

Ireland Study Abroad

“Emerald Resistance: The Struggle for Irish Identity”

Spring semester 2026 Travel: March 20 – 29, 2026

Are you ready to take your learning *beyond the classroom*—and beyond borders?

Enroll in this **one-of-a-kind Learning Community** and earn credit for **ENG 102 and HST 142** while diving into a truly global experience! Through the powerful theme “**Emerald Resistance: The Struggle for Irish Identity**,” you’ll dive into compelling readings, write meaningful reflections, and develop intercultural skills, and think critically about Ireland’s fight for independence, cultural survival, and national identity.

But these aren’t just classes—they’re **adventures**!

Then, over **Spring Break 2026**, you’ll bring it all to life by traveling to **Ireland**, visiting places like **Dublin, Sligo, and Donegal**, where politics, poetry, culture, and history collide. Along the way, you’ll gain not just course credit, but **global competencies** that will set you apart in school and beyond.

Through these immersive courses, you will:

- Write essays and projects that bring history to life through personal reflection and critical thinking
- Explore the Irish diaspora and Ireland’s global impact
- Take the **Intercultural Effectiveness Scale**, build your own **Intercultural Development Plan**, and track how your perspective evolves throughout the course
- Practice real-world intercultural communication while exploring a different country and culture
- Earn not just college credit—but **Global Learning Outcomes** that make you stand out in transfer applications, scholarships, and careers

This is more than a trip. It’s a chance to grow academically, personally, and globally.

Spots are limited—don’t miss your chance to be part of something unforgettable.

Let Ireland change the way you see the world—and yourself.





Application deadline: November 1st, 2025

Contact Information

ENG 102: Prof. Richard Johnson

rjohnson@harpercollege.edu

Office: L building, room 316

HST 142: Prof. David Richmond

drichmon@harpercollege.edu

Office: Building D, Room 267b

Dates:

ENG 102: Mondays/Wednesdays from 11am to 12:15pm

HST 142: Tuesdays/Thursdays from 2 to 3:15 pm

Travel will be from March 20 through March 29, 2026.

Itinerary at a Glance



Hill of Tara & 1798 Memorial

What better place to start than the inauguration site of the high kings of Ireland. Situated in “The Royal County” of Meath, the Hill of Tara offers a spectacular view of the surrounding lands. Although none of the wood structures remain, there are earthen mounds, swelling man-made hills and ridges, a 5,000-year-old portal tomb, and the high kings’ Stone of Destiny, said to cry out if one was worthy of ruling.

Along with these, the Hill of Tara was a gathering site in 1798 for the United Irishmen and their rebellion against the British. Sadly, it was at this camp that many faced their last day. Two

memorials exist to honor them – a headstone, erected by the old IRA in 1938, and a Celtic Cross, placed for the 150th anniversary of the battle. The Lia Fáil was also moved to mark the burial location of some of the rebels. In 1843, Daniel O’Connell drew a crowd of over 750,000 people for a peaceful demonstration in favor of Irish self-governance.

Whether it’s ancient kings or revolutionaries advocating for independence, the Hill of Tara has been a site of historical significance and a central location for native sovereignty through the ages.



Cavan Burren Geopark

A location rich with geological and archeological history, the Cavan Burren Geopark dates back 340 million years. The limestone bedrock contains sinkholes and underground cave networks, where the Tuatha Dé Danann were said to have fled into the underworld after being driven out of this world by humans. It also bears testament to the history of settlers in the area, from a farm that is just a few hundred years old, to multi-thousand-year-old walls and mysteriously carved rocks. Many of these are positioned in specific alignments, whether they point toward important tombs or act as calendars.



Donegal Town, O’Donnell Castle & Abbey

Known as Dún na nGall, or “fort of the foreigners” in Irish, Donegal Town was originally a Viking settlement but is probably most famous for the O’Donnell Clan due, in large part, to the imposing castle. This was restored in the 1990s using materials and techniques as close to the

original as possible. Donegal has historically been a center for trade and today, it's still a great place to shop. Whether you're looking for a cheap souvenir or a gift that's authentically Irish, this is the place to find it.

Donegal Town is also known as the town of The Four Masters. These were four monks who compiled much of Ireland's history and mythology, when it was in danger of being lost to the changing of times and looming wars. It is said that they carried out much of their work in and around the local Donegal Abbey. To honor their work, many entities have been named after or dedicated to "The Four Masters", including a GAA club, bookstore, school, a bridge in the neighboring county, and a memorial in the center of town, among other things.

We'll get to travel through time at Donegal Castle, seeing how it existed when controlled by the Irish clans, then how it was changed after being taken over by British occupants. This piece of living history has a lot to show and even more to tell.



Ballyshannon Workhouse

Opened in 1843, the Ballyshannon Workhouse was intended to house and employ those who were poor and had no other place to turn. An oppressive structure, it was designed to be as unattractive of an option as possible. People here often had to live in crowded and unhealthy living conditions with rations of porridge, buttermilk, and potatoes. There is a memorial here to orphaned girls, who were sent to Australia to be wives for men there as part of a scheme developed by Earl Grey to reduce the overcrowded workhouses.

It is a sobering landmark, but an important part of history to remember and reflect upon.



Sliabh Liag Cliffs

Among the highest sea cliffs in Europe and three times taller than the famous Cliffs of Moher, the views at Sliabh Liag are nothing short of spectacular. Hardy Scottish sheep graze on the rugged mountainsides among the heather and rushes. Also known for being the start of the International Appalachian Trail, these mountains were once connected to North America.

Whether you feel up for a climb or just want to enjoy the coffee and goods vans at the viewing platform, Sliabh Liag has views to offer everyone. The hills there bear testament to past conflicts, with a massive rock sign placed into the mountainside to guide World War 2 pilots, and watchtowers that served as lookout warnings against a potential Napoleonic invasion.

There will be a café stop at the bottom of the cliffs, a shuttle bus ride partway up, and then (weather-permitting), we will have the opportunity to do a short hike up the hillside.

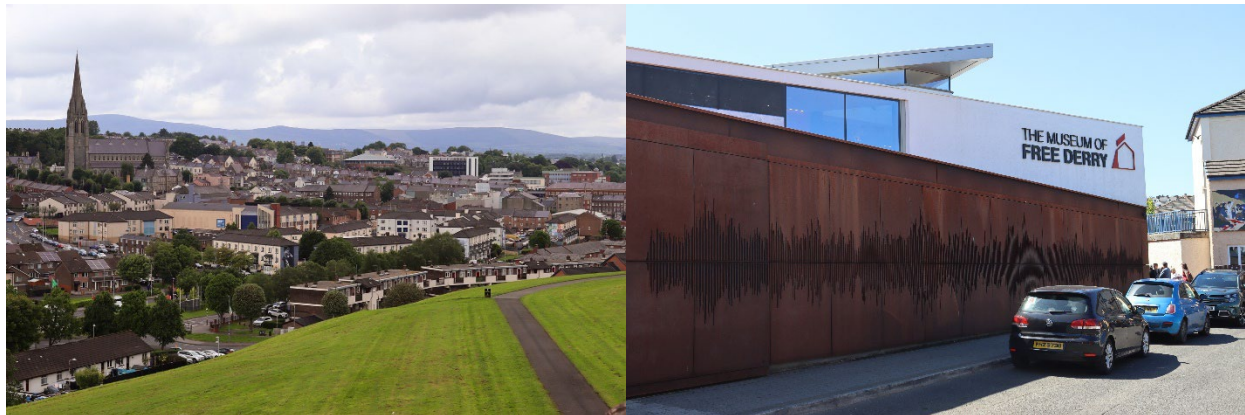


Sligo City and Glencar Falls

While being a rather small city, Sligo's history goes back quite a way. It is one of the most dense areas in the country for megalithic tombs and ancient sites. In the distance, Knocknarea (the Royal Mountain) can be seen from almost any point in the area around Sligo. On top, there is a massive, 10-meter-tall rock cairn visible. It is said that Queen Medb of Connacht was buried here, standing up with her weapon in hand and facing her enemies to the east.

The city itself has strong literary and artistic ties, featuring museums of W.B. Yeats, a theatre, and an art gallery. A ruined Dominican Priory built in 1253 survives, still mostly intact, despite many incidents. Additionally, it boasts a comparatively-diverse selection of cuisines and shops.

Glencar Waterfall was the inspiration for Irish poet W.B. Yeats's poem "The Stolen Child", and once you get here, it won't be hard to see why. The waterfall is serene but powerful and the surrounding valley is magnificent. It's a great place to reflect, read poetry, or just take in the surroundings.



Derry City

Museum of Free Derry & Bogside Murals City Walls & Cathedral

Derry, known as Londonderry in the United Kingdom, is one of the longest-inhabited cities in Ireland. The city walls were built in 1613-1619 as defenses for early British and Scottish settlers during the plantation of Ulster. Being the only fully-intact walls around a city in Ireland, they stretch roughly one mile in circumference around the inner city. They offer stunning views of the surrounding "Bogside", where the primarily-Catholic Irish lived. Derry was a hot spot for conflict in the late 20th century, as the citizens fought for civil rights.

The Museum of Free Derry was built on the location of Bloody Sunday, a horrible moment in history when British Soldiers opened fire on Irish demonstrators, wounding 12 and killing 14 with their gunfire. The museum serves as a sobering monument to the violence and struggles endured by the people here. It tells the stories of the people who lived in the area and their fight for rights and equality, as well as promoting solidarity with communities around the world who are struggling with the same issues.

St. Columb's Cathedral was built in 1633 by William Parratt. It is built in the Gothic style, a spire was added in 1821, the interior was remodeled in 1861-1862, and a chapter house was added in 1901. It certainly makes for a beautiful and historic stop, containing artifacts from the Siege of Derry and the original keys to the city.



Dublin City

National Museum, National Art Gallery, Cathedral Quarter, and Museum of Emigration

The National Museum of Ireland in Dublin contains a vast array of archaeological items, from the bronze age, the Vikings (who founded Dublin), to medieval artifacts and beyond. It also is home to several “bog bodies” – people whose bodies were nearly-perfectly preserved in the acidic environment of Ireland’s bogs thousands of years ago. A visit here will enlighten you both to the lives of everyday people of the past, and the acts of powerful groups and individuals.

The National Gallery is Ireland’s collection of art, dating from 1300 through the present. Giving special attention to Irish art and individuals, the gallery contains portraits of influential people from Ireland’s history, along with the work of many Irish artists, such as Jack Yeats. It also houses diverse works from many famous European artists, including Rembrandt and Caravaggio.

We’ll also be taking a walking tour of the area along St. Patrick’s Cathedral and the Christ Church Cathedral, two of the biggest cathedrals in Dublin. Along the way, we’ll take in some key locations of Dublin’s south side. You may find some places that you’d like to return to in your free time.

The EPIC Museum of Emigration tells the story of those who left Ireland through the ages, whether by choice or necessity. It explores how they went on to influence the world for good, bad, or otherwise. A fully digital museum, it boasts interactive exhibits, including audio and video reels to immerse visitors in the sights and sounds of the emigrants’ experiences.

Program Cost Breakdown:

Cost does not include tuition price, which varies based credits (English 102 = 3 credits, History 142 = 4 credits) and in/out of district.

Airfare	\$1,200
ISA Package (includes accommodation, excursions, ground transportation)	\$2,200
Miscellaneous	\$100
Total for Study Abroad	\$3,500

Payment Schedule

November 1 st	\$500
December 1 st	\$1,500
January 1 st	\$1,500

Scholarships Are Available!!!!!!!!!!!!

Financials are one of the main concerns of students when considering studying abroad. Harper's goal is to search for funding options to help you make this experience possible without harming you financially.

Different funding options can help you participate in these opportunities:

- The [Harper Donor Scholarship](#) is available to all students at Harper who are pursuing a degree. To apply, complete the general application [here](#) or, if you have already done so, select the option to update your application and indicate your intention to study abroad.
- The [Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program \(Gilman Program\)](#) is a prestigious need based scholarship that awards up to \$5,000. To review eligibility and start application, [visit their website](#). Our office is also trained as Gilman advisors so connect with us for additional support. Application is open NOW and closes October 3, 2025.
- The [Fund for Education Abroad \(FEA\)](#) provides scholarships and ongoing support to students who are underrepresented in the U.S. study abroad population. The scholarships can award up to \$5,000. For more information, please [visit their website](#). The application period is currently open and will close on September 17, 2025.