

**All participants are expected to read this Participation Contract in its entirety. Questions should be sent to [study.abroad@wku.edu](mailto:study.abroad@wku.edu).**

---

**PROGRAM LEADERS**

Professor Amy Nemon  
Earth, Environmental and Atmospheric Sciences  
[amy.nemon@wku.edu](mailto:amy.nemon@wku.edu)

Professor Jill Brown  
Earth, Environmental and Atmospheric Sciences  
[Jill.brown@wku.edu](mailto:Jill.brown@wku.edu)

---

**COURSES**

GEOG/GEOL 103 (3 credits): Our Dynamic Planet\*  
GEOG 452 (3 credits): Geoscience Field Experience  
GEOG 452 (6 credits): Geoscience Field Experience (students may have up to 12 hours on transcripts)

\* This class fits into Exploration Level of the Colonnade Program under category C Natural and Physical Sciences. This course fulfills the Category D Science general education requirement for students entered WKU in Spring 2014 or earlier.

\*\* This class fits into Connections Level of the Colonnade Program under category B Local to Global.

---

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The Mystic Landscapes of the Emerald Island is a program designed to explore the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland from a physical, cultural and environmental geography perspective. This is a three-week program that starts and finishes in Dublin along with an opportunity to circumnavigate the entire island while exploring these themes. As this program is now in its seventh rotation there has been many relationships created with locals to create an amazing program for the students to explore and investigate the area. This program travels by bus with an experienced driver that the program uses regularly.

Students will have the opportunity to register for one or two courses for this program. These courses are both included in the general education requirements at WKU. Geography 103 is in the explorations category and Geography 452 is in the Local to Global category. Students may take both of the courses or six hours of the 452 course. Many students from a variety of majors are drawn to this program because of the flexibility of the courses within their graduation requirements. In the six years we have had just a handful of majors from the department but a majority of our student come from all the colleges.

---

**PROGRAM LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

Learning Objectives for Colonnade Program: This course fulfills the Colonnade Program requirements for the Local to Global subcategory of the Connections category. As part of that programs, students in GEOG 452 meet the following learning objectives: Students will demonstrate the ability to:

- 1) Analyze issues on local and global scales.
- 2) Examine the local and global interrelationships of one or more issues.
- 3) Evaluate the consequences of decision-making on local and global scales.

Learning objectives for GEOG 452: The course objectives for GEOG 452 are designed to integrate fully with the Colonnade Program. Upon successfully completing GEOG 452, you will be able to:

- Demonstrate critical thinking skills related to the five main themes of geography, (location, place, human environment interactions, movement and region), at local, regional, and global scales.

- Evaluate local systems, particularly the cultural and/or physical landscape, to understand their position and influence in the global context.
- Describe how geographic analysis and principles allow for a deeper understanding of the evolution of a place in an effort to better understand and predict future changes to the cultural and or physical landscapes of a location.
- Describe and analyze the relationship between the five themes of geography, (location, place, human environment interactions, movement and region) to evaluate how local practices can affect these themes on global and local scales.
- Compare the local physical landscape formation and change within its position in the global physical landscapes.
- Investigate how locations fit together, with surrounding location, in an established mosaic understanding how they contribute and connect with the others.
- Observe the local ideology and or physical landscape of a place to draw comparisons of these observations to the learner's sense of place.
- Describe the impact of globalization, particularly the movement of people, goods and ideas, on the cultural and /or physical landscape.
- Understand how people make decisions in their local environment and how those decisions impact their connection to the larger global system.
- Analyze how global decisions making can impact smaller, local systems.

## PROGRAM DETAILS

---

**LOCATION:** Ireland

**ACADEMIC TERM & PROGRAM DATES:** May 14 – June 5, 2024 (Departure from US on May 13 for those choosing Group Flight Option)

**ITINERARY** (*subject to change*)

**May 13:** Depart for Ireland

**May 14:** Arrive at Dublin Airport and meet with your driver/guide who will transfer you into the city centre where you will first visit St. Patrick's Cathedral, founded in 1191 and burial place of Jonathan Swift, author of Gulliver's Travels. Next, it's on to the iconic Guinness Storehouse, the official home of 'the black stuff'. Overnight: Dublin

**May 15:** Journey north and check out the various locations within the historic Boyne Valley. Visit the Neolithic passage tomb of Newgrange, Ireland's most famous prehistoric monument that date back to times before the Great Pyramids of Giza were built. Next, it's onto the Hill of Tara which was once the ancient seat of the High Kings of Ireland. Overnight: Dublin

**May 16:** This morning, visit Trinity College Library and the Book of Kells Exhibition on foot this morning before meeting your driver for the visit to St. Michan's Church and Crypt. The evening, enjoy an Irish night consisting of Irish food, music and dance at the Merry Ploughboy. Overnight: Dublin

**May 17:** Visit Kilmainham Gaol and Glasnevin Cemetery. The former is one of the largest unoccupied gaols in Europe, covering some of the most heroic and tragic events in Ireland's emergence as a modern nation from the 1780s to the 1920s. Glasnevin subsequently is Ireland's largest burial site and many of its tombstones read like a 'who's who' of Irish history. Overnight: Dublin

**May 18:** Head south to County Wexford to visit Seal Rescue Ireland. Learn about their conservation efforts and the work they do including the rescue and rehabilitation of seal pups found injured or orphaned off the coast of Ireland. Overnight: Dublin

**May 19:** This morning, begin your journey south. On the way, visit Charleville Castle which is said to be the finest example of gothic-revival architecture in Ireland. After your visit, enjoy some free time for lunch in the County Offaly town of Tullamore. Next, visit Leap Castle to learn about its spooky history. Overnight: Kilkenny

**May 20:** After breakfast travel to Jerpoint Park, a working farm situated over the lost city of Newtown Jerpoint before enjoying some free time for lunch in Waterford. Overnight: Kilkenny

**May 21:** Depart Kilkenny and journey to the historic town of Cashel where you will visit the Rock of Cashel, a spectacular group of medieval buildings set on an outcrop of limestone in the Golden Vale including the 12th century round tower, High Cross and Romanesque Chapel, 13th century Gothic cathedral, 15th century Castle and the restored Hall of the Vicars Choral. Next it's onto Blarney Castle where you can kiss the Stone of Eloquence which is said to grant the "gift of the gab". This evening enjoy the Ghost Bus Tour in Killarney. Overnight: Killarney

**May 22:** Enjoy a tour of the Dingle Peninsula. The town of Dingle is a small fishing port where you will find plenty of pubs, cafes and restaurants to have lunch. Then to the west of the town the scenery is particularly rugged with views out to the formerly inhabited Blasket Islands. Stop at the Beehive Huts and hold a baby lamb! Overnight: Killarney

**May 23:** Enjoy a day tour of the Gap of Dunloe and the Three Lakes of Killarney. From Kate Kearney's Cottage take jaunting cars up the Gap of Dunloe to Lord Brandon's Cottage where you will have time for lunch (not included) before travelling through the Three Lakes of Killarney to Ross Castle. Overnight: Killarney

**May 24:** Journey north towards the archaeological site Craggaunowen in County Clare which interprets Ireland's pre-historic and early Christian era. Next, it's onto the majestic Cliffs of Moher before checking in to your local accommodation. The remainder of the evening is free to explore the local amenities. Overnight: Lahinch Coast

**May 25:** Enjoy a trip through the Burren, an area composed of limestone hills that are home to an extraordinary array of flora, wildlife and megalithic tombs and monuments older than Egypt's pyramids. On your journey north via the Corkscrew Hill, stop at Poul nabrone Dolmen, a portal tomb that was built more than 5000 years ago. Next it's onto Aillwee Cave and the Birds of Prey Centre before continuing onwards to Galway where the afternoon is free to explore. Overnight: Galway

**May 26:** Explore another of Ireland's famous scenic regions, Connemara. Here the constantly changing cloud formations give hills, lakes and peat bogs an added dimension. Visit Connemara History & Heritage Centre, where you will be introduced to the history of the area from prehistoric times to the foundation of the Irish Free State and visit Dan O'Hara's Homestead. Next onto Kylemore Abbey which is home to the Benedictine Nuns where you can visit their walled garden and Gothic church whilst enjoying the tranquility of the estate; Connemara Marble Visitor Centre where demonstrations by their master craftsmen will amaze you. Overnight: Galway

**May 27:** Explore Day in Galway to explore at your own pace. Overnight: Galway

**May 28:** Travel to the largest of the Aran Islands, Inis Mor, by ferry. On arrival, you will be met and taken on a tour of the island by Gabriel O'Faherty. Enjoy a visit to Dun Aonghasa, a majestic piece of history that sits on the verge of a 100 metre high cliff. Next, it's on to the beehive huts. Overnight: Inis Mor

**May 29:** Aran Island extended tour. These consist of a visit to the Worm Hole, a naturally formed swimming pool that is a big hit with visitors, a trip to Gabriel's goat's cheese production business as well as a seaweed tasting and shore walk. Overnight: Inis Mor

**May 30:** Take the early morning ferry crossing back to the mainland and journey north towards the county of Sligo, colloquially known as Yeats Country due to its close ties with the famous poet W.B. Yeats. Climb Knocknarea, home to the ancient burial site of Queen Maeve of Connacht. Overnight: Sligo

**May 31:** Venture north towards Derry this morning, the only remaining completely walled city in Ireland. On arrival, enjoy a Derry walking tour with a local guide upon arrival. The remainder of today is free to explore at your own pace. Overnight: Derry

**June 1:** Travel east and visit the 16th century Dunluce Castle whose kitchens fell into the sea one stormy night in 1639 before travelling onto the UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Giant's Causeway. Formed millions of years ago by volcanic activity, the site consists of thousands of interlocking basalt columns. Next, begin your journey south towards Belfast, stopping en route at the Gobbins Path originally built and aimed at Edwardian thrill-seekers! Overnight: Belfast

**June 2:** Tour of Belfast with local guide and visit the Peace Walls. Next, it's on to Titanic Belfast, the iconic six story building with a gleaming, angular edifice which houses a multimedia extravaganza documenting everything there is to know about the famous liner. Learn about how Belfast became a shipbuilding superpower at the beginning of the 20th century along with the creation and construction of the world's most famous vessel. Overnight: Belfast

**June 3:** Travel back to Dublin and enjoy an Explore Day. Overnight: Dublin

**June 4:** Visit Epic Ireland and immerse yourself in the story of emigration. This evening, see the worldwide phenomenon, Riverdance. Overnight: Dublin

**June 5:** Depart Ireland from Dublin Airport

The schedule is subject to change due to educational opportunities that may arise unexpectedly, the vagaries of weather, and other factors beyond the control of the course instructors and staff.

## ELIGIBILITY

- **COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement:** All participants on this program are **strongly** recommended to be up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccination prior to departure. "Up-to-Date" means receiving all primary doses of a CDC, FDA, or WHO authorized vaccine that is accepted in your host location and all boosters recommended for you, when eligible, at least 14 days prior to program departure.
  - COVID-19 vaccine entry & access requirements in your program's location(s) are subject to change. Participants are responsible for meeting vaccine requirements stated by the host destination. Participants who choose not to follow health recommendations or rules may be denied or have restricted access to transportation, events, venues or other essential aspects of participation in this program.
  - WKU has no responsibility for any financial consequences that may result from a participant being denied entry to the program location or denied access to transportation, venue, or other activity associated with the program because they chose not to meet health requirements or recommendations.
- Student must complete the Global Learning & International Affairs online application process.
- Permission of program leader(s) is required. Program leaders will review applications prior to acceptance decision.
- Student must be in good academic standing.
- Student must have a minimum GPA of 2.0.
- Current WKU students eligible to register for WKU courses may apply. Students from outside WKU may participate as [visiting students](#).
- Students must be 18 years of age or older at time of departure.
- Students must possess a passport valid for at least six (6) months after return date. Or valid ID for air travel within the United States (domestic programs)
- Students must be free of active disciplinary sanctions as verified by the Office of Student Conduct.
  - Students who become ineligible to attend the program after applying due to disciplinary sanctions will be subject to standard program cost penalty rates. Students are responsible for notifying the Office of Global Learning & International Affairs when they become aware of this ineligibility.
- Students must complete all pre-departure orientations.
- Full payment is due prior to date of departure.

---

**PROGRAM FEE**

---

**Estimated Program Fee: \$6899 - \$7399\* + Airfare (Group Flight Cost Estimated at \$1500)**

**\*Final Program Cost is dependent on final group size. Cost may ultimately be lower, but all students applying for the program need to be prepared and plan for the higher end of the program cost range.**

**Included in Base Package**

- Undergraduate tuition for 3-6 credit hours
- Lodging for duration of program across 9 locations on island of Ireland
  - See exceptions below concerning medical quarantines
- Entrance fees for all program-related excursions and activities (see itinerary above)
- Daily Breakfast
- Course-related ground transportation circumnavigating the island of Ireland
- Comprehensive International Medical Insurance that covers accidents, medical treatment, and trip interruption

**Flights**

- When applying for the program, students will be asked to select if they want to be on the group flight or will arrange their own airfare. This decision is final.
  - **Group Flight-** Students choosing this option will have their airfare arranged by WKU flying in and out of Nashville (BNA) and airfare cost will be billed to Summer TopNet account along with Program Fee
  - **Arrange Own Airfare-** Students choosing this option will be responsible for booking their own airfare and paying the airline directly for their flight cost. Arrival and departure parameters will be provided to students.

**Excluded from Base Package**

- Items not explicitly listed as included
- Transportation between your departure airport and your home
- Meals, services, and beverages not mentioned as designated group meals
- [Travel Cancellation Insurance](#)- highly recommended
  - Most travel cancellation insurance policies require that insurance is purchased within a specific timeline after making a program deposit payment. See individual plan policies for more information.
- Medical costs not covered by WKU travel insurance and/or participant's personal insurance
  - Participants are responsible for additional costs related to COVID-19 or other illness, such as required COVID testing prior to, during, and after travel; costs related to mandatory quarantines while on-site that are in addition to the program cost, such as additional lodging, meals, and/or transportation costs caused by the quarantine or illness
- Independent travel expenses (voluntary travel not required for course completion)
- Personal expenses such as laundry, phone service, and Internet access
- Tips for guides and drivers not included in program-related activity
- Baggage fees and costs associated with flight / program logistical changes based on the student's preference (as possible)

**Faculty-Led Program fees are not eligible for employee tuition waivers or discounts.**

GLIA does its best to include all anticipated costs and contingencies in this Participation Contract. On occasion, the terms of this contract may change due to significant changes in programming or pricing.

---

**LOGISTICAL REQUIREMENTS & CONSIDERATIONS**

---

- **Travel ID Requirements** - Each participant must have a passport that includes an expiration date which is 6 months beyond the last date of the program. **Please begin application process no later than 4 months prior to departure.**

- **Physical Considerations-** Students will be engaged in activities that do involve walking. One walk will be 5 miles in length. The program leader will work with students that are not able to walk that distant but students should be in good physical condition.
- **Logistics-**
  - For those choosing to arrange their own airfare, flights should not be purchased until receiving permission from the office of Global Learning & International Affairs
    - **Arrival and departure parameters:** Arrive on morning of May 14 (or before) and Depart on or after June 5
    - It is highly recommended that participants purchase flight cancellation insurance, which could include Cancel For Any Reason (CFAR) travel insurance.
    - Should the program be cancelled or the participant withdraw, the participant is responsible for contacting the airline(s) to cancel their flight and for any cancellation fees that may apply.

#### PAYMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Payment &amp; Billing Schedule</b></p> <p><b>December 15, 2023</b> – Priority Application &amp; Priority Non-refundable Program Deposit (\$250) Payment* Deadline</p> <p><b>February 1, 2024-</b> Final Application Deadline</p> <p><b>February 5, 2024-</b> Final Non-Refundable Program Deposit Payment Deadline</p> <p><b>February 1, 2024</b> – Program Fee will be invoiced to student’s TopNet account (minus \$250 non-refundable deposit*). Balance must be paid by payment deadline.</p> <p><b>May 1, 2024</b> - Program balance payment deadline**.</p> <p>* Deposit paid by student directly with a credit/debit card at time of application acceptance– NOT billed to student account. <b>Deposit required to confirm space on program roster.</b></p> <p>**Students may provide an award notification for financial aid from WKU’s Student Financial Assistance office that verifies financial aid amount and disbursement date if after payment deadline.</p> | <p><b>Withdrawal Penalty &amp; Non-Payment Policy:</b></p> <p><b>Deposit Non-Refundable.</b> Deposit payment serves as the financial commitment to participate on the program &amp; is required to confirm spot on program. Once your deposit is paid, the following withdrawal policy goes into effect.</p> <p><b>After December 15:</b> 25% of program cost remains billable<br/> <b>After February 1:</b> 50% of program cost remains billable<br/> <b>After March 1:</b> 75% of program cost remains billable<br/> <b>After April 1:</b> 100% of program cost remains billable/No refund</p> <p><b>If a balance remains after the payment due date, a transcript and registration hold will be placed on the student’s account by the WKU Bursar’s Office.</b></p> <p><b>Withdrawal Process:</b> The student <b>must inform Global Learning &amp; International Affairs directly and in writing</b> (email accepted, <a href="mailto:study.abroad@wku.edu">study.abroad@wku.edu</a>) if he or she chooses to withdraw from a program. No other statements of withdrawal will be considered as notification of withdrawal, therefore, the student will still be considered a program participant until this written notification is received. Withdrawal penalties will be based on the notification date as listed in the Payment Terms and Conditions section of this Participation Contract (see above) and are in effect regardless of when program deposit is paid.</p> |
|---|---|

**Program Cost Invoicing:** Your program balance will be invoiced to your TopNet account for the term in which the program takes place. When making payments for your program balance, please let the WKU Cashier’s Office know that your payment is for your faculty-led program balance. The total amount due in your semester bill may reflect the combined charges for multiple terms (i.e. Fall and Winter or Spring and Summer) and includes program fees for your Faculty-Led program. Please see your TopNet account for a breakdown of amounts due per term. If you have any questions, please email [study.abroad@wku.edu](mailto:study.abroad@wku.edu).

**Financial Aid:** Students are reminded and encouraged to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) even if you have not received financial aid in the past (must be a U.S. Citizen or eligible noncitizen to complete FAFSA) . You must have a FAFSA on file if you plan to use federal financial aid to help cover the cost of the program. If your financial aid will disburse after the program balance payment deadline, you may provide an award notification for financial aid from WKU's Student Financial Assistance office that verifies financial aid amount and disbursement date. Please reach out to Andrew Hartley (andrew.hartley@wku.edu) in the Student Financial Assistance office for questions on financial aid.

---

#### **STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES**

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Student Accommodations Resource Center (SARC) on the first floor of Downing Student Union. Contact SARC at 270.745.5004. Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor, instructor, or Office of Global Learning & International Affairs without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

---

#### **LIABILITY DISCLAIMER**

*Western Kentucky University and its associates are not responsible for any loss due to theft, personal injury, flight or weather delays, negligence, or default of suppliers, or suppliers changing of itineraries. They and their associates are not responsible for any loss due to travel/flight delays or changes in travel plans due to Acts of Nature or other unforeseen circumstances, nor are we responsible for accidents and medical care. Tour services are furnished by independent contractors who are not agents or servants of Western Kentucky University. Refunds are not available for unused portions of the package.*

---