

IRELAND

COUNTRY PROFILE



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Fáilte

Put **IRELAND** on Your Map



ilte



IRELAND

Ireland is an island in the North Atlantic ocean

The name of the State under the Irish Constitution is "Éire" or in English "Ireland"

A committed member of the European Union since 1973

First official language: Irish

Second official language: English

Currency: Euro (€)

FIGURES

The population of Ireland in 2018 is **4.86 million**.

Population by main cities:

● Dublin city: **1,347,000**

● Cork city: **208,000**

● Limerick city: **94,000**

● Galway city: **80,000**

● Waterford city: **54,000**

Today **40%** of the population speak Irish

70 million people around the world claim Irish ancestry



National symbol:

Shamrock

Legend has it that the shamrock was used by Saint Patrick when preaching in Ireland, as a symbol of the Holy Trinity, leading to its adoption as an Irish symbol.

Ireland has the youngest population in Europe with
33% under 25 years of age and almost
50% under the age of 34

#4 in the world in the UN's Human
Development Index 2018

#7 in the Good Country
Index 2018

National emblem **The Harp**

The harp has been regarded as the official symbol, or coat of arms, of Ireland since medieval times. The heraldic harp is used by the Government, its agencies and its representatives at home and abroad. It is engraved on the seal of the Office of the President as well as on Irish euro coins.



A LAND OF
A THOUSAND WELCOMES

Céad mile fáilte

Ireland's breathtaking Wild Atlantic Way is the longest signed coastal road in the world.



2,500km of unspoilt coastline on the Wild Atlantic Way with natural, historical and cultural experiences and inspirations.

188 incredible Discovery Points along the way from Donegal to West Cork.

Climate

Influenced by the Gulf Stream, and with prevailing south-westerly winds, the climate of Ireland is temperate.

The coldest months are January and February which have mean daily air temperatures of between 4°C and 7°C, while July and August are the warmest, with mean temperatures of between 14°C and 16°C.

How to get to
Ireland



Ireland's main international airports:
Dublin, Cork, Shannon.



Ireland's Ancient East, a land full of secrets, is carpeted by lush landscapes and idyllic towns, framed by the River Shannon and the Irish Sea.

- **30,000 castles & ruins** in Ireland
- The River Shannon is the longest river in Ireland at **360.5 km**
- **900 A.D.** when Sean's Bar in Athlone town, Europe's oldest bar, was opened

**IRELAND'S
ANCIENT
EAST**
in numbers

- **15** counties
- **5000** years of history
- **100s** of festivals
- **100,000** storytellers



Tourism

TOP 10 most peaceful country globally
(Global Peace Index 2017)

Dublin, Cork, Galway
are all in the Top 10
world's friendliest
cities in 2017

48% of
overseas
visitors came
for a holiday.

On average, every Irish
resident welcomes
2.18 overseas
visitors.

10.6 million overseas visitors were welcomed to Ireland in 2017,
generating **€5.6 billion** (2017 saw the highest number of visitors ever to Ireland).



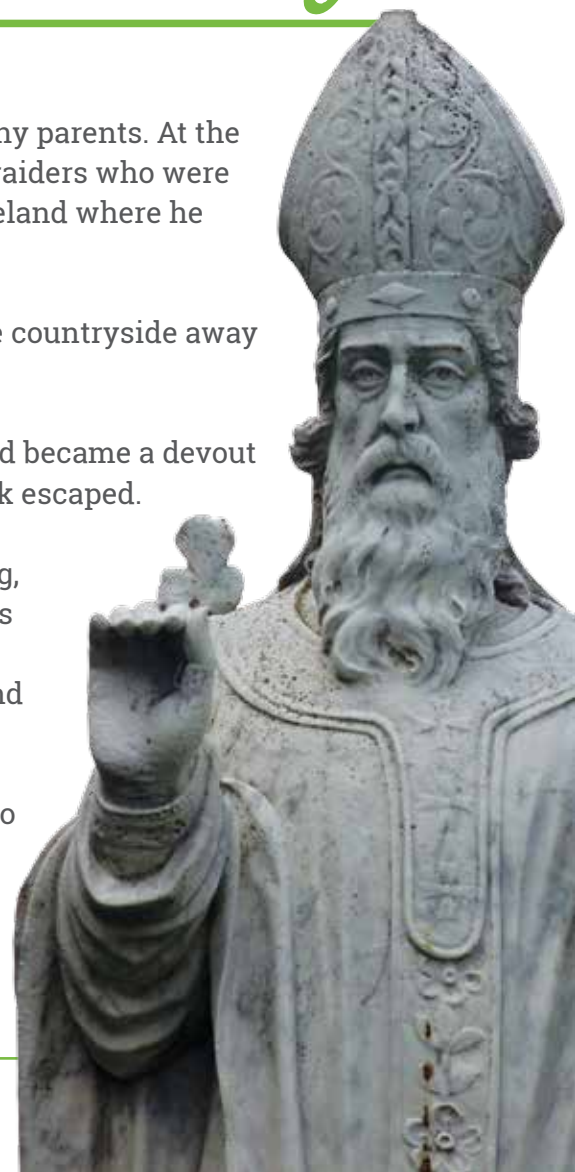
The National Day

St. Patrick's Day

17th March

WHO'S SAINT PATRICK?

- It is thought that St. Patrick was born in Britain to wealthy parents. At the age of 16, Patrick was taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders who were attacking his family's estate. They transported him to Ireland where he spent six years in captivity.
- During this time, he worked as a shepherd, in the remote countryside away from people.
- Lonely and afraid, he turned to his religion for solace, and became a devout Christian. After more than six years as a prisoner, Patrick escaped.
- After escaping to Britain, Patrick began religious training, a course of study that lasted more than 15 years. After his ordination as a priest, he was sent to Ireland with a dual mission: to minister to Christians already living in Ireland and to begin to convert the Irish.
- Familiar with the Irish language and culture, Patrick chose to incorporate traditional ritual into his lessons of Christianity instead of attempting to eradicate native Irish beliefs.
- Legend tells us that Saint Patrick also banished snakes from the island of Ireland.





FIGURES

IRELAND'S GLOBAL GREENING

Since 2010, a very special initiative called "Ireland's Global Greening" has grown to become a significant worldwide campaign in which landmark sites around the world 'turn green' to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. In 2018, over 300 landmarks went green to mark St. Patrick's Day.

In 2017 Hanoi became the first city in South East Asia to join Ireland's Global Greening Campaign and Ly Thai To Park became the 100th landmark in the world to go green for St. Patrick's Day.

"IRELAND DAY"

organised annually in the third weekend of March in Hanoi, has become a unique free public event to share Irish culture with people of all ages in Vietnam.



CULTURE & PEOPLE

“ THERE ARE NO STRANGERS HERE, ONLY FRIENDS YOU HAVEN'T YET MET. ”

William Butler Yeats (Irish poet 1865-1939)

From famous writers James Joyce, Oscar Wilde, to world-famous bands such as U2, Westlife, the Cranberries and the Corrs, and world-renowned dance performances such as Riverdance, Ireland has made an outsized impact on culture around the world.

While our culture lights our own inner spark, we've always been proud to share it with others - to educate, entertain, inspire and learn from the rest of the world.



Literature

- Ireland makes a great contribution to world literature, with **four Nobel Laureates for Literature**.
- Ireland has a host of eminent female writers, including Anne Enright, Edna O'Brien, Anna Burns (who won the 2018 Man Booker prize, the leading literary award in the English-speaking world, for 'Milkman').

James Joyce (1882-1941)

James Joyce's masterwork, "Ulysses", is considered **one of the most influential novels of the 20th Century**.





GALWAY IS THE EUROPEAN
CAPITAL OF CULTURE 2020

The Old Trinity College Library Dublin



- Constructed in the 18th century
- Houses the world-famous Book of Kells - a 9th-century gospel manuscript
- The magnificent Long Room houses 200,000 of the Library's oldest books

Trinity College Dublin was founded in **1592**
- the oldest university in Ireland

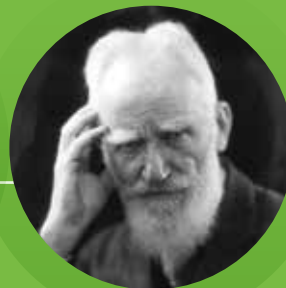
William Butler Yeats
(1865-1939)



Samuel Beckett
(1906-1989)



George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950)



Seamus Heaney
(1939-2013)



Anne Enright



Edna O'Brien



Anna Burns



IRISH SPORTS

Gaelic Football, Hurling & Camogie

Football/Soccer

- The Republic of Ireland Men's National Football Team is governed by the Football Association of Ireland (FAI). Competitive Record: 6th in FIFA World Ranking in August 1983; quarter-finals of the 1990 FIFA World Cup; quarter finals of the 1964 European Nationals Cup.
- Dublin will host three group games and one round 16 game of UEFA EURO 2020 at the Aviva Stadium in June 2020.



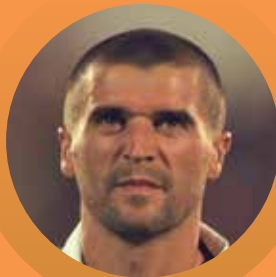
● Famous Irish football players:



Mick McCarthy
(player & manager)



Robbie Keane
(146 caps)



Roy Keane
(number 11 in
The Times' list of
the 50 'hardest'
footballers in
history)



Rugby

**Ireland's
Rugby team
ranks No. 2
in the world
in 2018**



- **GAELIC FOOTBALL**, commonly referred to as “football” or “Gaelic”, is the most popular sport in Ireland. It is a team sport which is played between two teams of 15 players on a rectangular grass pitch. The objective of the sport is to score by kicking or punching the ball into the other team’s goals.

The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) founded in 1884, is Ireland’s largest sporting organisation.

- **HURLING** is the world’s fastest field game and the world’s most skillfull game.
- In 2018, Hurling and Camogie were granted UNESCO’s Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.



- The GAA has over **2,200 clubs** in all 32 counties of Ireland.
- **400 clubs** promote the activities of the GAA around the world.
- Hurling is **3,000 years old**, the oldest sport in the world.



Croke Park stadium in Dublin: Capacity 82,300, the largest stadium in Ireland, and third largest stadium in Europe.

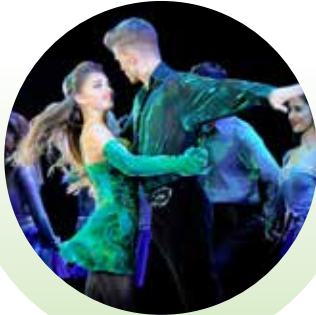


COMPETITIVE RECORD

- Ireland hosted the **Women’s Rugby World Cup in 2017**
- The men’s team will compete in the 2019 Rugby World Cup Championship in Japan.

THE IRISH ARE FAMED FOR THEIR ABILITY TO COLLECT AND SHARE STORIES - AND FOR GOOD REASON.

Irish Dance



- Ireland is known throughout the world for its dancing. Learning Irish dancing is a regular extra curricular activity for many Irish children, and it always features prominently at Irish themed events like St. Patrick's Day.
- In the past few decades Irish dancing has seen a huge revival, partly because of the worldwide success of Riverdance which is a dramatic and original adaption of traditional Irish music and dancing.



Riverdance received official 'Guinness World Record' title for the '**Longest Riverdance line**', with **1,693 dancers** danced in Dublin on the 21st July 2013.

Guinness Storehouse

- Arthur Guinness started his business in 1759 by renting a four-acre brewery at St. James's Gate in Dublin for 9,000 years. An annual rent fee is 45 pounds, including free access to a water supply.
- The Guinness Storehouse is one of the biggest attractions in Ireland.
- Although it's often called "Black Beer", the colour of Guinness is actually ruby red.



FIGURES

- Guinness is brewed in **49 countries** and served in **over 150 countries** around the world.
- Every day, **10 million** glasses of Guinness are consumed around the world.
- The perfect pint of Guinness should take **119.5 seconds to pour**.
- The Guinness Storehouse was opened in **2000**. In 2017, a total of **1,711,000 visitors** came to visit the Guinness Storehouse.

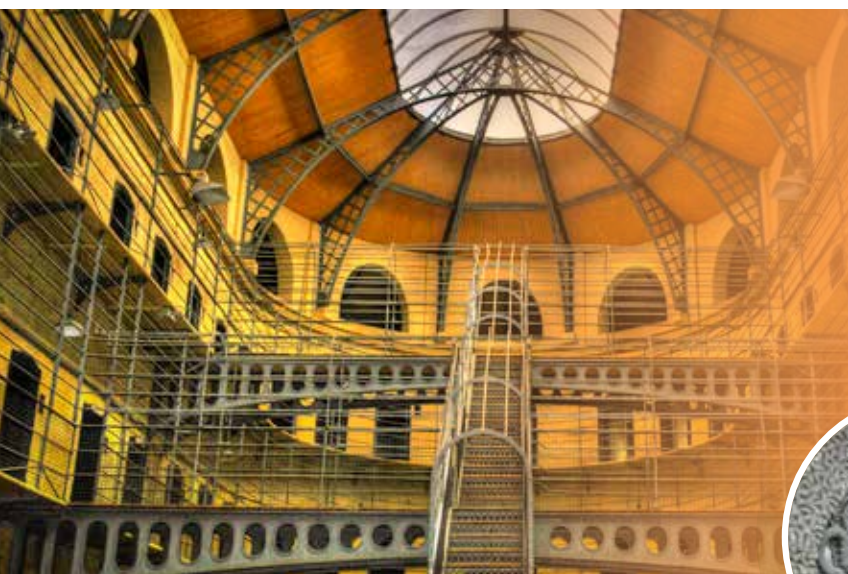


Ireland on screen

Ireland's mix of dramatic scenery, quaint villages and wide-open spaces has made it a dream for film location scouts. You might have seen us on screen:

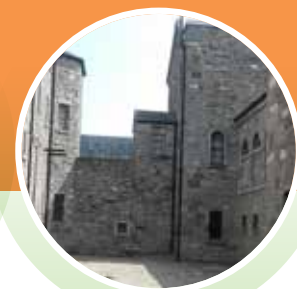
- **THE SKELLIG MICHAEL ISLANDS** (Co. Kerry) are the setting for scenes in *Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens* (2016) and *Star Wars Episode VIII: The Last Jedi* (2017).
- **CLIFFS OF MOHER** (Co. Clare) have been featured in *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince* and Westlife's *My Love* MV.
- **THE DARK HEDGES** (Co. Antrim) featured in *Game of Thrones*.

This iconic avenue of Beech trees was voted one of the most beautiful places in the world.



- **KILMAINHAM GAOL** (Dublin): *The Italian Job* and Ireland's most famous rock band U2's MV.

This prison (gaol) opened in 1796 and closed in 1924.



FIGURES

- The Skellig Michael: **600 steps** to climb to the top; only **20,000 visitors** can visit Skellig Michael a year; named the leading #1 tourist attraction in Europe (World Travel Awards 2017).
- The rocks that make up the Cliffs of Moher were formed over **300 million years ago**; They reach their maximum height of **214 metres**; Cliffs of Moher Coastal Walk runs for **18 km**; Number one popular tourist destination in Ireland; **1.5 million visitors** annually.
- The Dark Hedges: number seven in **the top 10 of the most beautiful streets on the planet** (Architectural Digest Magazine).



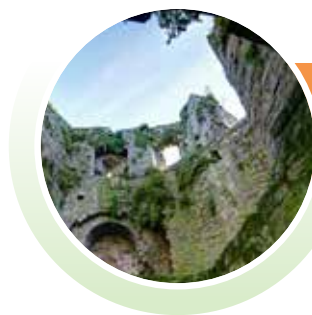
● **GRAFTON STREET,**
Dublin City Centre: ONCE

Ireland's most famous street and a shopping haven for both locals and visitors alike. Many famous musicians, including The Script and U2, return to Dublin each December to busk on Grafton street on Christmas Eve, in what is now a much-loved Christmas tradition.



● **TRIM CASTLE (Co. Meath):**
Braveheart

Built in 1173, Trim Castle is the largest Anglo-Norman castle in Ireland.



EDUCATION & RESEARCH

“ *THE MOST IMPORTANT REASON WE ARE GOING TO IRELAND IS THE DEPTH AND TALENT OF THE WORKFORCE.* ”

Sheryl Sandberg, COO of Facebook

Education in Ireland

Ireland has one of the best education systems in the world, renowned internationally for academic quality. This long standing reputation for high quality education is built on a strong commitment to excellence.

Ireland's thirty-four higher education institutions offer a remarkable 5000+ programmes! Covering a huge and diverse range, these courses lead to internationally recognized, quality assured qualifications. So whether you want a strong, focused business school, a centre of scientific and technology excellence, or a world-renowned English language, humanities and arts faculty... you'll find it in Ireland.

Ireland's education is amongst the best in the world. It ranks in the top 10 globally for:

- Quality of the education system.
- University education that meets the needs of a competitive economy.
- Knowledge transfer between universities and companies.





FIGURES

- **35,000** international students from **161** countries are pursuing their higher degrees in Ireland.
- **#1 of 19** European countries for international students satisfaction.
- **85%** of graduates are employed upon graduation.
- Among the **top 10** countries for research quality.
- Irish universities are in the **top 1%** of research institutions in the world in terms of research impact in **19 fields**, spanning natural sciences, social sciences and the humanities.
- Ireland's education system ranks in the **top 10** globally for meeting the needs of a competitive economy.
- Irish workforce **1st** in the world for Flexibility and Adaptability (IMD 2017 Global Competitiveness Yearbook).

“ I AM TOMORROW, OR SOME FUTURE DAY, WHAT I ESTABLISH TODAY ”

James Joyce
(1882-1941)

BUSINESS & INNOVATION

Economy

The economy of Ireland is a knowledge and export based economy, focused on services, high-tech, life sciences and financial services industries. Main products include: Pharmaceuticals, organic chemicals, medical apparatus, electrical machinery & equipment for computing, aviation, spacecraft, and agri-food industries.

IRELAND IS AN OPEN ECONOMY, RANKS

#1st

for high-value foreign direct investment (FDI) flows

#5th

of 187 in the IMF ranking

#6th

on the Index of Economic Freedom

#6th

of 175 in the World Bank ranking (global GDP per capita)

Irish economy is strong and growing rapidly - the fastest growing in Europe. Here are six reasons why

Ireland Means Business



- **Our Educated Workforce**
- **A Competitive Economy**
- **Innovative Thinkers**
- **Multinational and English Speaking**
- **Making an Impact on a Global Stage**
- **Environmentally - Friendly and**
- **Sustainable Businesses**



The Irish economy is Europe's fastest growing economy (7.2% year on year GDP growth 2017).



Ireland has a highly skilled, educated, young and multicultural population.



FIGURES

INNOVATIVE ECOSYSTEMS

- **6th** most competitive open economy in the world.
- **7th** for innovation globally.
- **Top 10** countries in the world to start a business.
- **Over 1,000 multinational** companies chose Ireland as their strategic European headquarters.
- **Five of the top 10 companies** on Forbes' list of The World's Most Innovative Companies have Irish operations (IDA).

ICT

- Home to all of the Top 10 “born-on-the-internet” companies.

Google™  PayPal facebook®

YAHOO! twitter LinkedIn™ ebay™

amazon.com  Dropbox Salesforce™

- Home to 9 of the top 10 global software companies and 15 of the top 25 financial services companies.

Pharma/ Medtech

- **7th** largest exporter of medicines in the world.
- Home to world’s **top 10** pharmaceutical companies (10 of the top 10 global pharma companies are based in Ireland).
- Ireland is the largest employer of medtech professionals in Europe per capita: **350 companies employing 38,000 people**; annual exports of **€12.6 billion** to over 100 countries globally.



Aviation

- There are over **250 companies** active in the aviation and aerospace sector in Ireland, contributing over **€4.1 billion** to GDP and supporting **42,000 jobs** in Ireland.
- **21%** of global aircraft leasing takes place in Ireland.
- Aircraft leased from Ireland to three main clients (2007-2016): **China 13.7%; UK/USA 11.2%; Russia 6.3%.**



Irish Agri-business

Ireland's agri-food industry is export-oriented. We are a world leader in food safety and sustainability.



FIGURES

- Ireland's agri-food industry remains a key component of its modern economy:

*Accounts for **8% of GDP** and a similar proportion of total employment (**160,000 jobs**).*

*Accounts for a major proportion of exports of Irish-owned enterprises and its products are sold in over **170 markets** around the world.*

- Agri-food exports totalled **€12.2 billion**, accounted for **10.3%** of total exports in 2016.
- Agri-food imports were **€8.1 billion**, accounted for **11.3%** of total imports in 2016.



DID YOU KNOW?

- Irish Beef and milk production currently account for over **70%** of agricultural output

- Ireland produces **10%** of the world's infant formula

- Ireland is the largest net exporter of beef in the Northern Hemisphere

- Irish Chocolate-based products account for **10.4%** of prepared consumer foods exports in 2016





IRELAND & VIETNAM

Embassy of Ireland in Vietnam



- Opened in Hanoi in 2005, the Embassy of Ireland in Hanoi works to promote a positive relationship between Ireland and Vietnam.
- 2016 marked the 20th anniversary of Ireland - Vietnam diplomatic relations. This relationship has been underpinned and strengthened over the past ten years by a bilateral Irish Aid development cooperation programme.



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The Government's Global Network includes over **80 diplomatic & consular offices**; **41 state agency office locations** to promote trade and business.



- President Michael D. Higgins made the first State visit by an Irish President to Vietnam in November 2016 to mark twenty years of diplomatic relations between Ireland and Vietnam.

“ WE ARE TWO PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN SHAPED BY HISTORICAL CHALLENGES OF SUCH SIMILARITY AS GIVES AS AN INSTINCTIVE UNDERSTANDING OF ONE ANOTHER ”

President
Michael D. Higgins



- **Ireland & Vietnam:**

- Both Hanoi city and Dublin city are 1,000 year old cities

- Dublin is a UNESCO City of Literature - Hanoi is a UNESCO City of Peace

Trade between Ireland & Vietnam

Trade between Ireland and Vietnam has grown significantly in recent years, to about

€436 million in 2017.

PRIORITY SECTORS:

- Higher education
- Aviation
- Agri-food business
- Clean energy
- ICT
- Medical devices



Ireland's Development Cooperation



Irish Aid is the Government of Ireland's official aid programme administered by the Development Cooperation Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The estimated total of Ireland's ODA globally for 2019 is **€816.9 million**, an increase of **€109.8 million** - the biggest year-on-year increase since 2006, a big step towards meeting the Government commitment to dedicate **0.7%** of GNI to ODA by 2030.



IN VIETNAM, IRELAND WORKS TO:

- Reduce poverty and inequality
- Support equality and diversity
- Promote respect for human rights

THROUGH IRISH AID'S PROGRAMME, WE:

- Support ethnic minorities development
- Support civil society
- Support institutional links between Ireland and Vietnam



- **Budget for development cooperation for Ireland in Vietnam is based on annual funding of over €7 million for four years (2017-2020).**



Since 2007, over 250 Vietnamese students (62% female and 38% male) have received full scholarships from the Government of Ireland Scholarship Programme for Vietnam to study at post-graduate level in Irish Higher Education Institutions.



Irish Community in Vietnam



- Irish Gaelic football is becoming increasingly popular in Vietnam and to the Vietnamese people. There are active Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) clubs in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, with membership are Irish, international and Vietnamese friends. They are amongst the 400 GAA clubs around the globe.
- The VietCelts GAA Club in Hanoi marked the tenth anniversary of its founding on the 4th April 2017.
- Saigon Gaels GAA Club was established in 2011.



Over **26,000** Irish visitors
travel to Vietnam each year.

A resident Irish community
of about **1,000** who are
particularly active in education
and in business

Friends of Ireland in Vietnam



The Friends of Ireland in Vietnam Club (FOI) is a group of Vietnamese people, especially young people who are interested in Irish culture and education, and in fostering the friendship between Ireland and Vietnam.

Ireland at a Click

THIS IS IRELAND: ireland.ie

STUDY IN IRELAND: educationinireland.com

VISIT IRELAND: ireland.com

RESEARCH IN IRELAND: research.ie

INVEST IN IRELAND: idaireland.com

DESIGN FROM IRELAND: dcooi.ie

TRADE WITH IRELAND: dfat.ie

ARTS IN IRELAND: arts council.ie

STARTUP IN IRELAND: globalambition.ie

CREATIVE IRELAND: creativeireland.ie

IRELAND COUNTRY PROFILE
2019 Edition 1.0

IRELAND

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REASONS TO STUDY IN IRELAND

- Ireland is the only English speaking country in the Eurozone.
- Ireland offers the highest quality education, an investment for life.
- Ireland produces unique graduates; creative, innovative and ready to work.
- Ireland is globally connected, and is home to many of the world's top high-performance companies.
- Ireland offers a fun and active student life in a friendly, safe and welcoming environment.
- Ireland offers international students the ability to work part-time while studying, and has a 24 month stay back option at postgraduate level.

THE ECONOMY OF IRELAND



Ireland - The fastest growing economy in the Eurozone



Ireland - One of the world's most innovative ecosystems



Ireland - A global technology centre



Ireland - A culture of entrepreneurship