UNO Writing Workshops Abroad
Cork, 2015

ORIENTATION GUIDE

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Hello, Students!

Thank you for your enrollment in the UNO Writing Workshops Abroad! This guide is intended as a resource as you prepare for your summer abroad. Be sure to take it with you as it contains useful information which you will need before you leave and while in Cork.

This guide is subject to change. In our efforts to keep you informed and address your concerns, we are constantly revising the information and looking to you for suggestions from your experiences abroad.

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# Class Information

## Morning Session: 9:30-11:45 MTWR
- **Intensive Fiction Writing:** Rick Barton
- **Advanced Fiction Writing:** Maureen McVeigh
- **Introductory Fiction Writing:** Maureen McVeigh
- **Advanced Scriptwriting:** Matthew Moore
- **Intensive Scriptwriting:** James Winter

*We will leave from VICTORIA LODGE promptly at 9:10 to walk up to class; if you would like to join us, please arrive at the front desk around 9:00.*

## Lunch: 11:45-1:00 MTWR
We will walk from the ACADEMIC QUAD to lunch at 11:45.

## Afternoon Session: 1:00-3:15 MTWR
- **Advanced/Intensive Non-Fiction Writing:** Kaethe Schwehn
- **Crafting the Witch:** Shelby Richardson
- **Acting Styles:** James Winter
- **Acting II:** Matthew Moore
- **The Literary Magazine:** Kathy Volk Miller

*We will walk back to *CLASSROOM* from lunch at 12:50.*

## Evening Session: 3:30-5:45 MWR
- **Memoir:** Kathy Volk Miller
- **Irish Literature & Culture:** Mary Breen
- **Women’s Travel Narratives:** Anne Boyd Rioux

## Readings 5:00-8:00 T
We will meet at VICTORIA LODGE at 4:15 to walk to The Roundy.

## Films/Performances 7:00-9:30 W (7/1, 15)
We will meet at VICTORIA LODGE at 6:15 to walk to The Roundy.
Our Reading Series will be held on Tuesday nights at The Roundy in Cork’s City Centre. Film screenings and performances will take place on Wednesday July 1 and Wednesday July 15. Attendance is mandatory for all program participants. Participation is mandatory for anyone enrolled in a workshop class, and encouraged for all program participants. Participants are expected to present an example of their work to the group, either read or performed. Please speak with the Ambassadors to reserve a performance date, or to request to emcee for the night. Student readings and performances should last approximately ten minutes.

WEEK ONE
June 23rd - Readings

WEEK TWO
June 30th - Readings
July 1st - Films/Performances

WEEK THREE
July 7th - Readings

WEEK FOUR
July 14th - Readings
July 15th - Films/Performances

ABOVE EVENTS ALL LOCATED AT:
THE ROUNDY BAR
1 CASTLE STREET
The currency in Ireland is the Euro (€), which converts into approximately $1.10 (4/28/15). The easiest way to get Euros is with your ATM card. You can also use your credit card to make purchases, but stick to Visa, MasterCard, and American Express. Most places accept American credit cards, but it comes in handy to carry cash. Travelers’ checks are not recommended, as many stores do not accept them.

If you have cash and wish to exchange it, there are places other than banks that will exchange money for you, but the charges can be exceptionally high, so we don’t recommend it. Exchange as much money as you feel safe carrying around and no more. In case of a financial emergency, a credit card can be very helpful. If you need to have money wired from home, it is best to have someone in the States wire it through a major bank that has a local office near your current location. This process can be both complex and expensive, so do your best to avoid it.

Take enough to cover your anticipated expenses and then a little extra. $350 to $450 per week is the suggested amount to cover evening and weekend meals, travel, and other personal expenses, but it is possible to spend considerably more or less than that.

If you are going over early on your own or travelling on free weekends, you will need to consider transportation, food, and lodging outside the program activities. If you intend to remain on campuss during these weekends, then your expenses will be considerably less. Consider the costs of evening meals during the week and the costs of souvenirs, taxi and bus fares, etc. More information about transportation in Ireland can be found at http://www.buseireann.ie/ and http://www.irishrail.ie/.

By planning in advance you will be better prepared for your trip. Spend your money wisely, but don't forget to have a good time!

Calculate what you have already paid, what is included in what you have paid, and what else you might need to pay for in Europe. Some items to include in your budget are gifts, souvenirs, non-sponsored weekend trips, transportation, personal items, recreation, food (not included in the program), postage, etc. Contact the Program Director for suggestions.
**TRANSPORTATION IN IRELAND**

**Cork City Buses:** City buses run regularly and are easily accessible. Cork is a very walkable city, so you should not need the bus to get around. All participants will receive an Irish LEAP bus pass, which can be topped up at Parnell Place.

**Excursion Transportation:** We will provide all transportation to and from our excursion events, including the LEAP pass, which can be used in Dublin.

**Additional Travel:** You are encouraged to travel on your own before the program starts, after it ends, and during your free weekends. Flights are available out of Cork to many European destinations, and out of Dublin and Shannon to the rest of the continent. Irish destinations can be easily reached by bus or train.

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**TO & FROM CORK**

**From Dublin Airport:**
Aircoach operates an hourly service from Dublin Airport to Patrick’s Quay, across the bridge from Cork’s Parnell Place Bus Station. Tickets can be booked online before your flight. You can also take an Aircoach into Dublin, and take a bus or train from there.

**From Cork Airport:**
- **Take a taxi.** There are taxis outside the airport. Tell the driver that you are headed to Victoria Lodge on Victoria Cross. The cost of a cab is approximately €12, and you should have cash ready. Another advantage of coordinating travel is that you can split the cost of the cab.
- **Take public transportation.** There is an airport bus to the central bus station that leaves at least once an hour throughout the day. From there you can take the Number 208 bus to UCC.

**Directions from Kent Train Station:** The Kent Train Station is located directly across the river from the Parnell Place Bus Station. You can either take a taxi or walk to the bus station from there.

**Directions from the Parnell Place Bus Station:** From the central bus terminal, take the Number 208 bus toward Bishopstown and get off at Victoria Cross. You can also take a taxi to campus (for approximately €8), or walk down Washington Street/Western Road for approximately 2 miles.

*The University of New Orleans Division of International Education assumes no responsibility for injuries or mishaps of any kind incurred on public transportation in Cork and its environs, or on public transportation in Europe in general. Students assume all risk incidental to the use of public transportation.*
MAILING ADDRESS IN CORK

Mail can be sent to the following address, and can be picked up from Victoria Lodge during office hours:

- Your Name
- UNO Writing Workshops Abroad
- Victoria Lodge
- Victoria Cross
- Cork, Ireland

Please give this address to anyone who needs it, especially your immediate family.

Regular air mail takes about a week to arrive. Surface mail can take much longer, but will be less expensive.

**Packages:** If you are planning to ship items to yourself from the U.S., or if others will be sending you packages, expect delays and potential customs duties that can be as much as 25% of value. As a general rule:

- **Don't** ship it if it can't go through regular mail. Private shipments through UPS, FedEx, or DHL are treated as commercial shipments (i.e., imports), and held at customs for duty.
- **Don't** ship it if you can't afford to lose it. The rate of lost items is not negligible, and the higher the declared value, the more likely the item will be held at customs. Always list contents as for personal use, not for commercial value.

TELEPHONING

The UCC Campus Accommodation contact number is **00 353 21 494 1200**
The Program Director’s number in Ireland is **00 353 89 497 6697**

**How can you call home?**

1. VOIP Programs, such as Skype and Google chat.
2. European cell phones can be purchased relatively easily (and inexpensively) in Ireland. There are numerous prepaid SIM card options, with various perks, depending on the provider. We will assist with this process during your arrival weekend.
3. Your U.S. cell phone may also be used, but it will be expensive.

You will be able to call other student apartments free of charge using the telephone in your suite.

**Explanation of numbers and dialing codes:**

- International number from U.S.: **011**
- Ireland country code from U.S.: **353**
- International number to the U.S.: **001 + area code + phone number**
**Housing:** Victoria Lodge is located at Victoria Cross, across from the River Lee. Each apartment contains approximately four individual bedrooms and bathrooms with shared kitchens and living rooms. Wireless internet access is provided, and laundry facilities are available on site.

**Housing Staff:** The Program Director, Academic Director, Graduate Assistant, and most faculty will be residing in Victoria Lodge for the duration of the program. Their room and telephone numbers will be made available to you at check-in and during the onsite orientation.

**Facility Damage:** All students are responsible for damage to their rooms and the facilities we use in Cork. If there are any damages during the program, the student will be charged on-site. Any damage found after the completion of the program will be billed to the responsible student(s). Grades will be held until all damage fees have been paid. Any student who does not pay will have their home university (if not a UNO student) notified and will be subject to all applicable laws.

**Guests:** At no time are guests allowed in the student apartments. Non-program participants are not allowed in any of the program participants’ suites without prior approval of the Program Director. No exceptions.

**Linens:** Bed linens, pillows, and towels will be provided in all rooms, and changed weekly. If you are picky about your pillow, you should bring your own.

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**MEALS**

**Breakfast:** A €40 debit card will be given to students, which they can use for breakfast or other purchases. This can be topped up by students as needed.

**Other Meals:** Lunch is provided on campus from 11:30-1:00 every class day. Each student will receive €10 per day for use in the main cafeteria, Monday-Thursday. This must be used in one transaction, but can include additional food to take away.

All other meals, including dinner, are on your own, except for program events. There are places to eat near campus, or you can prepare a meal in your apartment’s kitchen.

**Tipping:** When eating at a restaurant off-campus, it is customary to tip 10%.
**Medical Facilities:** Students should notify the program staff if medical attention is needed. More serious illnesses will be referred to a local doctor or hospital. Irish health services are socialized, so you can be assured of medical attention at a reasonable cost.

You can purchase medication upon arrival in Ireland. Note: restrictions on major medications can be different overseas. If you take medication that might be considered a stimulant or a controlled substance (i.e. Adderall), check local law. Some substances are illegal in different countries. **You will not be able to get medication with a U.S. prescription.**

**Medical Responsibility:** As a student you should be aware that there are certain risks inherent in international travel and that the University of New Orleans, as a State of Louisiana educational institution, cannot assume responsibility for all or certain of your activities while traveling. You should also be aware of your medical needs and consult with a medical doctor prior to departure regarding any personal needs while abroad. Also, be sure that you have returned the "Medical History Form" form to the UNO Division of International Education. Full disclosure of all medical history is required on the Medical Report Form. Failure to disclose any information may result in termination from the program.

**Medical Insurance**

Each student is covered by the University of New Orleans' Study Abroad Insurance Plan as part of the program cost. This comprehensive medical/accident insurance policy covers you from the time you leave the U.S. *(June 18)* until the program departure date *(July 18)*. If you wish to travel before or after the official dates of the program, you can extend the policy by contacting T.W. Lord and Associates at 1-800-633-2360, or info@twlord.com. Please refer to the Study Abroad Insurance Page at [http://inst.uno.edu/insurance.cfm](http://inst.uno.edu/insurance.cfm) for more information.

**St udents With Disabilities**

The University of New Orleans is committed to providing an environment where all students have the opportunity to equally participate in the academic experience, including students with disabilities. Students with disabilities have rights as determined by federal and state laws which require institutions to provide reasonable accommodations for the student’s disability in order to afford an equal opportunity to participate in UNO’s programs, courses, and activities. Persons requiring special accommodations must notify the Program Director immediately so that their needs may be properly assessed and reasonably accommodated. Documentation for special accommodations must be submitted to the Program Director prior to departure.
BEHAVIORAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND PERSONAL CONDUCT: I understand that the University of New Orleans as well as the international study program Academic Director/Program Coordinator has standards of appropriate conduct and that I will adhere to these standards while participating on a UNO international study program. I also understand that, should an official representative of the University of New Orleans decide that I must be separated from the program because of violation of stated rules, for disruptive behavior, for illegal use of drugs, for excessive consumption of alcoholic beverages, or for any conduct that might bring the program into disrepute or its participants into legal jeopardy, that decision will be final. Separation from the program will result in the loss of all academic credit and persons dismissed from the program will remain responsible for all program costs incurred on their behalf. The student’s home institution will be notified of any disciplinary action taken against the student.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM: I understand that this is an academic program, and will follow the rules set for class attendance and participation by each professor, including doing all assigned work and taking all examinations. I realize that noncompliance with these rules may result in a failing grade. I am aware that I will not receive academic credit from the University of New Orleans.

AMERICAN CITIZEN ABROAD: I understand that, as an American citizen in a foreign country, I will be subject to the laws of that country. I agree to conduct myself in a manner that will comply with these laws. I also understand that, if I fall into legal problems with any foreign nationals or government jurisdictions of the country I am visiting, I will attend to these matters personally and with my own personal funds. I will not hold the University of New Orleans liable for my actions while abroad. The University cannot provide legal counsel in such circumstances.

TRAVEL AND FREE TIME: I understand that during free time within the period of the program as well as before and/or after the period of the program I may elect to travel independently at my own expense. I agree that neither the University of New Orleans nor its agents or employees are responsible for me while I am traveling independently during such free time. I understand that such travel time will be unsupervised by the University, its agents, or employees. I also understand that I will be traveling during the program by various modes of transportation including but not limited to plane, train, bus, boat, van, or car, and I release the University of New Orleans and its agents or employees from any responsibilities. I further agree that, in the event I become detached from the group, fail to meet a departure time (bus, train, etc.), or I become sick or injured, I will bear all responsibility to seek out, contact, and reach the group at its next available destination; and, I understand that I shall bear all costs attendant to contacting and reaching the program group or program site.

CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS: I understand that the University reserves the right to make cancellations, changes, or substitutions in the Program at any time because of emergency, changed conditions or the Program Director’s determination that such changes or substitutions are in the best interest of the Program or its participants. I understand that if my participation in the Program is terminated by the Program Director as a result of disciplinary action, I will be sent home with no refund or fees. If I am sent home before completion of the Program, I agree that I will be responsible for any and all costs and expenses associated with my return home. I also understand that if I leave the Program voluntarily for any reason, including illness, I will be responsible for any and all costs and expenses associated with my return home and that there will be no refund of any fees. I will be asked to vacate the dormitory on a schedule set by UNO.

In view of the points mentioned above, and relative to my participation as a student on this international study program, I acknowledge that there are certain risks in foreign study programs; foreign political, legal, social, and economic conditions; different standards of design, safety and maintenance of buildings, public places and conveyances; and local medical and weather conditions. I acknowledge that all risks cannot be prevented and I assume those beyond the control of the university staff. I represent that I am physically able, with or without accommodations, to participate in this program. I understand that accommodation means reasonable accommodation. I am aware that I am subject to disciplinary action that could include expulsion from the program as well as other sanctions mentioned in this document but not limited to those sanctions.
U.S. CUSTOMS

When returning home, keep in mind that U.S. Customs requires you to declare all purchases acquired abroad. Therefore, be sure to keep the receipts for all the major items you buy. For a more detailed description of what you can and cannot bring back and what it might cost you, get a copy of the U.S. Customs publication "Know Before You Go."

EXTRA INFO

- There is a Bank of Ireland located behind the Student Center, which can exchange money.
- Stamps can be purchased at the Post Office on Oliver Plunkett Street in the City Centre.
- Stationery and school supplies can be purchased in the Student Center.
- Groceries can be purchased at corner stores on Western Road, at the shopping centers in the City Centre, or at the Wilton Shopping Center. The 208 bus serves all locations.

WEBSITES & EXTRA INFO

These sites have helpful information and are good for planning before and after the program.

- UNO Division of International Education's official website: http://inst.uno.edu/
- STA Travel web site: http://www.statravel.com/
- Lonely Planet travel books and advice: http://www.lonelyplanet.com/ireland
- Frommers’ travel books and other travel information: http://www.frommers.com/
- US Government Travel Advisory web site: www.travel.state.gov/
- US Passport Services: http://travel.state.gov/passport/
- US Department of State site for student travelers: http://studentsabroad.state.gov/
- UCC Campus Accommodation: http://www.ucccampusaccommodation.com/index.cfm
- University College Cork: http://www.ucc.ie/en/
- University College Dublin: http://www.ucd.ie/
- Aircoach: http://www.aircoach.ie/
- Bus Eireann: http://www.buseireann.ie/
- Irish Rail: http://www.irishrail.ie/
- Kayak: http://www.kayak.com/
## PROGRAM CALENDAR

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**Morning Session:** 9:15-11:30 MTWR  
**Lunch (Class Days):** 11:30-1:00 MTWR  
**Afternoon Session:** 1:00-3:15 MTWR  
**Evening Session:** 3:30-5:45 MWR  
**Readings:** 5:00 - 8:00 T  
**Performances/Screenings:** 7:00 - 9:30 W  

*Readings and performances located at The Roundy, 1 Castle Street.*
The Writing Workshops in Cork, Ireland

JUNE 19 - JULY 18 2015