

## Ireland 2026 - Frequently Asked Questions

**Question** – How much is the down payment?

**Answer:** The deposit amount is \$500. Of this, the **non-refundable deposit amount is \$100.00.**

**Question** – What is the deadline for making the deposit to reserve my place?

**Answer:** The deposit must be made by **May 4, 2026.**

**Question:** When is the final payment/total amount due:

**Answer:** The final payment is due **August 17, 2026.**

**Question:** How do I make my deposit and payments?

**Answer:** The GC business office number is: **704 922 6208.** You should be able to make payments using a credit card. Just make sure you ask them to send a copy of the receipt to Kelly Hinson at [hinson.kelly@gaston.edu](mailto:hinson.kelly@gaston.edu).

**Question:** Can I make several payments?

**Answer:** You can make payments toward the trip as long as the final payment is made on or before August 17, 2026.

**Question:** Will I need a passport?

**Answer:** **You must have your passport by August 17, 2026, to go on this trip.**

**Question:** How do I apply for a US passport?

**Answer:** **Google this question for a step-by-step guide. Start early on this step!**

**Question:** Is there a way to get class credit for the trip?

**Answer:** **CTE students are encouraged to take WEB 288** as the prep course for the trip. All students may take **HUM 120**, which will have Ireland-centered content, for class credit. Other students may ask their teachers if there is a way to receive **honors credit** by taking the trip and completing a trip-centered assignment.

**Question:** Can I apply for scholarship assistance to help with the cost of the trip?

**Answer:** Yes!

1. **Apply for this year's FAFSA BEFORE** submitting a scholarship application. Scholarships are processed through the College Foundation.

2. Applications for scholarships should be submitted here: [GC Rhino Scholars Travel Scholarship – Fill out form](#) or scan QR code below.



**GC Rhino Scholars Travel Scholarships**

Apply now for a travel scholarship to help support your travel with Gaston College



GC Travel Scholarships are sponsored by the generous donations from the GC Foundation

3. The deadline for scholarship applications has not been provided yet. I suggest that you complete this application once you have registered and paid your trip deposit.

**Question:** Is there anything I need to know about traveling with a disability?

**Answer:** As you are considering this trip, be advised that other countries to not handle physical disabilities as America does. If you require assistance with walking, you will need to plan for that. Trip participants, faculty, and ISA-I staff will not be able to assist you. You will also need to be able to manage your own luggage and belongings.

### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

In general, program participants will not receive a full refund if the study abroad program is set to run within 120 days. Before that point, all money paid directly to the college will be refunded, less \$100.00, unless funds have been paid to outside vendors.

- Program participants will be subject to the cancellation policy of the study abroad provider.
- Gaston College cannot provide refunds for any monies paid to outside entities.
- While traveling abroad, health insurance will be provided by Gaston College.