





AIT is an award-winning higher education institution located in the heart of Ireland. More than 6,000 students are undertaking undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in Business, Humanities, Engineering and Science. €125 million has been invested in our campus since 2000, ensuring that students experience a world-class education with cutting-edge facilities.



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Ireland- some basic facts

Situation

Ireland is situated in the extreme north-west of the European continent. It is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean to the West Coast and the Irish Sea to the East. The nearest country to its west is the United States of America, to its east the United Kingdom. The total area of Ireland is 70,284 km². This comprises a large central lowland of limestone with a relief of hills and a number of coastal mountains, the highest of which is Carrantouhill in County Kerry at 1,040 m. The Shannon is the longest river and there are many lakes.

The country is divided geographically into four provinces; Ulster, Munster, Leinster and Connaught. Each province is made up of a number of counties (regional divisions). There are 32 counties in total (26 in the Republic and 6 in Northern Ireland).

Ulster: Derry, Donegal, Antrim, Down, Cavan, Tyrone, Armagh, Fermanagh, Monaghan.

Munster: Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary, Waterford, Clare.

Leinster: Dublin, Louth, Kildare, Meath, Westmeath, Wexford, Longford, Offaly, Laois, Wicklow, Carlow, Kilkenny.

Connaught: Mayo, Sligo, Galway, Leitrim, Roscommon.

Dublin, the capital, is in Leinster and is situated on the east coast at the mouth of the river Liffey. Athlone is approximately one hour twenty minutes by road from Dublin.

In political terms Ireland is also divided between Northern Ireland, which is governed by the United Kingdom, and the Republic of Ireland, which is governed by the Irish government.

Athlone is ideally located in Ireland's Midlands, about 1.5 hours from Dublin and with motorway links to all other major towns and cities.

We are here!



Climate

Since the island is relatively small and no part of it is more than 110 km from the sea, the climate is almost uniform throughout the country. Ireland's uniform climate is due to its situation in the North temperature zone in the direct path of the warm waters of the Gulf Stream, a factor which raises its average temperature. Winters are generally mild and summers relatively cool. Rainfall, carried by the prevailing west winds from the Atlantic, is well distributed and frequent.

The west - nearer the Atlantic and more mountainous - generally has a higher annual rainfall than the east coast. In January and February, which are normally the coldest months of the year, temperatures average between 4°C (39°F) and 7°C (45°F). Snow occurs from time to time in the winter months, but it is seldom prolonged or severe and generally lasts for only a few days, even on higher ground. July and August - the warmest months of the year, while January and February are the coolest.

Average Monthly temperatures

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
High °C	7	7	10	11	15	17	19	19	17	13	10	8
High °F	45	45	50	52	59	63	66	66	63	55	50	46
Low °C	3	3	4	5	7	10	12	12	10	8	5	5
Low °F	37	37	39	41	45	50	54	54	50	46	41	41

People & Economy

The population of the Republic of Ireland has been on the increase since 1961 and is now approximately 4.6 million, 1.5 million of whom live in the greater Dublin area. The Irish Constitution recognizes Irish (Gaelic) as the first official language (English as the second) and official documents are published in both English and Irish. The use of Irish as a vernacular, however, is limited to certain areas known as the Gaeltacht. **English is the mother tongue of almost all the population.**

The Irish economy is very open. With a domestic market of only 4.6 million people it is heavily dependent on trade. The rapid pace of development and industrialization in recent decades has been due in large measure to policies designed to make Ireland an attractive location for overseas investment. Agriculture and tourism also play a very important part in the Irish economy.



Irish Language guide

Ireland is largely an English speaking country with only 3% of the population speaking the native language (As Gaeilge). Here are some words As Gaeilge...

Word	Translation	Pronunciation
Police	Garda	Guard-a
Post	An Post	An Post
Office	Oifig	efegg
Irish prime minister	Taoiseach	tee-sha-ch (ch as in Loch Ness)
Hello	dia dhuit	dee-a gu-ith
Goodbye	slán	slahn
Welcome	fáilte	fall-che
How are you	Conas atá tú	con as tah too
My name is	is mise	is misha
Cheers	Sláinte!	slahn-che
Thank you.	Go raibh maith agat.	Go rayv mayth agat
You're welcome.	Tá fáilte romhat	taw fall-che roh-ut
Sorry.	Gabh mo leiscéal	Gaw ma lesh-sil
Please	le do thoil	la-dee thoil
Irish	Gaeilge	Gwayl-ga
Ireland	Éire	Era
Dublin	Baile Átha Cliath	Ball-yeh aw-ha cleeah
Galway	Gaillimh	Ga-lif
Limerick	Luimneach	Lim-nach (ch as in Loch Ness)
Cork	Corcaigh	Corky
Athlone	Bhaile Átha Luain	Ball-yeh ah loo-in

Arriving in Ireland

Athlone is situated in the centre of Ireland between Dublin city on the East coast and Galway city on the West coast. Dublin airport is the most direct air route to Ireland.

On arrival in Dublin airport, feeder buses/coaches (running every 25 minutes) travel from the airport to Heuston Station (central train station, Dublin City Centre) and Busáras (central bus station, Dublin City Centre - for Bus Eireann buses), which are both approximately a 45-minute journey from airport.

There are a number of buses and trains travelling from Dublin to Athlone each day. All buses and trains can be booked online, reduced web fares apply.

Bus services to Athlone from Dublin Airport

There are also direct bus connections from Dublin airport to Athlone bus station (Bus Eireann and Citylink options):

- Bus Eireann 21-final destination Westport town.
- Bus Eireann X20/20-final destination Galway city.

The drop off points for Bus Eireann buses are AIT campus and Athlone town bus station.

(For more information visit: www.buseireann.ie).

- Citylink

The drop off points for Citylink buses are AIT campus and B&Q store Coosan, Athlone.

(For more information visit: www.citylink.ie).



Arrive in Style

Train to Athlone from Dublin City Centre

Students may take the train to Athlone from Heuston Station, Dublin city centre to Athlone Train Station, located near the town centre. The journey time is 1 hour 30 minutes.

(For more information visit: www.irishrail.ie).

Local Transport

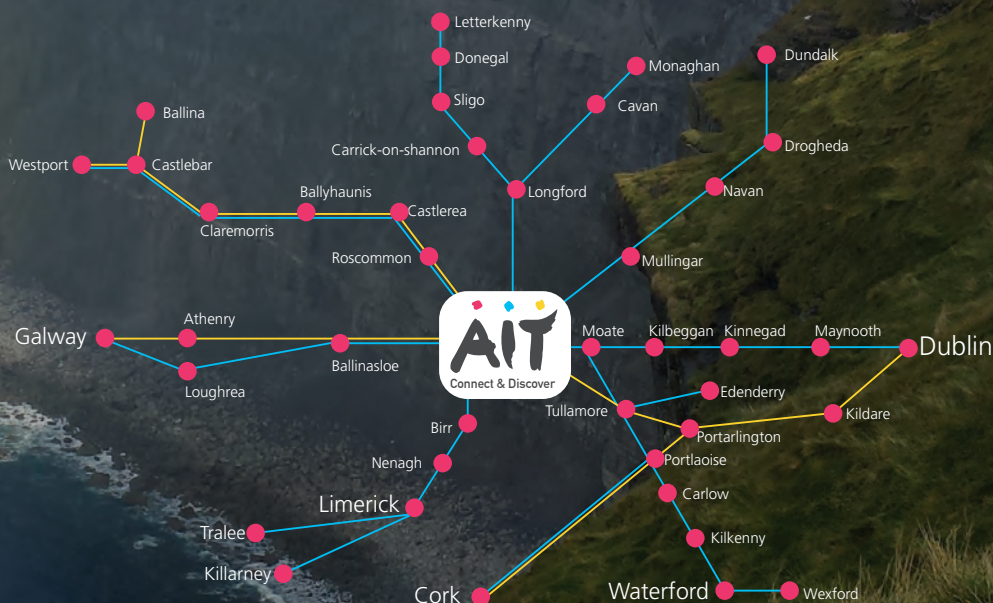
On arrival in Athlone train/bus station, taxis are available to take students to their place of residence.

The maximum taxi fare would be €7.00.

A bus serves AIT (Opposite main gate) to Athlone town centre (fare approximately €1.00 one way).

Students who have reserved accommodation in advance of arrival may go directly to the appropriate address. It is important to inform the Manager of the student apartment of the date and time of your arrival in advance.

AIT, at the heart of the Midlands



Transport

Biking it...

A bicycle is very useful and a common means of transport for students in Ireland. Students may bring a bicycle with them, or try to find a cheap second-hand one here in Ireland via websites such as DoneDeal and Adverts, or bicycle shops. Prices vary from €80 to €150. There are limited cycling lanes in Ireland, a factor which may render cycling hazardous by the standards of some other European countries.

By Rail or Bus...

Ireland's major cities are connected by rail and bus services. Athlone has a mainline rail station together with regular bus services to Dublin and provincial towns. A daily service operates from many towns in the surrounding area. Bus and train timetables are posted on the Students' Union notice board.

Timetables

Bus and train timetables are posted on the Students' Union notice board, including the timetables for private bus companies.

More information (including timetables) can be found at www.irishrail.ie, www.buseireann.ie and www.athlone.ie.

Travel Discounts

All students in Ireland are entitled to apply for a 'travel save stamp'. This stamp, which is attached to the ISIC card (International Student Identity Card), allows students to travel on all buses and trains at a special student discount rate. You can find out more on this by contacting USIT Ireland or visiting www.usit.ie.

Do not forget to check possibilities and requirements for student discounts in relation to all travel costs.

By Rail.....



By Bus.....



By Bike.....



Athlone & the Midlands

History

Athlone (Irish: Ath Luain, the ford of Luan) owes its importance to a location on the principal crossing point of the River Shannon between Leinster and Connacht. Its first bridge dates from pre-Norman times and the construction of a stone castle on the west bank of the river commenced in 1210. Commercial life developed, and in the thirteenth century Athlone was firmly established as the most important urban centre in the Midlands. A new stone bridge was constructed in 1566 and for the next one hundred years Athlone was the headquarters of the provincial government of Connacht. The dramatic sieges of 1690 and 1691 achieved international publicity for Athlone, but left the town in a ruined condition from which it only slowly recovered.

The tercentenary of these famous sieges was celebrated in 1991. In 1995 it twinned with Chateaubriant in France. New army barracks and extensive military defences were constructed in the early nineteenth century. A new town bridge was built in the 1840s as part of a major scheme to improve the Shannon navigation.

Industrial and commercial activity was greatly stimulated by the coming of the railway in 1851. The old corporation was abolished in 1840 and an urban district council was established in 1899. A new relief road, completed in 1991, incorporates a second bridge over the Shannon.

Land of scholars

The tradition of learning and scholarship in the Midlands goes back at least to Early Christian times when the region was the location of a number of important monasteries, of which the most celebrated was Clonmacnoise. In the seventeenth century the Midlands experienced the first impact of the new scientific learning when Richard Heaton, the father of Irish botany, carried out his fieldwork in Offaly and north Tipperary, and Miles Symner, the mathematician and engineer, modernised the fortifications of Athlone.



Discover the hidden side



Pioneers & Inventors

The leading astronomer of the nineteenth century was the third earl of Rosse who constructed the largest telescope in the world at Birr. His son, Charles Parsons, was the inventor of the steam turbine, and a cousin, Mary Ward from Ferbane, was one of the first Irish women scientists of distinction. Another native of Offaly, John Joly, won renown as a physicist, engineer and geologist.

In the twentieth century John Desmond Bernal, the Nenagh born physicist, was both a fellow of the Royal Society and a Lenin prize-winner. To this not inconsiderable tradition of learning and technology, the Institute of Technology, as the first full-scale, third-level educational institution in the Midlands, is, in a sense, the heir.

Athlone today

Today, Athlone is a thriving town enjoying its central location in the heart of Ireland. At the confluence of the major east-west and north-south routes, it is the hub of an extensive road and rail network which maintains its importance as a major communications centre. With a population fast approaching 30,000, Athlone is a bustling town which can boast a wide range of shops, services and facilities catering for all needs.

The town provides two centrally-located shopping centres. The new shopping centre, Athlone Town Centre contains 70 shops and a variety of cafes and restaurants. Golden Island contains 40 shops including a large supermarket, Tesco, various small clothes shops, fast-food restaurants, a pharmacy and a book store. Both shopping centres are located just a mile from the Institute.

Bay Sports

Bay Sports, located at Hodson Bay, is home to the largest floating water park in Ireland and one of the largest floating waterslides in the world. You can also enjoy Kayaking and sailing by the majestic shores of Lough Ree.

Treks & Trails

Whether you want to hear peaceful whispers of the wind and water lapping on the shores of the Shannon or feeling more energetic and fancy a cycle on the Greenway, enjoy the fresh air and explore Athlone's treks and trails.

Explore the
fun side



Useful amenities

IMC Cinema

Golden Island Shopping Centre, Athlone.

Tel: 090 647 6655

Web: www.imccinemas.ie

The Planet Leisure World

Grace Rd, Athlone.

Tel: 090 649 4766

Web: www.leisureworld.ie

Athlone Regional Sports Centre

Ballymahon Rd, Athlone.

Tel: 090 64 70975

Web: www.athlonesportscentre.ie

Golden Island Shopping Centre

Golden Island, Athlone.

Tel: 090 6476760

Web: www.goldenislandshoppingcentre.ie

Bay Sports

Baysports Boat Training and Water Sports Centre, Athlone.

Tel: 090 6494801

Web: www.baysports.ie

Athlone Equestrian Centre

Moydrum, Athlone.

Tel: 086 2433609

Web: www.athloneequestrian.ie

Old Rail Trail-Athlone to Mullingar Cycleway

Garrycastle, Athlone

Tel: 090 6481183

Web: www.athlone.ie

Lough Boora Parklands

Boora, Co. Offaly.

Tel: 057 9340010

Web: www.loughboora.com



Embrace your
social side

The Institute

Dive right in to our warm, welcoming community at AIT. We know you don't want to be just another face in the crowd, and at AIT we go out of our way to welcome and support our new students.

At AIT we keep our class sizes small, and ensure our students get the personal, focused attention of our top-class academic staff. Our staff have an open-door policy, and they get involved in the day-to-day life on campus; you'll be a name, not a number in AIT. At AIT we have the highest proportion of Doctoral and Post-Doctoral teaching and research staff of any IoT in Ireland, and that's just one reason why we're on the advanced track towards becoming one of Ireland's first Technological Universities.

Fantastic Facilities

You know what you want to achieve, and we'll help you get there, with our excellent library, online study resources, superb science facilities and state-of-the-art Sports Science equipment or our dedicated, purpose-built Nursing Facilities. Our teaching and research facilities rival, or exceed, any other IoT in the country.

Great Services

What if you still feel unsure? Every major life-change raises its own issues, and it's to be expected that a small number of new students will experience some difficulties during the transition to a new culture, self-directed learning and college living in Ireland. We offer all our students a wide range of holistic supports through our dedicated teams of Student Ambassadors, counsellors, chaplains, PASS Leaders, and the very active Student Union.

Academic Writing Centre

The Academic Writing Centre is ready to support you when you have to complete your first assignment in English. You can book a session to assist you in helping to improve your writing skills.

Email; www.academicwritingcentre.ie.

A group of four young adults, three men and one woman, are walking together on a paved path outdoors. They are dressed in casual, contemporary clothing like denim jackets, t-shirts, and jeans. The woman is wearing sunglasses and carrying a backpack. The background features a clear blue sky with scattered white clouds, a green metal fence, and a utility pole with a white megaphone. The overall atmosphere is bright and positive.

Discover our
Campus





The Campus

The Institute has developed rapidly since its foundation. To meet this growth, the original campus has been extended on several occasions. The main building, the oldest part of the Institute, currently houses the Humanities and Science Schools. The facilities of Science & Health and Business & Hotel Management. The Administration offices and the International Office are also contained in this building. A multipurpose hall, extra lecture rooms, a library, an information technology centre, a hotel and catering building and an administration block have been added in recent years. Engineering and technology building opened in 2010.

The Nursing Building and Innovation Centre is located on the East Campus, a five minutes' walk from the Main Campus. The AIT Sports Arena opened in 2013.

Programmes Offered

The Institute offers programmes to Higher Certificate, Bachelor Degree (Ordinary & Honours level), Masters (Taught and Research), PHD Degree and Professional Accountancy level. Our Faculties include...

Faculty of Business & Hospitality

Business is the foundation of every modern society, the bedrock of the knowledge economy. We have links with employers all over the Midlands, nationally and internationally, who have real, high-quality jobs waiting for business graduates.

Department of Hospitality, Tourism & Leisure Studies
Department of Accounting & Business Computing
Department of Business & Management

Engineering & Informatics

Our courses are designed to meet the requirements of specific employers, including our highly regarded accelerated technician, and skills-shortage courses and part-time courses for those already working in industry. We have a huge range and variety of real-world-specific options and a seamless transition to a well-paid, rewarding career.

Department of Mechanical / Polymer Engineering
Department of Electronics & Informatics
Department of Civil Engineering

Faculty of Science & Health

Ireland, and the world, needs more and better-qualified scientists and health professionals. Get your career off to the best start at the AIT Faculty of Science and Health. The Faculty of Science and Health at AIT comprises four academic departments and offers a wide range of academic programmes across a wide spectrum of disciplines.

Department of Nursing & Healthcare
Department of Sport & Health Sciences
Department of Life & Physical Sciences
Department of Social Science & Design

IT Facilities

AIT Campus Card

The AIT Campus Card is the official identification card for students at AIT. The card is multi-functional; it can be used in the following ways on campus:

- Printing and Photocopying
- Point of Sale (to purchase food or items in the campus shop)
- Access Control (where applicable) Library identification and facilities
- Library identification & Facilities

Adding funds on your AIT Campus Card

Adding money to your AIT Campus Card is quick and easy. You can deposit funds at all of the point of sales and on the AIT Campus Card web site (www.ait.ie/aitcampuscard). Your parents/mentor can also top up your AIT campus card from home using the AIT Campus Card Website.

How can I keep track of my balance?

The balance of your card will appear when you put your card into any of the AIT Campus Card readers (at the Photocopiers or Point of Sales) You can also check your balance online (www.ait.ie/aitcampuscard).

Lost Cards

If you have lost or had your card stolen, log on to the AIT Campus Card site immediately and hotlist (disable) your card. You can also get your card disabled at the AIT Card Office.

To get a replacement card go to the AIT Card Office. A replacement fee of €10 is applicable.

If you find your card before you have had a new one printed you can get your card re-enabled in the AIT Card Office for €5.



Library

The library is one of the most important resources of the Institute and plays a central role in academic life. It is open to all registered students and staff.

The library has a fully automated circulation system and the computerized catalogue can be searched by means of four public access terminals. Staff is always available to help students to use the search facility and to locate books on the shelves. Any material not held in the library can be obtained from other libraries using the inter-library loans facility. Students are encouraged to conduct their own research by using some of the compact disc databases held in the computer room. These databases provide information on commercial, technical and scientific subjects.

Opening Hours are...

	Goldsmith (Main) Library	Nursing Library
Monday - Wednesday	9.15am - 9.45pm	9.30am - 6.30pm
Thursday	9.15am - 9.45pm	9.30am - 6.00pm
Friday	9.15am - 5.00pm	9.30am - 1.30pm
Saturday	9.15am - 4.00pm	Closed

Vacation Opening Hours for the Goldsmith (Main) Library:

Monday - Friday	9.15am - 5.00pm
Saturday	Closed

Details of borrowing procedures are available in the library.

Celine Peignen is the co-ordinator for International Students at AIT Library - Email cpeignen@ait.ie.

General Information

Immigration Regulations

EU Nationals do not require entry visas for Ireland. If you are a non-EU national from a visa required country, you must hold a valid Irish Visa on arrival in Ireland, for the duration of the programme of study. Overseas students arriving in Ireland must have the following documents:

- Valid passport (and visa if required);
- Letter of admission to Athlone Institute of Technology (letter of offer);
- Letter from parent or guardian guaranteeing the amount of funds available annually to support the student in Ireland;
- Further information on visa regulations is available from the Irish Nationalisation and Immigration Services, www.inis.gov.ie.
- Non-EU nationals must register with immigration as soon as possible after arrival in Athlone. The International Office will assist non-EU students to register at the immigration office, located at Athlone Garda Station, Barrack Street, Athlone.

Admissions and Registration

Because of the competition for places, an Irish school-leaver who possesses the academic qualifications for entry to Institute courses is not automatically entitled to a place. The minimum requirement for entry for Irish applicants is a pass at ordinary level in five subjects in the Irish Leaving Certificate (the final examination in the Irish second-level system); these five subjects must include Mathematics and a language. Applicants are awarded places according to their merit on a points system, the points relating directly to their Leaving Certificate results. In the case of non-Irish applicants, assessment and selection is carried out on the basis of satisfactory performance at equivalent examinations.

Application

For students from EU member states, application for admission to first-year courses at the Institute must be made by 1 February of the year in which the course commences to the Central Applications Office in Galway, Ireland. Please check the CAO website for details of late closing date (www.cao.ie). Non-EU nationals who apply through a representative of

Athlone I.T. may apply directly to the International Office of the Institute. English is required for all courses of study at the Institute and competence in English, oral and written, is a necessary requirement for admission to courses.

Students register with the Institute on their arrival. Students complete the relevant registration form which is submitted to the Registration Department by the International Officer. Two passport photographs are required for this purpose. On arrival at the Institute in September, students receive their student identity card (library card).

Students may wish to open a bank account for the duration of their stay in Ireland to facilitate all financial matters. Opening an account is simply a matter of taking a student account application form, which can be obtained at the on-campus bank, a valid passport and a letter confirming registration to the bank and asking to open an account. AIT International Office can provide this letter for you upon request. Students will also be provided with an e-mail account.

NOTE: Non-Eu nationals must apply for a re-entry visa after they receive their Garda National Immigration Bureau Card (GNIB). The fee for this card is €300 payable at local immigration office.

Accommodation

An abundance of close, convenient, well cared-for accommodation within Athlone, makes house-hunting easy for new and current students. The Institute does not have on-site student accommodation facilities. Students generally live within close proximity to the Institute as there are a large number of student houses, student apartments and self-catering accommodation facilities available within 5 - 15 minutes' walk of the campus.

The International Office in association with the Students' Union Accommodations Officer will assist international students in their search for accommodation. The Students' Union office provides lists of houses, apartments, self-catering and host family accommodation. Check the Students' Union list of available accommodation through their website, <http://www.aitsu.ie/accommodation.html>. It is advisable to book student apartments by emailing the manager of the student apartment prior to arrival in Athlone.

Irish students book their accommodation generally from June onwards. If you require further information or have any queries regarding accommodation you should contact the Accommodation Officer in the Students' Union at suvice@aitsu.ie or the International Office at international@ait.ie.

Cost of Living

Naturally, the cost of living varies from student to student, but as a general guideline a student would need between €600 and €800 per month. This includes rent, insurance, food, bills, leisure etc. Here is an infographic of typical costs.

Student apartment



Rent
€75 - €95
per week



**Mid-Day
Snacks**
€20



Food
€50



**Books/
Photocopying**
€12

House Sharing



Rent
€65 - €85
per week



Heat &
Electric
€10



Mid-Day
Snacks
€20



Food
€50



Books/
Photo
copying
€12

Students' Union

What we're here for...

The Students' Union provides support, advice and information on a wide variety of issues and represents students throughout the Institute. It also provides students with the opportunity to have an excellent social life. It is an organisation run by students to cater for students' needs. The day to day running of the Union is carried out by the executive committee who are all elected by student ballot. The overall policy and direction of the Union is decided by students at union general meetings. Its principle aims are:

- To represent and protect the rights of students;
- To afford a recognized means of communication between the students and Institute authorities;
- To provide social and recreational facilities for students;
- To provide a commercial service to students.

Where to find us...

Our state-of-the-art Office is located on the bottom floor of the John Count McCormack Hall (MPH).

We represent you...

Representation is the central function of the Students' Union. Athlone Students' Union has a long tradition of good, effective student representation which is valued both by students and the Institute authorities. The Union represents students on many Institute bodies such as the Governing Body, Academic Council, Capitation Committee and Safety Committee.

Athlone Students' Union (Athlone SU) is affiliated to the Union of Students of Ireland (USI). Through USI, Athlone SU gains national representation - a voice for students at national level in negotiations with a wide variety of other organisations.

Accommodation - Somewhere to live

The Students' Union in Athlone provides an accommodation service. It provides up to date lists of the available accommodation from host family accommodation (i.e. digs) to self-catering to houses and flats. It also provides information on accommodation rights.



our supportive
side

Welfare and Advice

The Welfare Officer is available in the Students' Union to give information, advice and referral on various matters: finances, benefits, international students, personal counselling, legal advice, consumer advice. This is a confidential service. The Union handbook for first years also provides information on many welfare matters.

Education

The Union also deals with academic matters such as course changes, problems with examinations and training of course representatives.

The Union also offers services including cheap photocopying, passport photographs, photograph development, fuel orders, messages etc. The Students' Union is also involved in providing entertainment for students from lunch time gigs to regular discos and numerous top band concerts. Rag Week, the social event of the year, involves raising money for local and national charities and having a good time as well.

Services

The union provides many other services (some commercial) to students including:

- Binding
- Bus/train timetables
- Colour printing
- Fax service
- Lamination
- Post and message collection
- Photocopying
- Lockers
- Hoodies/Sports clothes
- Passport photos

Entertainment

The Union also provides a great mix of entertainment throughout the year. The entertainment service is an essential element of college/student life. The schedule ranges from mid-week gigs to numerous other events. Rag Week is normally held towards the end of February to raise money for local charities (while having a great time!).



#MindYourMates



#Welcome to Ait

Sports & Recreation

Leading the way

Athlone Institute of Technology is one of the leading Higher Education Institutes in the provision of sport and recreation programmes and services to its students. The Institute's recreation and physical education programmes contain a wide range of competitive and non-competitive activities. Different interests and all levels of ability are catered for to ensure maximum participation. The Institute recreational programmes facilitate all students who may wish to participate in activities at either a competitive or a non-competitive level.

Facilities

International Arena

Our state-of-the-art Arena includes;

- 6 x lane 200 metre indoor track
- 8 x lane 60 metre sprint track
- 4 x lane warm up track
- 2x long jump pits
- 1x pole vault area and equipment
- 1x shot putt area & shot putts
- 1 x high jump area
- Track hurdles

Outdoor track

- 8 x 400 metre lane outdoor track
- Shot putt area
- Long Jump pits x 2
- High Jump area x 2
- Infield warm up area

GYM

The gym and studios are located on the first floor of the AIT International Arena. Our large gym boasts over 70 diverse workout stations. Our top specification techno-gym equipment will ensure your workout is safe and effective. We have a wide range of both plate-loaded and traditional strength equipment, along with an extensive weight area. For cycling enthusiasts, we have a selection of the best bikes on the market including the Watt Bike, Keiser M3, Body Bike Connect and Airdyne so you are spoilt for choice.



International Arena



World Class Gym



Great Outdoor Facilities

Join the competition!

A familiarization day to outline the activities and facilities is held at the beginning of each academic year. Recognition for students who have worked hard for their clubs, have represented them, and were successful in competitions is given at the annual Sports Awards Ceremony held in the third term of each year.

The inter-college competitions take place under the umbrella of the Institute/Universities Governing Sports Bodies. These competitions are open to Institutes of Technology, Universities and Institutes of Higher Education, and are organized on a league and/or championship basis. The AIT has been highly successful in these events. Internal competitions for staff and students add an extra dimension to Institute life.

The recreation and physical education programme is implemented by full-time physical education and recreation officers, with the assistance of part-time coaching staff and the Students' Sports Representative.

The many Sports Clubs within the Institute include the following:

- Badminton
- Basketball
- Canoeing
- Gaelic Football
- Camogie
- Hockey
- Hurling
- Indoor soccer
- Karate
- Orienteering
- Rugby
- Soccer
- Table Tennis
- Cross Country
- Volleyball
- Aerobics
- Weight Training
- Equestrian
- Hill Walking Squash
- Badminton
- Golf

A woman with blonde hair in a ponytail, wearing a teal tank top, is performing a lat pulldown exercise at a gym. She is looking upwards with a focused expression. In the background, other gym-goers are visible, including a woman in a bright green shirt and a man in a black shirt. The gym has large windows and various exercise machines.

Indulge your
sporty side

Clubs & Societies

Want to meet new people and experience new things? One of the best ways of doing both is by joining one of our many clubs and societies. A wide variety of sporting interests are catered for – indoor and outdoor activities, team and solo sports, field and water-based. A wide range is also evident in our societies and you will get the opportunity to develop your interest in your area of study or in more leisurely pursuits.

Students who wish to create a new club that is not currently catered for at the institute will be mentored in the process of setting up the new club by the staff of the Sports Department.

Sports Clubs

AIT Athletics Club/Athletics Ireland Fit4Life, Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball*, Camogie, Canoeing, Indoor Cricket, Equestrian, Gaelic Football*, Golf, Handball, Hill Walking, Hockey, Hurling, Futsal, Martial Arts, Kick Boxing, Orienteering, Paintball, Poker, Rugby*, Sailing, Snooker/ Pool, Soccer*, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tag Rugby, Tennis, Volleyball*.

*Indicates separate clubs for males and females.

Societies

Apprentices, Art/Design, Amnesty International, Catering, Hospitality and Tourism (CATS), Chess, Chinese, Computer, Cumann Gaelach, Dancing, Dental Nursing, Drama, Film, International, LGBT, Mature Students, Pharmacy Technician, Postgraduate (Research), Science, Social Studies, St Vincent de Paul, Veterinary Nursing, Yoga, Young Parents Group.



Show your
social side

Induction Programme 2017

For new International students

Wednesday 6 September. Location - C1141

10.00am	Welcome Talk
11.00am	Coffee Break
11.30 - 1.30pm	Student Resources and Services
1.30 - 2.30pm	Lunch
2.30 - 3.30pm	Library Tours

Thursday 7 September

10.00 - 11.30am	Meet The Faculty - <i>Meeting room to be assigned to each course</i>
11.30 - 1.00pm	Campus Tours - <i>Meet at AIT Students' Union to join tour</i>

Friday 8 September

	Group A	Location
12pm - 2pm	Team building skills for international students	AIT International Arena
	Group A	Location
2.30 - 4.30pm	Team building skills for international students	AIT International Arena



Banking/Exchange/Post

There is a Bank of Ireland branch located on the Institute campus. It is open from Monday to Friday, 10.00 am to 3.30 pm. All banking services are provided (withdrawals, credit transfers etc.). Students require their passport, a letter confirming registration and student ID card to open an account in Ireland. A Bank of Ireland automatic teller machine is also available in the Institute. Most banks in Athlone provide Bureau de Change and Travelers' Cheque facilities. There is also a Bureau de Change at Dublin Airport. Generally, banks are open Monday 10.00 to 17.00 and Tuesday to Friday 10.00 to 16.00.

Currency

The unit of currency is the Euro. VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Eurocard and other major credit cards are all acceptable forms of payment in Ireland.

The Euro breaks up as follows: there are bank notes of €100, €50, €20, €10 and €5. As for coins, there are €2, €1, 50 cent, 20 cent, 10 cent, 5 cent, 2 cent coins.

Post

There are a number of post offices located in Athlone, in addition to numerous post boxes throughout the area. There is also a post box in the Institute near the administration area. Post offices are open Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.30pm, Saturdays 9.00am to 1.00pm.

Stamps can also be bought in many newsagents, stationery shops and in the Students' Union shop (a standard letter costs €1, open or closed within Ireland and €1.35 for Europe). Further details from Irish Postal Service, An Post www.anpost.ie.

Health & Insurance

All European Union students are eligible to avail of the full medical services in Ireland. However, in order to do so, it is necessary to bring an EHIC - European Health Insurance Card (former E111, E101 or E128 form (for a work placement)) from the home country. It is valid for a period of one year and entitles students to the benefits provided by the legal health insurance scheme of the medical facilities of the country to which they are travelling (medical and dental care, prescriptions and hospitalization). If a student falls ill, he/she should hand in the E111, E101 or E128 form to the local Security organisation, indicated on the form. It is emphasized in Ireland that the E111, E101 or E128 entitles one to public health care for emergency medical treatment only. Anyone wishing to receive private health care is advised to make arrangements for cover with their insurance company in their own country. EFTA country citizens have the same social security entitlements as EU citizens. The International Office of Athlone I.T. can also organize private medical insurance with an Irish medical insurance scheme. Further details on cost and cover are available from the International Office.

Athlone Institute of Technology has a Medical Centre on campus in the main building, where a nurse is in full-time attendance. The centre is open Monday to Friday from 9.30 to 16.00 (closed from 13.00 - 14.00). Please check at the Medical Centre for their timetables and for an appointment. The surgery fee is €15 per visit. The cost of visiting a doctor outside Athlone IT is €50 approximately. There is no fee for an appointment with the Nurse.

Out of hours medical access

Emergency doctors – Out of hours service – Tel: 1850 302 702

Weekdays: 6.00pm to 8.00am

Saturday/Sunday/Public Holiday: 8.00am to 8.00pm

Location: Primary Care Centre, Coosan Road, Athlone
(opposite B&Q Store)

Private Medical Insurance for Non-EU students

The cost of Private Medical Insurance is included in the Tuition Fee for Non-EU students. If students from Non-EU countries wish to organize their own private medical insurance, they can review options on following websites: www.vhi.ie, www.irishlifehealth.ie.

Useful Services

Canteen

The Institute has a restaurant/canteen which serves meals and snacks **Monday to Thursday between 8.30 and 21.00, Friday until 18:00.** The restaurant is run by the restaurant committee which aims to keep the cost of food as low as possible. In addition to tea and coffee, a three-course meal and a snack lunch are available daily.

Careers & Appointment service

The Careers Office is situated in Student Resources. All students and especially those who are interested in additional courses are invited to use the service throughout their studies at the Institute. Students seeking specific career counselling should make an appointment with the Careers Officer. Information is available to students (through the careers library and computer network) on higher education courses, employers of graduates and job vacancies in Ireland and abroad. Seminars are held throughout the academic year on the job market, application procedures and interview skills.

Counselling

Living and studying in a foreign country can be difficult for some. Adapting to a new way of life and culture, developing good English language skills and being away from home may be a daunting prospect for others. The Institute counsellors provide a comprehensive service to students to help them cope with these and other problems. This is a free and confidential service.

Tutor System

Each class group is allocated a course tutor who is a member of the academic staff. The tutor is available to each student in matters pertaining to the course. The tutor is part of the Institute support network and may refer students to other services, where appropriate. Students are encouraged to get to know their tutor and to seek help whenever necessary.

Orientation Programme

AIT provides an orientation programme for overseas students on their arrival in the Institute. The programme is designed to help the student settle into Institute life and the new environment as quickly and easily as possible. The programme introduces students to the various services and systems in operation at the Institute, e.g. sports facilities, medical services, Institute societies, entertainment, as well as technical matters such as enrolment and choice of subjects etc. Please note that attendance is mandatory (students must attend). The Orientation Programme will commence on **Wednesday 6 September to Friday 8 September 2017. Classes will commence on Monday 11 September 2017.**

Emergency Numbers

Dial **999** or **112** and ask for the Emergency Service you require. For Fire, Garda (police), Lifeboats, Ambulance, Coastal, Mountain and Cave Rescue, dial **999** or **112** and ask the operator for the Emergency Service you require. When the Emergency Service answers, state the address or location at which help is needed. Calls to these services are free of charge.

College Chaplaincy

Living and studying in a foreign country can be difficult for some. Adapting to a new way of life and culture, developing good English language skills and being away from home may be a daunting prospect for others. Fr. Shay Casey, the Institute Chaplain, is available to advise international students. There is an emergency telephone service - **+353 87 2402514**. Email; **scasey@ait.ie**.



Show your
colourful side

Appendix - Embassies

Austria

15 Ailesbury Court,
93 Ailesbury Road, Ballsbridge,
Dublin 4
Tel: 01 269 4577 / 01 269 1451
Fax: 01 283 0860
Email: dublin-ob@bmeia.gv.at

Denmark

7th Floor, Block E, Iveagh Court,
Harcourt Road, Dublin 2
Tel: 01 475 6404 / 01 475 6505
Fax: 01 478 4536
Email: dubamb@um.dk
Web: ambdublin.um.dk

Finland

Russell House, Stokes Place, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2
Tel: 01 478 1344
Fax: 01 478 3727
E-mail: sanomat.dub@formin.fi
Web: www.finland.ie

Italy

63/65 Northumberland Rd., Ballsbridge, Dublin 4
Tel: 01 660 1744 / 01 664 2300
Fax: 01 668 2759
Email: ambasciata.dublino@esteri.it
Web: www.ambdublino.esteri.it

Belgium

2 Shrewsbury Road, Ballsbridge,
Dublin 4
Tel: 01 205 7100
Fax: 01 205 7106
Email: Dublin@diplobel.fed.be
Web: www.diplomatie.be/dublin

Germany

31 Trimleston Avenue, Booters-town, Co. Dublin
Tel: 01 269 3011 / 01 269 3772
Fax: 01 269 3946
Email: info@dublin.diplo.de
Web: www.dublin.diplo.de

France

36 Ailesbury Rd., Dublin 4
Tel: 01 277 5000
Fax: 01 277 5001
Email: chancellerie@ambafrance.ie
Web: www.ambafrance.ie

The Netherlands

160 Merrion Road,
Ballsbridge, Dublin 4
Tel: 01 269 3444
Fax: 01 283 9690
Email: dub-info@minbuza.nl
Web: www.netherlandsembassy.ie

Embassies continued...

Spain

17a Merlyn Park, Dublin 4
Tel: 01 283 9900 / 01 269 1640 / 01 269 2597
Fax: 01 269 1854
E-Mail: emb.dublin.inf@mae.es
www.mae.es/embajadas/dublin

United States of America

42 Elgin Rd,
Ballsbridge, Dublin 4
Tel: 01 668 8777
Fax: 01 668 9946
Email: webmasterireland@state.gov
web: ie.usembassy.gov

Brazil

Block 8, Harcourt Centre, Charlotte Way, Dublin 2
Tel: 01 475 6000 / 01 416 1202 / 01 416 1204
Fax: 01 475 1341
Email: brasembdublin@brazil-ie.org

Canada

3rd Floor, 7/8 Wilton Terrace,
Dublin 2
Tel: 01 234 4000
Fax: 01 234 4001
E-mail: dubln@international.gc.ca
Web: www.canada.ie

People's Republic of China

40 Ailesbury Rd., Dublin 4
Tel: 01 269 1707 / 01 260 1119
Fax: 01 283 9938
Email: chinaemb_ie@mfa.gov.cn
www.china-embassy.org

Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia

6 Fitzwilliam Square East,
Dublin 2
Tel: 01 6760704
Fax: 01 6760715
Email: duemb@mofa.gov.sa
web: saudivisa.ie/saudi-arabia-embassy-dublin-ireland

Malaysia

Level 3A - 5A, Shelbourne House,
Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge,
Dublin 4
Tel: 01 667 7280 / 01 6677282
Fax: 01 667 7283
E-Mail: mwdublin@mwdublin.ie

India

6 Leeson Park, Dublin 6
Tel: +353-01-496 6787, 496 6792
Fax: +353-1-4978074
E-Mail: cons.dublin@mea.gov.in

For information on other embassies: www.embassydublin.com

Important Services

Doctors & Hospitals

Town Centre Surgery

Garden Vale
Athlone
Tel: 090 6472595

Dr Geraldine Cuffe

Medical Bureau,
District Hospital,
Athlone
Tel: 090 6472410

Midoc

Out of hours service
Tel: 1850 302 702
Located: Primary Care Centre,
Coosan Road,
Athlone (opposite B&Q Store)

Portiuncula Hospital

Ballinasloe
Co. Galway
Tel: 0909648200

Tullamore Hospital

Arden Road,
Tullamore,
Co. Offaly
Tel: 0579321501

Athlone District Hospital

18 Northgate St,
Athlone
Tel: 090 6475915

Newtown Medical Centre

1-2 Newtown Terrace
Athlone
Tel: 090 6472057

Dentists

Boland Tom BDS

Rosslevin
Ballymahon Rd,
Athlone
Tel: 090 6475956

DS Fitzgerald

18 Northgate St,
Athlone
Tel: 090 6475915

Dr D Campbell

25 St Patricks Terrace
Athlone
Tel: 0906472164

Other useful numbers

Garda (police) Athlone

Tel: 090 6492609

Heuston Station

Dublin 8
Tel: 018363333

Busaras

Store Street
Dublin 1
Tel: 018302222

Allied Irish Banks

1 custume Place
Athlone
Tel: 0906475101

Dublin Airport

Tel: 018141111

Bank of Ireland

Church St, Athlone
Tel: 090 6475111

Taxis

A One Cabs

Tel: 0906 6473000

D Cabs

Tel: 0906 6493335

Dial a Cab

Tel: 0906 643030

Useful Websites

Travel and Tourist information

- www.discoverireland.ie
- www.athlone.ie

Travel Discount on Buses and Trains

www.usit.ie

Airline Services

- Ryanair - www.ryanair.ie (Low fares airline)
- Aer Lingus - www.aerlingus.com

Bus Services in Ireland

- National Bus Service – Serving main towns and cities in Ireland-
www.buseireann.ie
- City Link Bus Service www.citylink.ie

Train Services in Ireland

www.irishrail.ie

Ferries to Ireland

- www.stenaline.com
- www.irishferries.ie

Information on Dublin City

www.visitdublin.com

www.dublin.ie

Other Cities worth a visit

- Cork – the second largest city in Ireland www.cork-guide.ie
- Galway – www.galwaytourism.ie
- Limerick www.visitlimerick.com
- Kilkenny www.kilkenny.ie
- Belfast (Northern Ireland) www.belfast.net

General Information on Ireland

- www.travelireland.org
- www.askireland.com
- www.ireland-information.com
- www.goireland.ie
- www.theirishguide.com

Third-level Education in Ireland

www.educationireland.ie

Quality & Qualifications Ireland -
www.qqi.ie.

Appendix 2 - Examinations

EXAMS

Assessment is normally carried out through a combination of continuous written assessments, projects, assignments, and practical tests throughout the year, and written examinations held at the end of the first and second semesters (each examination being approximately 3 hours long). Semester 1 examinations take place in December and Semester 2 examinations take place in May. These procedures may vary depending on the programme of study chosen.

PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

All end of semester examination results (provisional) are listed on the Institute website www.ait.ie from mid-end January for semester 1 and mid-end June for the second semester. It is the responsibility of each student to obtain his/her results from the website. Students are subsequently notified of their results by post in July. No information regarding results is given over the telephone.

The repeat examinations start mid-August and results are available in September.

Results are classified as follows:

Higher Certificate / Bachelor Degree (Ordinary Level)

Pass with distinction level;

70%, or higher, on average

Pass at merit level;

Merit Grade I 60% - 69% on average

Merit Grade II 50% - 59% on average

Pass;

40% - 49% on average

Bachelor Degree (Honours Level) / Graduate Diploma

First Class honours;

70%, or higher, on average

Second Class honours Grade I;

60% - 69% on average

Second Class honours Grade II;

50% - 59% on average

Pass;

40% - 49% on average

Grade	Percentage Band	Credits awarded	Indicative quality of performance
A	80-100	Yes	Excellent
B+	70-79	Yes	Very Good
B	60-69	Yes	Good
B-	55-59	Yes	Above average
C+	50-54	Yes	Fair
C	40-49	Yes	Pass
D	35-39	Yes	Poor
F		No	Fail
*I		No	Deferral of result (Section A7.14)
X		Yes	Student exempted from the requirements of subject/module because of previous equivalent learning
W			Withdrew
NP			Absent, Not present
WH			Withhold

Academic Calendar

Annual Week	Week commencing	Semester 1	Detail	Comment
2	04 September			International Induction Wed 6th - Fri 8 Sept.
3	11 September	1	Teaching commences	Teaching Monday 11 Sept.
4	18 September	2		Close of Appeal window Friday 22 September
5	25 September	3		National Life Science event in Arena 28 Sept.
6	02 October	4	Exam submission	
7	09 October	5		
8	16 October	6		Open Day Friday 20 & Saturday 21 October 2017
9	23 October	7		
10	30 October		Review week/ Graduation	Graduation 2nd & 3rd November
11	06 November	8		Science week, careers & open days
12	13 November	9		Science week & Careers days
13	20 November	10		
14	27 November	11		
15	04 December	12		Final timetabled teaching week

Annual Week	Week commencing	Semester 1	Detail	Comment
16	11 December	13	Reading/ completion/ tutorial	Exams commence Fri 15 Dec.
17	18 December		Examination period	Exams running up till Fri 22 Dec
18	25 December		Institute closed	Christmas Day Monday 25 December 2017
19	01 January			New Year's Day Monday 1 January 2018
20	08 January		Planning, completion and correction week	
21	15 January	1		Teaching commences
22	22 January	2	Module Boards	
23	29 January	3		Provisional results to issue noon Friday 2 Feb 2018
24	05 February	4	Exam submission	Appeal window closes noon Fri 9 Feb.
25	12 February	5		
26	19 February	6		
27	26 February	7	Submission of timetables	
28	05 March	8		National Construction Career Fair (date to be confirmed)
29	12 March	9		St Patrick's Day Saturday 17 March 2018
30	19 March	10		
31	26 March			Easter Sunday 1 April 2018

Annual Week	Week commencing	Semester 1	Detail	Comment
32	02 April			
33	09 April	11		
34	16 April	12		Final timetabled teaching week. Last teaching day Fri 20 April 2018.
35	23 April	13	Completion, tutorial, & reading week	
36	30 April		Examination period	Exams commence Mon 30 April 2018
37	07 May		Examination period	Final exams Fri 11 May 2018
38	14 May		Correction Week	
39	21 May		Result collation & exam boards	Exam boards in frame 25 - 31 May
40	28 May			
41	04 June		Publication of examination results	Publication of results noon Friday 8 June 2018; appeal window & service to students
42	11 June		Appeals & repeat CAs	
43	18 June		Appeals	

Campus Map

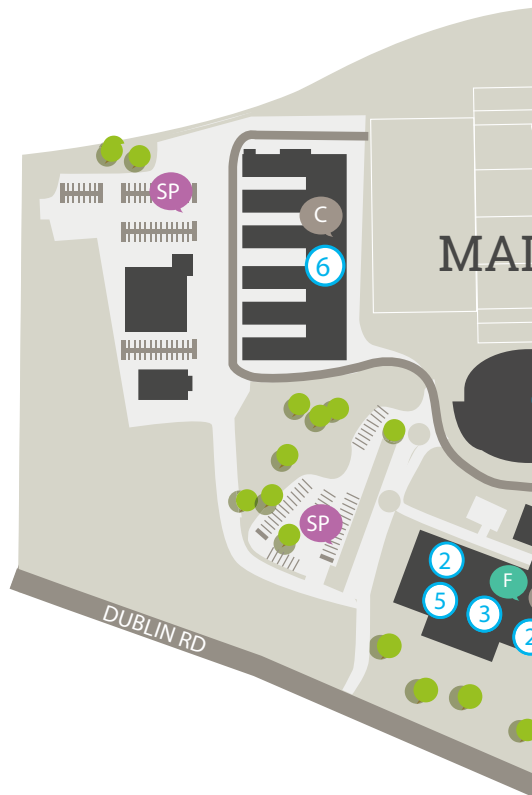
MAIN CAMPUS

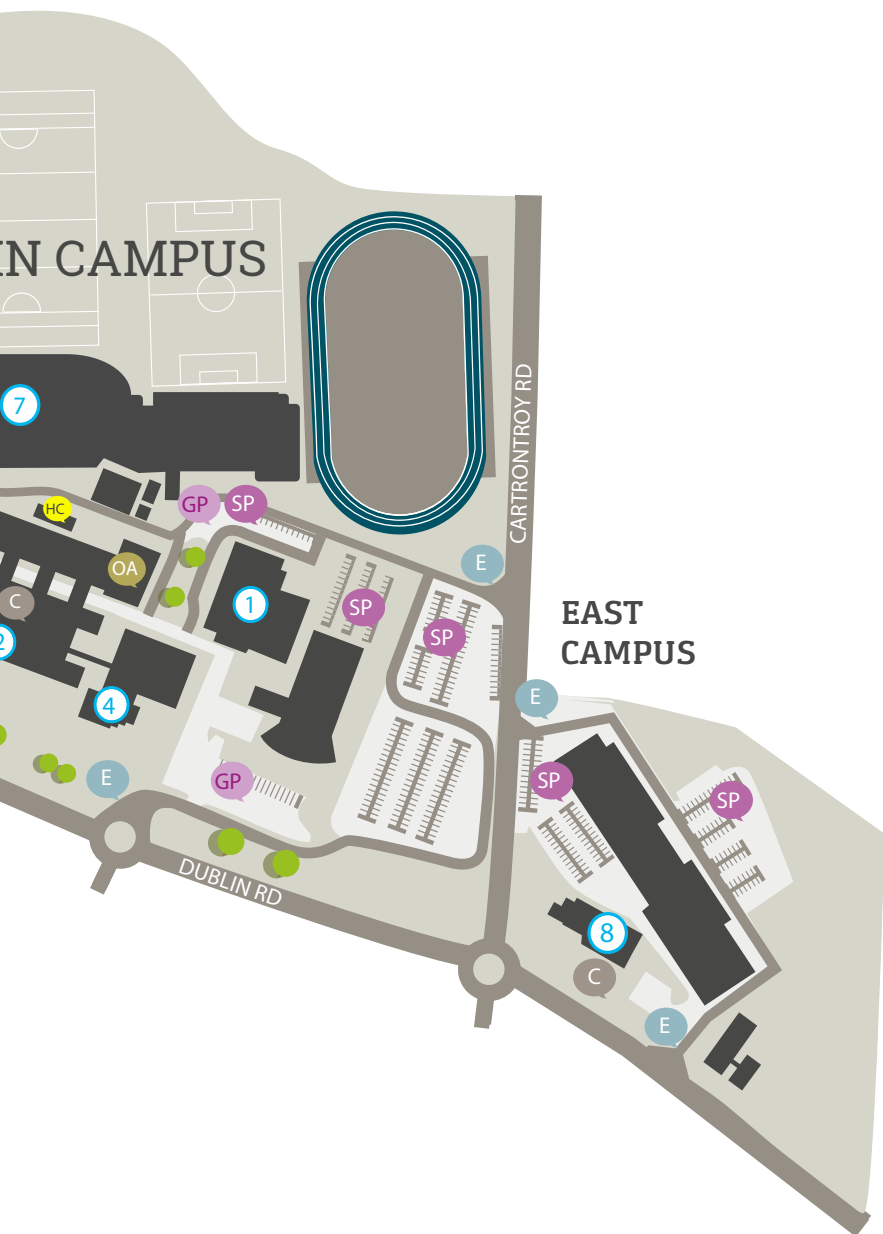
- ① Library
- ② ID Card Centre
- ③ Douglas Hyde C1141
Induction
- ④ International Office
- ⑤ IT Labs (upstairs)
- ⑥ Engineering Building
- ⑦ International Arena

EAST CAMPUS

- ⑧ Nursing and Health
Nursing Library

- OA Open Access
- C Canteen
- F Fountain / Meeting Point
- E Entrance
- SP Student Parking
- GP Guest Parking
- HC Health Centre





International Office Team

If you have any difficulties or require assistance, contact the International Office, which is situated on the main Campus next to the Registration Department. Please follow the signs for International Office.

Student hours: Monday to Friday, 9.30 am - 1.00 pm, 2.00 pm – 3.30 pm (closed for Lunch 1.00 pm – 2.00 pm each day).

**Any member of the International team are available outside of office hours by appointment.*



Call

Meet the Team



Director of International Relations - Mary Simpson

Tel: +353906468272

Email: msimpson@ait.ie



International Coordinator - Jackie Cunnane

Tel: +353906471818

Email: jcunnane@ait.ie



New & Emerging markets Coordinator - Karl Turley

Tel: +353906468259

Email: kturley@ait.ie



Middle East & Africa Coordinator - Eoin Kiveney

Tel: +353906468274

Email: ekiveney@ait.ie



International Office Administrator - Carmel Horan

Tel: +353906468273

Email: international@ait.ie

Email

international@ait.ie

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Bóthar Bhaile Átha Cliath
Baile Átha Luain
Co na hIarmhí N37 HD68
Éire

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Dublin Road
Athlone
Co Westmeath N37 HD68
Ireland

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Web: www.ait.ie

