

Global & Public Health Programme Reports

1 General Information	
Study programme & Degree (if applicable: undergraduate studies/degree/institution)	Master of Science Immunology and Global Health Taught Masters Degree, 90 ECTS
Weblink	https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/study-maynooth/postgraduate-studies/courses/msc-immunology-global-health
University	National University of Ireland Maynooth
City / Country	Maynooth / Ireland
Semesters / Years	1 full year (2 semesters + summer research project)
Study / semester abroad	<input type="checkbox"/> mandatory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> optional
Language of instruction	English

2 Preparations / Organizational Aspects	
When did you start to prepare for the study programme?	No preparation necessary, basic immunology knowledge is helpful.
What must be considered in preparation for the study programme?	Honours undergrad degree with a 2.2 or better is necessary; if primary degree is not completed by the time of application, they issue a conditional offer.
How is the application process? Is there a deadline for the application?	Online application via PAC. Deadline: End of June
2a Documents	

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<p>Which documents were needed for the application / country entry? How/Where did you get them?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> language certificate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> motivational letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CV/ resumé <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> recommendation letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> insurances <input type="checkbox"/> visa <input type="checkbox"/> vaccines	<p>Two letters of recommendation needed, I got one from my personal academic tutor and one from my deputy programme lead</p>
<h3>2b Financial Aspects</h3>		
<p>Are there costs related to the study programme? How much are they?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> semester contribution <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> tuition fee <input type="checkbox"/> enrolment fee <input type="checkbox"/> others	<p>7,650€ for the full degree for EU-citizens, 17,000€ for non-EU citizens</p>
<p>How do you finance your study programme (abroad)?</p>	<p>Postgraduate scholarship awarded by Maynooth University, family support</p>	
<p>Do you get financial support? (e.g. scholarship, BAföG, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - From which institution do you get the financial support? - How much do you get (optional)? <p>Do you have any tips / experiences for application?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Postgraduate scholarship awarded by Maynooth University (easy application through PAC): 3000€ - Motivational letter is key. 	
<p>Do you have insights into jobs for students?</p>	<p>There are many cafes or restaurants which look for part-time staff. Alternatively, childminding is a good option. The university is also offering part-time position to students.</p> <p>Graduates from this programme may go into pharmaceuticals, public health authorities/infectious disease control and many other areas.</p>	

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How would you rate the cost of living in your city (in comparison to specific cities in your country?)	The cost of living is quite high in Ireland compared to Germany, especially close to Dublin.
Based on your experience, how much should someone calculate for accommodation/ food/ public transportation/ wifi?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Accommodation: 450-700€ including Wifi and bills - Food/public transport: 300-400€ per month
Are there other costs that need to be considered? (e.g., vaccinations, insurances, visa, travel costs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flights to and from Ireland are generally affordable, ~50-70€ - free travel insurance for 1 year provided by Marburger Bund/Allianz - Health care is free in Ireland (HSE), European Health Insurance Card is accepted

3 Studying	
Why did you decide to study at that university? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What appealed to you most? - What does it offer what others don't? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1-year programme - Beautiful campus - Combination of immunology and Global Health, lab research project or a Global Health research project, which can take place abroad.
Which modules did you take? (brief overview) Which modules did you like/ were special at that university?	Fundamental immunology Advanced immunology Bioethics, biopharmaceuticals & clinical trial Vaccines & adjuvants Epidemiology & the modelling of human disease Foundations of medical anthropology Clinical immunology Applied & molecular immunology Introduction to bioinformatics Geography of health & health care Impacting global health Immunology masters research project Seminars in advanced immunology and global health

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<p>How would you rate the workload/ amount of self-studying/ group work, etc.?</p> <p>How were the lecturers/ teaching style?</p> <p>What was new for you? What did you have to get used to?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Around 10-20 contact hours a week (some modules are block modules) - Most of the assessments are essays or presentations, some group-assignments - In some modules, there are MCQs during the year and final exams at the end of the semester - I was not used to writing essays/reports but the lecturers are very helpful, there is a writing centre which offers advice, workshops for postgraduate students - Lecturers are very engaging; they offer time for discussion and tutorials
<p>Are there any specialisation areas in your programme? Which did you choose?</p>	<p>All modules are compulsory, you can choose your summer project (thesis) yourself.</p>
<p>To which extent were international and global topics discussed/ part of the study programme?</p> <p>Which topics were the most interesting/ you liked most?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 60% immunology, 40% Global Health - I enjoyed the vaccine and immunology modules a lot, epidemiology and modelling of human disease was very useful as well; and the research project is a great way of getting more experience and choosing your topic of interest
<p>Where is the campus located? Is the campus spread throughout the city? Is it easy to arrive?</p>	<p>The campus is divided into an ancient South Campus and more modern North Campus which are located next to each other. It is located just next to town centre, with bus stops and a train station close by. It takes about 30 min to get into Dublin city centre by public transport.</p>

4 Living

<p>Briefly describe your daily life. How is your study-work-life-balance?</p>	<p>Usually lectures during the day. We work on our essays in between and after lectures. In the evening there are many societies going on, e.g., volleyball, soccer, yoga etc. I tended to work on my essays during the weekend but also went to Dublin or on trips to other places in Ireland, e.g., Galway.</p>
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	<p>Especially during the last few weeks of a semester and midterm, it gets quite busy, and you will have to cut down on your social life. The start of the semester is usually not too stressful.</p> <p>I am usually in the lab from 9-5.30 to work on my research project during the week, weekends are usually off.</p>
<p>How do you experience the city/country and people/fellow students? How is the atmosphere?</p>	<p>The course is quite small, in my year we had about 12 students. The atmosphere is great, everyone has a different background and the university in general is very international with a lot of ERASMUS and international students.</p>
<p>What did you learn for yourself personally and culturally?</p> <p>[e.g. an event / situation which was eye-opening / insightful / enlightening]</p>	<p>Got to know the Irish culture and enjoyed the international environment.</p> <p>It is a challenging degree but the work is very rewarding and interesting and I really grew as a person.</p>
<p>Do you have any tips for leisure activities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What does someone have to see? - Are there college sports at university? - Are there any student events to connect (e.g. coffee break, etc.)? - Are there any (regional) cultural events? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are many sports and academic societies which are easy to sign up and are a great chance to meet people - Karaoke nights in the student's bar are legendary - Galway, Cork and the West are easy to get to with buses, takes ~2.5 hrs
<p>What do you have to consider about public transport? What is important? What is different?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most used transportation? - Are there semester/student tickets? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You can get a student leap card: reduced ticket prices for public transport

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<p>What do you need (not) to pack/ prepare?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is life-saving in the host city/ country? - What do you regret (not) bringing? - Do you have any tips for preparation? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Even though the temperature barely falls below 0°C, it feels colder because of the wind, so bring warm clothes and a water-proof coat
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5 Reflection	
<p>What is your personal experience about your study programme? Would you recommend the study programme?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What did you especially like? - What did you not like? 	<p>It is a challenging degree, however, combining immunology and Global Health is a great approach. I would recommend it if you want to combine Global Health. If you are solely interested in Global Health, this might not be the right programme for you because it is quite science-heavy.</p> <p>Personally, I did not like the Medical Anthropology Module, but I learned a lot in the other modules and gained many transferable skills.</p>
<p>How did you experience the organisation and support at your university?</p> <p>Is there any special support for international students?</p>	<p>The University staff is very helpful. There is an international office which organises some events and helps students to settle in. At the beginning of the year, those services might be busy and it might take some time to get an email back.</p>
<p>What are your personal experiences about living in the host city/ country?</p> <p>What broadened your mind? Have you left your comfort zone? Have you changed your mindset? If yes, in which way?</p>	<p>The Irish are lovely and always helpful. Putting Immunology in the context of Global Health definitely offers a systems approach on solving the present and future Global Health challenges.</p> <p>My lab research project is a great opportunity to broaden my scientific understanding of immunology and medicine which is super helpful in the context of Global Health.</p>

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6 Recommendation	
Do you have other tips for studying the programme & living in the host city/ country?	Finding accommodation can be stressful. My advice is to start early.
Do you have contact persons or information for support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - student supports - international office - accommodation service - etc. 	https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/accommodation Also, in Ireland it is quite typical to live in an owner occupied house/ a family, try studentpad Maynooth for that. Daft.ie or rent.ie have ads for rooms/apartments and houses to share. There is an official facebook group for incoming international students.
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