

STRANMILLIS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, BELFAST

A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND FOR ENTRY 2010

Introduction

This guide has been produced primarily to provide students from the Republic of Ireland with a summary of the courses and facilities available at Stranmillis University College for undergraduate students. Where possible it should be read in conjunction with the Undergraduate Prospectus, copies of which are available on request. The Prospectus is also available on the World Wide Web at www.stran.ac.uk.

Students from the Republic have been coming to Stranmillis for many years. Academically, students from the Republic generally perform very well and comments from them and their families would indicate that they find the experience of life at Stranmillis both worthwhile and enjoyable.

Stranmillis College was founded in 1922 and has been providing teacher education for over 80 years. It became a University College in 1999 and all its academic provision is now academically integrated with Queen's University – which means that a Stranmillis degree is also a degree of Queen's.

Stran, as it is called by local people, is situated on the popular south side of Belfast, at the core of Belfast's famous Golden Mile of pubs, clubs, restaurants and entertainment venues. These not only provide a bewildering variety of leisure-time options, but are a valuable source of student part-time employment. Most of our finest museums, galleries and theatres, parks, concert halls, and international sports stadiums are within walking distance. The Stranmillis campus is part of a conservation area and occupies an enclosed site of 46 acres of woodland rich in wildlife.

The University College is relatively small with around 1,000 full-time and lots of part-time students. Stran specializes in teacher education and offers high quality degrees through the BEd which has Primary and Post-primary options as well as a PGCE course. The College also offers two other undergraduate degrees, namely Early Childhood Studies and Health and Leisure Studies.

Studying at Stran

As you commence your degree, you may find that the style of learning at university is rather different from what you experienced at school or college. You will have more freedom and more responsibility. The study skills and techniques which you develop at school will still be of use and you will develop and extend them. Stran places emphasis on teaching which is informed by research and a range of teaching and support opportunities will be available to you.

You will experience a range of teaching methods – lectures, tutorials, seminars, practical instruction, laboratory, field and project work. Outside class contact time, you will be able to follow up on topics and ideas introduced in lectures and learn how to find and use additional material using our extensive range of resources from the library and other resource centres including information from the Web. Each module will involve assessment, whether in the form of assignments, essays, practical reports, presentations or exams. Assessment is an important part of learning. It provides feedback on learning for both you and your tutors, diagnosing potential and recording progress, as well as providing, in your final degree, a measure of achievement.

Measures of Success

The first-ever National Student Survey reported that the quality of teaching and learning experienced by Stranmillis students was extremely high. The overall satisfaction score on a 5 point scale was 4.0 and the THES noted the following "Many specialist institutions such as Stranmillis University College in Northern Ireland and the Institute of Education, also did well in the survey." This comes on top of the release of the most recent HESA statistics for student drop-out rates, as reported in the Belfast Telegraph, which indicated that Stranmillis was the best performing institution in Northern Ireland.

In addition, statistics show that in recent years the vast majority of our graduates gain meaningful employment.

Computing Services

As a student of Stran, you will have access to a comprehensive, networked, computer and communications infrastructure. A number of open access areas are equipped with high specification large screen workstations, high-speed laser printers, document scanners and other peripherals. All computers are permanently connected to the Internet. There are also a number of dedicated open access areas exclusively for use by students in their independent study.

Accommodation

The Halls of Residence at Stran are within the College grounds in a pleasant environment of trees and shrubs. They provide modern accommodation for over four hundred students in private study bedrooms in four halls. The experience of living in Halls provides a basis for personal and professional development in the company of other students from Stran and residents from other countries. In the current academic year we had residents from the USA, Holland, Germany, France and Hong Kong to name but a few.

A refectory which provides self-service catering facilities is joined by a footbridge to the Halls of Residence complex. Within the Refectory there is the 'Chatz' dining room and coffee shop, providing accommodation for 360 people. This is a versatile self-service restaurant offering services to both the resident and non-resident student alike. For all students between 10am – 2pm there is a wide variety of snacks, hot and cold meals available with vegetarian option. Also available are made-to-order sandwiches, rolls, paninis, bagels, soup and salad bar. 'Chatz' also offers a range of luxury speciality coffee and teas which the students can enjoy, in the comfortable casual dining area, whilst viewing a wide screen television. This complex also accommodates a communal lounge, games room and some students have even been known to use the basement laundry!

The rental of Halls of Residence is approximately £92 per week, which covers B & B and evening meal. This covers you for seven days per week. This works out at approximately £13 per day which compares most favourably with the cost of rental accommodation in the private sector. However, if you wish to find accommodation in the private sector, there is plenty available.

Students with Disabilities

The University College welcomes applications from students with a disability and is committed to ensuring equality in terms of physical access to information, and safety, insofar as it is possible. Many of our buildings have been designed to take into account the needs of people with disabilities. It is essential that we have the opportunity to discuss your needs as early as possible in the Admission cycle. In addition to the Admissions Office, advice and information is available from the recently established Student Support Centre.

Leisure, Sport and Recreation

The Students' Union is an integral part of life at Stranmillis University College. It is located in Stranmillis House, in the centre of the campus. Not only does it house 'Scholars', the College Club but also has coffee lounges, administrative facilities and many other services specifically aimed at students. It is a hub of activity for the many clubs and societies which cater for a wide range of interests.

A wide range of sporting and recreational opportunities is available to students on the College campus. The area is multi-purpose and is used for athletics, football and a variety of other activities organised by students. The extensive grounds are ideal for fartlek training and orienteering but, for the less energetic, the mature gardens provide a perfect setting for leisurely walking.

The nearby Queen's University Physical Education Centre is available to College students, as is full membership of the University Clubs. Stran students, therefore, have the opportunity to go on tour, or gain representative honours on behalf of both the College and the University.

Admission

All applications for full-time undergraduate courses in universities in Great Britain and Northern Ireland must be submitted through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). The normal closing date for applications for admission in September 2010 is 15 January 2010. If you are not at school or college, an application form and handbook can be obtained from UCAS, PO Box 130, Cheltenham, Glos., GL52 3ZF.

If you are interested in applying for a part-time course or for a postgraduate course then you need to contact the University College directly at the address provided at the end of this booklet.

Entrance Requirements

In order to be considered for admission to the University College, you must be able to satisfy:

- (a) the General Entrance Requirement of Queen's University and
- (b) the Course Requirement for the course(s) of your choice.

Further information about the entrance requirements is contained in the Undergraduate Prospectus.

Acceptability of Qualifications from the Republic of Ireland

The Leaving Certificate is accepted in fulfillment of the General Entry requirements which can be satisfied by passes in five subjects, including English, four of which should be at grade C or better at Higher Level. A pass in the Ordinary level of the Leaving Certificate at grade D or better is treated as equivalent to a GCSE pass. Queen's University does not recognise the Junior Certificate as being equivalent to GCSE. The only exception to this is Science so that where courses (such as teacher education) ask for GCSE Science at Grade C, the Junior Certificate Science at Grade C (Higher Level) is acceptable.

Indicative grades for the courses offered at Stranmillis University College are provided at the back of this leaflet.

Student Finance

Applicants should note that new financial arrangements for students in higher education have been implemented since September 2006. A new system of student support has also been put in place to ensure that prospective students from less well-off backgrounds can benefit from higher education. Full details of fees and financial support arrangements can be found on the Finance section of the Stranmillis University College website (www.stran.ac.uk). You may also wish to contact the College's Finance Officer (Tel: 02890 381271).

Further information about Stranmillis University College may be obtained from:

**Academic Registry
Stranmillis University College
Stranmillis Road
Belfast
BT9 5DY**

**Tel: 028 9038 1271
Email: Registry@stran.ac.uk
Web: www.stran.ac.uk**

Undergraduate Entrance Requirements 2010

	GCE A Levels (Points)	ILC (Higher Level)	Subjects Required	Other Factors
BSc (Hons) Health & Leisure Studies UCAS Code LL34	CCC (240)	CCCCC	Sports Studies/Biology/ Physical Education/ Home Economics Preferred	Overall Qualifications Profile Interest in Sport/Leisure Personal Statement Reference
BA (Hons) Early Childhood Studies UCAS Code X310	BBB (300)	BBBBB		Overall Qualifications Profile Interview Interest in Young Children Relevant experience (essential for Part-time mode) Personal Statement Reference
BEd (Hons) Primary				
UCAS Code X120	BBB (300)	BBBBB	At least 2 Curriculum Subjects – listed below: Art English Geography History Mathematics Music Physical Education Religious Studies Science	Interview Overall Qualifications Profile Personal Statement Reference
BEd (Hons) Post-Primary				
Business & Management Studies UCAS Code XN11	BCC (260)	BCCCC	Business Studies/ Economics/ Accounting	Overall Qualifications Profile Interview
Mathematics & Science (Post-primary) UCAS Code XG10	CCC (240)	BCCCC	Mathematics and a Science	Overall Qualifications Profile Interview
Religious Studies (Post-primary) UCAS Code XVC6	BBC (280)	BBBBC	Religious Studies	Overall Qualifications Profile Interview
Technology & Design UCAS Code XW12	CCC (240)	CCCCC	T&D/Art/Computing/ Physics preferred	Overall Qualifications Profile Interview

Leaving Certificate English and Mathematics Grade D (Ordinary) are minimum requirements for all undergraduate degrees. Junior Certificate Science Grade C (Higher Level) is also required for the BEd Primary degree.

These requirements are only a guide and variations may occur from year to year. Please contact the Admissions Officer at an early stage if in doubt about entry requirements.