EU-CONEXUS INFORMATION PACKAGE

1. INFORMATION ABOUT THE COUNTRY

IRELAND

Ireland is a small island republic off the coast of North West Europe. It lies about 100km from its nearest neighbour, the United Kingdom, across the Irish Sea. It has been a member of the European Union since 1973 and plays a very active part in all the activities of the Council and the Commission. It is approximately 500 km from Paris and Amsterdam by air.

The population of Ireland (north and south) is around 5 million. In the past many Irish people emigrated to the UK, USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand and this means there are strong social and cultural bonds between Ireland and these countries.

Ireland is known for its beautiful views, of both the land and sea. Often referred to as the Emerald Isle, Ireland is a blend of the colour green, rolling hills and grassy landscapes with vibrant cities settled beside cosy bays and beautiful cliffsides.

2. INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY

WATERFORD CITY

Waterford is a city and a port located in the South East of the county. Founded by Vikings in 914, Waterford City is the oldest city in Ireland. It is the designated Gateway to the South East Region, with good shopping, social-life and facilities for sport and recreation. It is the fifth biggest city of the Irish Republic with a population of about 50,000 people and is easily accessible from the capital Dublin (160km) by train or coach. It is an ancient walled city with many interesting remains and attractive buildings. Its most famous export is the unique Waterford Crystal. The region of which Waterford City is located offers beautiful beaches and coastal areas, impressive rocky mountains and hiking paths, and the famous Waterford Greenway, a great way to take in the refreshing green Irish landscapes on foot or by bike. Waterford City is also a perfect starting point for those who wish to traverse along the Wild Atlantic Way (a tourism trail on the west coast, and on parts of the south and north coasts, of Ireland).

3. INFORMATION ABOUT THE PARTNER UNIVERSITY Waterford Institute of Technology

Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) is a university-level institution in the South-East of Ireland with over 10,000 students and 1,000 staff. It is the major provider of higher education in the South East region of Ireland and one of the largest IOT's in Ireland. The Institute's range and scope reflect the changing needs of the southeast as well as the country as a whole.

The range of academic programmes is exceptionally extensive, ranging from Higher Certificate right through to post-doctoral research and covering studies in Humanities, Health and Nursing, Science and Informatics, Engineering and Architecture, Business and Education.

WIT is committed to being a research-led Institute, recognised for its distinctive, high quality centres of research. WIT's strategy is to create substantial centres of excellence for world-class research in which individual scholars and research groups are given maximum freedom to pursue their investigations. Over the past 10 years, the Institute has successfully attracted over €150m in research funding from various sources.

WIT has formal academic exchange and research partnerships with over 40 universities worldwide. In addition WIT has very close relationships with industry & commerce, the professions and the public service for research, consultancy, student and graduate placements etc. A culture of entrepreneurship and innovation is fostered at all levels in the organisation.

In June 2019 the European Commission selected EU-CONEXUS as one of 17 "European University" projects. WIT is currently an associate partner in this project. We are liaising in joint course development with EU-CONEXUS, have aided in delivering staff training and also looking forward to further expand our collaboration with EU-CONEXUS to the benefit of the entire consortium. We are looking forward to adding value to the consortium and be in a position to be involved as a full partner in the near future.

4. IMPORTANT NUMBERS AND CONTACTS

WIT Office for International Relations Contacts https://www.wit.ie/international/contact_us/international-staff

WIT Students' Union Contact Information

http://www.witsu.ie/your-su/contact-us/

WIT Student Life & Learning

https://www.wit.ie/current_students/student_life_and_learning/student_life_learning

WIT Medical Centre Contact Information

https://www.wit.ie/current_students/student_life_and_learning/medical-services

WIT Institute Nurse Contact Information https://www.wit.ie/current_students/student_life_and_learning/wit_institute_nurse

WIT Student Counselling Service Contact Information

https://www.wit.ie/current_students/student_life_and_learning/counselling_service

Republic of Ireland Emergency Services Contact number 112 or 999

5. OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

Accommodation https://www.wit.ie/international/admissions/accommodation

WIT Student Support Services

https://www.wit.ie/international/exchanges/international-support-services

6. STUDY PROGRAMMES

WIT offers tuition and research programmes in various areas from Higher Certificate to Degree to PhD. Information on study programmes offered to EU applicants can be found <u>here</u>. Information on programmes offered to non-EU applicants can be found <u>here</u>. Information on the modules offered to exchange students can be found here on the bottom of the <u>webpage</u> under the ECTS Module Guides Tab.

7. INFORMATION FOR THE EU-CONEXUS STUDENTS

One module in particular where we have identified which could be of benefit to the EU-CONEXUS consortium would be for us to host students in our research labs at WIT to complete our "Research Dissertation MSc" module which is a 30 credit Masters level thesis module in science. This currently sits within our MSc in Analytical science with Quality Management module. There could be other modules in future which will be of value for us to offer to the EU-CONEXUS students, depending on need and availability. We offer modules across multiple disciplines and look forward to being able to offer more of these as the need arises. A full list of our programmes is available at the following link: <u>Courses | Waterford Institute of Technology | Waterford Institute of</u> <u>Technology (wit.ie)</u>