial two weeks of the program, three day-long excursions will be organized during the semester:

- Visits to government buildings and the Dáil Éireann (Irish Parliament) in Dublin: students will have the opportunity to discuss aspects of The Troubles and the Irish government’s involvement in the peace process to gain insight for their independent study projects.
- Visits to important literary and cultural centers in Dublin: students will gain a broad sense of the richness of contemporary Irish culture and attend a performance at the Abbey Theatre.
- Visits to megalithic sites such as the ancient passage tomb, Newgrange, and sites in the Boyne River Valley: students will gain historical depth to the forms of human cultural expression to be found on the island of Ireland.
Mission Statement
Rooted in the values of peace and justice, BCA Study Abroad promotes international understanding, awareness of global citizenship and academic scholarship through educational exchange.

BCA Dublin~Derry Quick Facts

Dates of Study:
- Fall Semester: Late August through early December
- Spring Semester: Early January through late May

Application Deadlines:
- Fall Semester: April 15
- Spring Semester: October 15

Language of Instruction: English

Host University: National University of Ireland at Maynooth

Housing: Student apartments

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BCA's Comprehensive Fee covers:
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- Ireland: Dublin/Derry
- Japan: Sapporo
- Mexico: Xalapa
- Morocco: Tetouan
- Netherlands: The Hague
- New Zealand: Dunedin
- Palestine: Ramallah
- Spain: Quito, Upper Amazon
- England: Cheltenham
- Ireland: Dublin/Derry
- Greece: Athens
- India: Chennai
- Ireland: Dublin/Derry

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