2011

Fresh Toast, 2011

DIT: Students Union

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BODKINS BAR
College Survival Kit

Step 1. Log on to Facebook
Step 2. Search for “Bodkins Bar”
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What You Get............
Info on all our Blackboard Specials and Promos
YouTube trailers of our upcoming Movie Nights
Event guide to all DJ’s, Bands and stuff
Flash promotions – On the spot freebies
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Clubs, Socs and Class Party Specials
Pool Competition Info
Budget Food Specials
And Lots More.........

57 Bolton Street, Dublin 1
No going back now, you've made your choices, and didn't you do well. You are welcome to the 20000+ strong organisation that is DIT. For some of you it may be just a short walk away, while for many of you it's a 100 mile hike to Dublin's Fair City. In any case it will be the place where you spend a large portion of your waking hours for the next number of years.

DIT has a lot to offer you all. A wide variety of courses, and a ladder system that allows you to work right from apprentice level to PhD. But DIT is much, much more than just an educational institute. Your time in DIT will be a whole new experience. With over 80 societies and 40 sports clubs, there are plenty of things to do in the evenings. We have community involvement programs where students help local communities and schools in their free time, and just to make sure there are no barriers to you having the best experience possible while you are here, you have your very own Students' Union. Every DIT student is a member, and as your President I can assure you that we are here to help, in any way we can.

As your President, I will be sitting on a number of DIT committees, right up to the DIT Governing Body, ensuring that your views are represented on every level. I am the chief spokesperson for the Union and so will be your voice on a national level. I will be involved in a number of campaigns throughout the year to further the student experience, and will be promoting the democratic structures of the Union that allow each of the other departments to operate so effectively. My contact details will be everywhere, so don’t ever hesitate to contact me or anyone else within the organisation. I look forward to meeting you all during your inductions and during all the fun of Freshers’ Week.

You can find out more on how the Union operates in the following pages. Have a fantastic year, and be sure to come back for more!

Ciarán
A word from:

CLARE CULLEN
SU VICE PRESIDENT

Hello there!

I'm Clare Cullen, your Vice President of Academic and Student affairs. For your general, mental and sexual welfare, I'm your officer! For your education, I'm your officer! Call me, email me, get in touch. I am here to help you.

For example, if you are having issues with lecturers, classes, exams, accommodation or money, I'm your officer! You can talk to me directly, or, if it's a class issue, you can ask your class rep to do it. Call down to the basement of your site and find your Students Union offices, there will always be someone there to help and to put you in touch with me!

Look out on your campus for posters with my face, they'll have my email and phone number on it. Find me and come talk to me about the services available to you. Even if you never need them, at least you will know they are there!

It's your union! Your societies, your clubs, your democracy, your services. It's your union, and it needs you to get involved!

SHAG Week is my big welfare week of the year. It stands for sexual health and guidance week! We make this week as outrageous and fun as we can - we are promoting safe sex and we have the best craic doing it! There'll be welfare power days and local events throughout the year, stay tuned to my blog on DITSU.ie to find out more!

CLARE

A word from:

ERIC FITZGERALD
SU VICE PRESIDENT

My name's Eric and I'm your Vice President of Services & Trading. Essentially, I'm the guy to go to if you've any problem with DIT facilities. If a chair is broken, if your projector doesn't work, if the library has a leak in it, I'm the man to tell and I'll do my best to get it sorted. I'm also the guy who organises all your events throughout the year. From Freshers' Week to RAG Week to a comedian on stage - I'm the man behind it all.

So, what can you expect as a fresher coming to DIT? Well, events-wise, we have a savage calendar lined up for you throughout the year. Freshers' Fortnight will kick it all off and give you a proper taste of things to come. We've got four themed nights lined up during Week One, which should set you up nicely for the Freshers' Ball during Week Two. The line-up can be found on page 20.

Throughout the year, we'll have tribute nights, zombie walks, RAG Balls, comedy acts and much, much more. As well as the big overall stuff, you've got plenty of stuff to look forward to on your sites. Your local LPITs (Local Programme Implementation Team) will look after local events. If you want to give them a hand or if you have any ideas, just talk to your local Class Rep Convenor. You'll find out who that is later on in the magazine.

One of the biggest weeks we have all year is RAG Week. RAG stands for Raising and Giving and every year we pick a charity to raise money for throughout the year. RAG Week is our biggest week of the year. This year's RAG Charity is Citywise, and you can read more about the work they do, and how you can get involved, on page 36.

What I've told you above is only a taster of what you can look forward to during the year. We're always looking for people to help out, so if volunteering is your thing, pop down to your local SU office and let us know. Looking forward to seeing you all during the year ahead - it's gonna be great craic!
Become a member of the E-Team. The Events Team help run Union events. You will gain experience in event management as well as having fun! Contact Eric, the VP for Services & Trading and he will put your name down on our list.

(vspervices@ditsu.ie)

We are always looking for students to help out with all the different campaigns that the Union organise during the year like WELFARE and SHAG Week (who knows - there may even be a free t-shirt in it for you!)

Contact Clare, the VP for Academic & Student Affairs (vpacademic@ditsu.ie) or Aimee O’Callaghan at 402 4510. They always welcome help in promoting healthy living and distributing free condoms.

Join a couple of Societies for the year or better still set one up from scratch. It’s a great way to make friends with like-minded people. Or why not get fit and join one of the many Sports clubs - everything from aerobics to judo. You could also play for one of DIT’s many sports teams.

Clubs and Socs Week starts on September 28th when you’ll get a chance to see what’s available. Eric’s the man to talk to about this also or contact your local Union Officers.

Volunteer during RAG week or better still organise an fundraising event in your class – a sponsored silence, chest waxing session, that will help raise more money for this year’s charity Citywise (see page 36).

Contact Eric, the Vice President for Fun (vspervices@ditsu.ie) who’s the man in charge of all the Ents this year. He’s looking for new ideas to raise buckets of money during RAG week in March.
Welcome to DIT, and to Aungier Street/TEMPLE BAR.

I'm Conor Thompson, your Class Rep Convener, and as well as electing and working with your class reps, it's my job to make sure you enjoy your time here as much as possible, both inside the classroom and around our campus. We've an action-packed year planned for you, so prepare yourself for plenty of parties, live music, comedians, iron stomach competitions, and more free shit than you could shake a big aul' DIT foam hand at.

You'll be continually congratulated over the next few weeks by lecturers for choosing to spend your next few years here, instead of universities that may perhaps rhyme with Shmuniversity, or maybe Shmuniversity College Dublin. And as repetitive as this might get, they're dead right. Congratulations ladies and gents, you have chosen wisely. You won't be spending your days in classes of 800 strangers. And smaller classes mean it couldn't be easier to get to know your classmates, your class reps, your lecturers and of course your Union; you'll feel right at home in no time.

But to get the most out of this, the one single piece of advice I'd give you guys is this: Get Involved. We all need to get out of the library sometime around the first week in May, but that's only a fraction of what college life is all about. Organise a class party, join a club or a society, get involved in the Union, volunteer to give out packs of free johnnies or simply sign yourself up to some dignity-stripping competition to win a wad of cash. These are the things that will make your college life memorable, and don't be shy.

There will always be a group of peers willing to applaud and/or laugh at you. I'd like to promise you that you'd get your bit for it, but that more than likely wouldn't get printed (just to prove you wrong. Ed.) I'll give out all the free t-shirts I can get my hands on though...

And don't forget, your three sabbatical officers, your lovely Student Support Advisor Sharon and myself are here to serve you guys, the student body. Any problems with any facet of uni life (no matter how big or small) just drop in to the office or grab us on the corridors and bend our ears about it. We'll do our very best to help you guys out.

CONOR
In Bolton Street you can expect a good year ahead with lots of fun, games and competitions! So when you see something happening on stage don't be afraid to get up and win something! It's one of the best ways to meet new people, and it is good fun too! So don't be afraid if you're brought up just let the fun and games happen... I have done it many times and you can do after it is laugh! Another good tip: if someone offers you something "FREE" take it! It one of the 'student' rules, we love free stuff!

Before I give you an insight into Bolton Street, I'm going to tell you about myself! My name is Suzann or aka Bolton Barbie! I'm a 4th Year Planning and Environmental Management Student, so I'm in my Final year. I started college in September 2007 and I remember it like it was last week! You will have so many laughs and when you look back you will still laugh about them! I know I do... So have fun, enjoy yourself and get your work done! So that's enough about me for now...

As you will see over your first couple of weeks in Bolton Street, the lads have majority, so girls be careful... Only messing girls it's not that bad... You all going to make some really good friends here so give everyone a chance and don't be shy! Bolton Street is known as the "Culchie College" so get us to seeing people from outside the pale!

All jokes aside, Bolton Street is one of the most outgoing sites and you are going to come across a lot of new and different things. It's time to start looking out for you and become "sensible" to a certain extent and be responsible for yourself! College is a new experience so enjoy it...

I hope you all had a great summer and enjoyed yourselves! I would like to welcome you all to DIT, and especially Bolton Street...! The fun starts here, college life is one of the best experiences that you will endure, so make the most of it... Work hard and don't forget to party hard! So put in the effort and reward yourselves!

You can expect a good year ahead with lots of fun, games and competitions! So when you see something happening on stage don't be afraid to get up and win something! It's one of the best ways to meet new people, and it is good fun too! So don't be afraid if you're brought up just let the fun and games happen... I have done it many times and you can do after it is laugh! Another good tip: if someone offers you something "FREE" take it! It one of the 'student' rules, we love free stuff!

This year I want to bring a better atmosphere to the college so you will all have many memorable memories, but to make that happen I need your help! So get involved in the onsite events we have a few main events that happen such as the Christmas Iron Stomach, Treasure hunts and Cadburys Cream Egg Eating competitions. These happen at various times of the year but I want to do a lot more so if you have any suggestions please let me know, cos if I don't know about it I can't make it happen!! So any ideas you do come up with pop into my Office (beside the pool tables in the SU) and we will see what we can do for you!

I think that's it for now! So have a great year in college, get involved and most of all enjoy yourself! If there is anything I forget or come across you can find all the news on Bolton Street on the DITSU website so keep an eye on it for all the craic in Bolton Street! Or if you have any problems or questions give me a shout and I'll do my best to help you out!

Suzann XXX

Bolton Street

The King's Inn

Bolton St.
Student friendly prices,
Class Parties welcome.
First let me say, WELCOME WELCOME WELCOME to DIT and to DIT Cathal Brugha Street in particular, or "The Brugha" as it’s commonly known! I am Seona Dunne, your Class Rep Convener for the year! It’ll be up to me to make sure you guys have your Class Reps elected and to make sure you are, in general, enjoying all aspects of your college life here in The Brugha! From Comedians to free condoms and Class parties to Human-sized Twister, we will be having it all for you guys to enjoy!!!

Over the course of the coming year there will be heaps of times you will be asked by me or others to give a help out or give a hand at some of the different campaigns like SHAG week, Welfare week or even just to help handing out a few free t-shirts, please do guys! Even sign up to the different Societies join the clubs even if you haven’t a clue what they are about, do it, you will soon find out! Sure isn’t this the time to do it all!!! My biggest advice to ye guys is to just GET INVOLVED! I am telling ya, it’s unreal how that smallest piece of advice can just totally turn your whole year around!!

Here in the brugha, I like to think that we are the centre of DIT. Partly because we’re great, obviously! But also because we actually are in the middle— we have Aungier Street/Temple Bar, Kevin Street and Rathmines all behind us and Mountjoy Square and Portland Row and Bolton Street in front of us...so we are kind of like the epicentre of DIT ha ha!!!
The second is the canteen, which is where there is hot food for each meal. Breakfast starts at around 10am, and is one of the busiest meals of the day. Then lunch starts around 12:30 – 1, and then dinner from 4 onwards. As we have a lot of part time evening students the canteen is open quite late, which is great coming up to exams, or project deadlines.

An introduction to Kevin Street is not complete without a description of our building(s). Most of the floors are used by a particular school, and has all their labs. If you are in these schools, I recommend getting a locker on these floors, as there is nothing worse than being late for a lab and having to run up or down two flights of stairs for your bit! The basement is (now) mainly classrooms, and lockers. The ground floor is the engineering floor, and is a few classrooms and loads of labs. The first floor is physics, the second is biology, third is physics, fourth is yet more engineering. Also on the second floor is the admin offices, and it is where you go if you have issues with registrations, fees or exams.

The annex is three stories, with the ground floor mainly being the canteen, the SU shop and a few classrooms. The first floor is the aforementioned snackery, computer labs, and the DITSU offices. The second floor is used entirely by the library, which also has a computer lab, and printing facilities. The third floor is classrooms, offices and yet more computer labs. Be warned, most of the computer labs in the annex are for School of Computing student only, and no other school can log in to these machines. There is a third building, across the road from the annex called Church Lane, which is where apprentice electricians spend their time.

Around Kevin Street there is a huge amount of things to do, places to eat and places for a “quiet pint or two” (or 10). For rolls, and general shopping there is the “Number One” store beside the annex, or “Fresh” on Camden Street. Also on Camden street there is a Subway, Charlie’s chinese, Eddie Rockets, Bee Burgers, Heli (a pizza place) and tons more. Most places now do a student discount, so ask around!

See you guys soon, and if you have any questions, drop in, or grab me around the campus!

Graham
Firstly, I want to say a big congratulations for getting into DIT, and an even bigger congratulations for being that extra bit more talented to get into Mountjoy Square or Portland Row. Whether this is your first time to college or you’re coming back for more, I’m going to make sure your college years will be memorable!

I suppose I’d better tell you something about me; I’m 25 years old and this is my eighth year in DIT. I started in DIT Kevin St in 2003 doing a degree in electrical engineering, and started my second course in 2007 doing interior design in Mountjoy Square, so now I’m in my fourth and final year of that and considering what course to do next! I’ve got a lot of piercings, a lot of tattoos and a mohawk so I’ll be easy to spot wandering around the college!

My plan for this year is basically to ensure you have a memorable, problem free year! We do things slightly different in Mountjoy Sq. For instance a few months ago we turned the SU area in the canteen into the set of Fr Ted, and got Frank Kelly (Fr Jack) to officially open it - why? because a student suggested it!

If you want something to happen in the college, just come find me in the office and tell me what you want - it’s that simple! The more suggestions I get, the more on-site events I can plan to run! Movie nights, BBQs, bands and there will be a few surprises thrown in for good measure!

I’ll be in the SU office from day one, so come down and have a laugh. College years can be the best years of your life so let’s have a good one this year! And to get the college social life off to a good start, I’ve arranged a free drink for you all thanks to TramCo Brewery in Rathmines. Just rip out the voucher on the next page, head on a night out with your friends, class mates or new house mates to TramCo, get your free drink and enjoy!

See ya all around the college!
I'm Gareth, music student, cloud enthusiast, and Rathmines and what to do there... Generally, Toast across the road from the campus is our favorite watering hole, but if the night should run well into the night, Tramco is right across the street. We have our own cinema now in Rathmines which is awesome, and tonnes of choice when it comes to the artery-clogging fast food we love so much, we have just about everything a student could ask for! A word about college work (it's not all fun and games), acquaint yourself with your course handbook so you know what you gotta do. In performance courses, sometimes it can be tricky to figure out what is worth what, and when other things are on, and nasty surprises are something we don't want to see! If you have a problem, be it academic or other, our Student Support Advisor Sharon in Aungier Street will know exactly what to do with you!

I think that's most of the super-important stuff you need to know, but if there's anything else, drop me an email or a call and I'll sort you out!

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I think that's most of the super-important stuff you need to know, but if there's anything else, drop me an email or a call and I'll sort you out!

This voucher entitles the Holder to a Complimentary Drink*

'Cos we're nice that way, and Kieran's proved over the years that DIT students can't be beaten for a good night out!

OPEN WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY LATE BAR - GREAT DJS

TRAMCO
121 Lower Rathmines Road Dublin 6
www.tramco.ie
Please drink responsibly - let's remember First Year...

*Choose from Soft Drink, VS Ice, VS Blue, Cola Cube or Apple Mickey Finns.
Freshers’ Week

Right, hello, good evening and welcome to the madness that is the DIT Students’ Union Events Department. In layman’s terms, that’s Eric Fitzgerald, your Vice President of Services & Trading, and Mark Breen, the Events & Marketing Manager. These two guys are the lads that make the fun happen – with your help, of course.

As a new student in DIT, you’ll be treated to a whole week devoted to parties and events just for you! Freshers’ Week 2010 will run from Monday September 20th to Tuesday 28th – a bit longer than a week, but hey, who’s complaining?

Read on for the plans...
**80's PARTY NIGHT**

**WHEN:** Mon 26th
**WHERE:** dTwo Nightclub
**WHAT:** THINK 'FRESH PRINCE'!
**WHY:** 'COZ THE 80's ROCKED!
**WEAR:** LOUD SHIRTS & NEON COLOURS!

We begin on Monday September 26th in dTwo on Harcourt Street with a bit of a retro feel. How does an 80s Night sound? Don your afros, flares and ludicrous shirts for a night filled with 80s classics, courtesy of our resident DJs and the 80s Cover Band. I know most of you were born in the 90s, but hey, the 80s is less of a decade and more of a state of mind, dude!

**FRESHERS' FOAM PARTY**

**WHEN:** Tue 27th
**WHERE:** TBC
**WHAT:** WET 'N' WILD!
**WHY:** WHO DOESN'T LIKE GETTING WET!
**WEAR:** NOT YOUR SUNDAY BEST!

Tuesday will see things getting a bit wetter and wilder with a Foam Party especially for all of our newbies. Our lads will be hitting the decks as you all get soaked in foam – but sure all in the name of good fun, am I right? Dress to destroy – you won’t get much use out of your outfit after this one!

**TOWNIES VS. CULCHIES SILENT DISCO**

**WHEN:** Wed 28th
**WHERE:** Daniel O’Connell St
**WHAT:** THE ULTIMATE FACE-OFF!
**WHY:** TO FIND OUT WHICH IS BEST!
**WEAR:** URBN EVC OR BOGGER BEST!

Wednesday night is a spectacle like no other. We were thinking a VIP Night, you know, shirts and skirts, cocktails, red carpet, all that jazz. But then someone suggested a Farmers’ Ball, with all the wellies, tractors and hay you can handle…what to do? Well, being the resourceful types that we are, we stuck both of these ideas into a big mixing vat and came up with a Townies vs. Culchies Silent Disco! Country men and women – be decked out in the finest tweed and wellies that money can buy! City slickers – your best billy and tucker is the only thing that’ll do! We’re talking shirts, suits, cocktails dress, all that shebang! In the words of the immortal Barney Stinson – SUIT UP!

**PAINT PARTY**

**WHEN:** Thur 29th
**WHERE:** TBC
**WHAT:** FULL ON PAINT PARTY!
**WHY:** ‘COZ IT’S FUN TO THROW PAINT!
**WEAR:** SOMETHING DISPOSABLE!

Thursday night sees the return of the Paint Party. Talk to other years above ye. This is a night that is still spoken about in hushed, awed whispers amongst DIT students. Last year, we packed out The Big Tree for one of the best, craziest, messiest nights that DITSU has ever seen! We’re bringing it back for Freshers’ Week 2010 because we love ye that much. This event sold out within a day and a half last year – we guarantee that it’s going to sell out quicker this time!

**FRESHERS BALL:**

**BUT WAIT THERE’S MORE!**

That’s only week one of the Freshers’ Week madness that we have in store for all of you wonderful peeps. The Freshers’ Ball takes place on **Tuesday September 28th** in a super-secret location that we can’t reveal to you (yet) with an epic line-up that’s a secret (for now). I know it’s frustrating that we’re keeping it all under wraps, but trust me – it’ll be worth it!

Keep an eye out once you get on campus for posters and inductions crew who’ll let you know more about the different events, venues and ticket prices. As we like to say here at DITSU – you can beat an egg, but you can’t beat the craic!
Your Union

Every DIT student automatically becomes a member of DIT Students' Union. But what is the Union, and how does it work? Here is your guide to your Students' Union.

Aidan
(Class REP)

What's it for?
Most of you will see the Students' Union at your upcoming inductions, but what is the Students' Union and how does it work? It's all in the name. The Students' Union is the only group that represents you, the students. The Union represents you all at every level within the DIT, and also nationally. It defends your rights, in all academic and welfare matters as well as a citizen/resident of Ireland. The SU works on student involvement in all aspects of college life, through clubs, societies, events, volunteering and generally having fun while we're at it. In short, your students' union is there to ensure that your whole student experience is as good as possible.

Where do I fit in?
The Union is a large organisation, with 20000+ members and many committees, councils and confusing terms. Overall, though, it's really quite simple. The Union is here to represent and support its members. You don't have to sign up to be a member of the Union - if you're a student of the DIT, you're automatically a member of the Union. So welcome.

So, how does it work?
The Union is here to support you.
Your first Union representative you'll meet is your Class REP, who'll be someone you'll elect from your class to deal with issues about lecturers, assignments and modules, as well as organising class parties - or it could be you if you want it. The Union organises Class Rep Elections during the year.
If your class rep hits a brick wall, they can bring up the issue at their local class rep meeting, which is run by the Class REP Convener. The Convener is a part-time representative of all students on a particular site and deals with issues locally. The Convener also deals with your full-time Sabbatical Officers - the Vice President of Academic Affairs, the Vice President of Services and Trading, and the President. These three are full-time, paid student representatives who fight for your rights at the highest levels of the DIT.
The Sabbatical Officers get told what to do and how to do it at Governing Council. Governing Council is made up of students elected from each site at the Class Rep Meetings. These Councillors make policy for the Union by discussing and passing motions, as well as making sure that your elected representatives are doing their jobs.

In a nutshell:
Students are here to learn, and have a great time while doing so. Class reps are there to help students solve problems which interfere with their learning or experience. Class Rep Convenors are there to run the meetings, events and activities on each site. The Sabbatical Officers (President and two Vice-Presidents) are there to help the class reps with larger issues, and to keep the whole show on the road. The Governing Council is there to make sure that everything is working as it should be, and to create policy. The staff is there to help you and to facilitate the work of the elected reps.

Your Union is here to support you.
For general enquiries, directions, referrals or contact details you can always call into your local Students' Union office, where you will be directed to the right person. The Student Support Advisors are just for you so go ahead and ask them anything - from accommodation to academic and financial to personal issues, we know the answer so make sure you find your SU office straight away.
The Union has departments dedicated to Academic Affairs (education related issues); Student Affairs (wellbeing and health issues); Events and Marketing (box and want to party?); Trading (shops on all of the main sites and Communications (ditsu.ie, mags such as this one and posters) so we have all the angles covered.

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You, as students, are there to always demand better and to play your part in achieving it.
Public transport won't always be an option, particularly at night, so Joe Maxi is always available. Can be hailed, hired or booked over the phone. Average fare for a taxi from the airport to the city center is 25-30 euros. Recognised by the yellow sign on the roof — showing the licence number.

**BE SAFE:** If you travel alone in a taxi, always sit in the back. Get into the habit of noting the taxi id number — displayed somewhere on the dashboard, in case you forget something or you need it for some reason.

If you are based in Dublin chances are there is a train near you. Or perhaps you need to travel long distances to get home at the weekend? Either way these are the services available to you.

**DART (Dublin):** DART stands for Dublin Area Rapid Transport and is a branch of Dublin's suburban rail service. DART operates between Malahide (most northern stop) and Greystones (most southern stop). 25 stations along route with variety of ticket options. DART services begin at approx. 05.40 on weekdays and finish before midnight.

**LUAS (Dublin):** Two main stations in Dublin — Heuston (travelers arrive from South and West of Ireland) and Connolly (arrive from north, north west and south east). The Luas Red Line connects both stations. See website for information on terminals, timetables, fares and tickets. The Student Travel card: can also save you money, just ask in your SU office for details of how to get one.

**Bus Eireann:** Bus Eireann operates to the rest of the country from Bus Aras (01 8366111) located on Amin Street (opposite Connolly station). See website for information on terminals, timetables, fares and tickets. The Student Travel card: can also save you money, just ask in your SU office for details of how to get one.

Private airport bus operator (distinct blue buses). Runs 24 hours a day. A handy option for those trips to the airport, much cheaper than getting a taxi.

Costs 7 euro one way / 12 euro return luxury express from the city center. Other locations detailed on website (available from as far as Greystones, Bray, Cork and Belfast).
A Culchie's Guide To The Big Smoke

So you've just stepped off the bus from Kinnead, Clonmel, Mallow or who knows where, and you gaze up at the ominous structure of Busáras (pronounced Bus-AHR-as, not Bus-ar-as). You'll get to know every intimate detail of Busasaurus over the coming years as you wait for the seven-hour bus journey home. But that's not what's important here. What's important is some helpful tips for how to survive in a city where it's not acceptable to cross the road without looking, where you don't know your barmen by name and where it's unacceptable to call everyone you meet "sham." Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the Big Smoke.

Upon exiting Bus-aahras you might notice a square tram-like contraption that you may have seen in those pictures of Dublin from the 1920s in the history books. Called a Luas (pronounced "the bloody thing's late again") it will take you wherever you want to go - if wherever you want to go is within a severely limited area of the southside of the City. On the plus side, it's very handy to get the Red Line out to The Point for that inevitable Horslips reunion gig.

Beyond that, you'll probably eventually stumble upon O'Connell St, which is where you'll probably drunkenly stumble many a night in the near future in an effort to find Supermac's (yes, they have it here too). Looking upwards, you may see a tall-looking object known affectionately to locals as "De Spioire". Pricking the skyline with its pointed tip, it serves as a fitting monument to the pricks in Leinster House.

Continuing towards the Lifey (no, you can't go swimming in it, unless you want a third arm), you may feel a certain shudder as you cross the bridge on O'Flaherty St. Congratulations, my friend, you've just entered the Southside, where never a body in the locality has heard of road frontage, silage or knows where bacon comes from - even though bacon is only acceptable on a ciabatta with melted Brie. Give us a good aul rashern sandwich any day.

Should you decline to head across the bridge and decide instead to head north, be warned: just because someone addresses you as "buddy" does not mean that they are your friend. If you feel the need to hop into a taxi for your own safety, some helpful tips for conversation include the weather, the state of the taxi industry, politicians and sentences which begin with "I'm not racist, but..."

Having been fleeced for a taxi fare, you may fortuitously find yourself at your place of accommodation. Yes, the pictures didn't really prepare you for it, and the nice man at the other end of the phone didn't mention that the mould growing from one side of the couch had developed a personality and a love of light jazz. But it's alright. There's not much better for £800 a week will get you...
Accommodation

So, you have finally finished the most difficult exams of your life (so far), and chosen DIT as the college you will study at. Whether you have to move 5 miles or 50 miles this is where it all begins! Your first sniff of freedom, away from the parents, meeting new people - this is the start of the next step in your life. And it all begins with the hunt for accommodation.

I'm your VP now, but for the past four years I have been a student of DIT, studying a full-time undergrad. I am originally from Mayo, so I have my fair share of experience renting in the city.

In my first year, I stayed with family in Co. Kildare and commuted. The bus, although lovely and warm on the cold winter mornings, took an hour to get in. If I was in at 9am, I had to get the twenty past 7 bus in the morning, which meant I was out of bed at half six. Buses home also cut my social time short. Needless to say I got sick of that quite quickly.

In the second semester of first year I moved into student halls. Student halls are great craic. You can call over to your friends at any time, and parties are open invitation. Some of the people I made friends with in those halls are still my good friends today. I never got my deposit back from those halls as the landlord claimed I had outstanding rent. I had paid my rent in cash into their bank account and had not kept receipts. Lesson learned - always keep receipts!

In second year I moved into a private apartment with girls I met in the student halls. Although the apartment was small and a bit dreary we made the best of it, organising a cleaning rota, making it homely with throws and pillows, and adding cool things like hammocks and beanbags. The location was brilliant for students and we threw lots of parties in our apartment. We all kept it very clean and it was a very happy time in my student life. Lesson learned - room with people who are clean and problems will be minimal! Unfortunately we had signed for a year lease so when we broke our lease to leave in May, we didn't get our deposit back.

In third year I signed up with a student accommodation provider and was placed in a house with three other girls. The house was an old, Victorian house with old, decrepit, mismatched furniture. This year was my worst, accommodation wise, as the light bulbs keep blowing and the high Victorian ceilings made it impossible for us to change them. The landlords were too busy managing all their properties to make changing our light bulbs their priority. This resulted in many showers in the dark.

In my final year, I shared with one very good friend. The apartment was big and airy, but that was the problem. There was too much air, all of it freezing. We blasted the little heaters through the winter in order to avoid hypothermia, resulting in a huge electricity bill which we struggled to pay. During the harshest months of the winter we both spent a lot of time in other people's houses to keep warm. Another lesson learned - always check there is central heating!

Now I live in a big, warm, friendly share-house with four couples. We get on quite well - we have a shared sitting room but we always have our rooms if we need time by ourselves.

House-hunting and house-sharing is an exciting business. You will have many experiences, some good and some bad! Landlords can sometimes take advantage of students so stand up for yourself! And if you have any problems, call me or email me, lord knows I have experience!

vrapademic@ditsu.ie
086 603 1075
Before you move out of home, you should make a list of items you need to pack. It might be an idea to do this with someone who has experience of living out of home. Here is a list to get you started.

**BEDDING:**
you will need your own sheets, make sure you know the size of the bed. You might want to bring a mattress cover too; you don't know how many people have slept in your bed before you.

Remember you are here until at least the end of May so you need all weather clothes. If you are planning to go home at the weekends you don't have to bring everything in one go.

**TOWELS:**
Bring two or more, they will get dirty or borrowed or lost! Remember to wash them regularly!

All your essentials from shampoo to hair gel. If you are sharing a bathroom, it might be an idea to keep your toiletries in your room and write your name on them.

**PJ's:** A must, especially if you are sharing a room. You don't want to scare your room mate straight away!

**Laundry:**
washing powder and softener, it's always handy to have a bottle of anti-bacterial spray. Unfortunately there will be no one to clean up after you.

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**Where should I look?**

When viewing accommodation, it can sometimes take over and you can forget some of the key questions. Here are some questions to ask before handing over your rent deposit:

- How much is the rent?
- Do I pay my rent weekly or monthly?
- Do I have to give a deposit and how much is it?
- How and when can I get my deposit back?
- Are bills included in the rent, if not how do they work?
- Is there a lease or a rent book?
- What is the penalty for breaking the lease?
- Who has access to the property?
- Who can I contact if I have a problem?
- Can I have a list of what is in the accommodation?
- Is the house insured?
- Are there any repairs that are needed?
- Is there hot and cold running water?
- Do all the appliances work?
- Are there washing facilities for clothes?
- What type of heating system is there?
- Is there smoke alarms and do they work?
- Is parking available and do I need a permit?
- How far is the local shop?
- What public transport is available?
- Are there amenities around the area?
- When is the property available to move in?
RAG Week 2011

RAG stands for RAISING and GIVING and without a doubt it is one of the highlights if not the highlight of the academic calendar. It is a week chocked full with cheap and cheerful activities to get involved in and some stellar night time gigs - and it'll do your karma counter good too because it's all in aid of charity!

This year our hope is that DIT students will become involved with the charity on more than just a fund raising level. We hope to be able to introduce more DIT students to volunteering through our chosen RAG Charity. Money is not the only valuable commodity - so is your time!

Citywise is a not-for-profit organisation which was set up to run educational, sporting and personal development programmes. It began in 1991 in Dublin as a response to educational under-achievement of young people living in difficult city backgrounds and was formally established in 1994. Over the past fifteen years it has gradually developed a range of supports for young people in Southhill, Limerick; in Ballymun, in Jobstown, in Ballynacarrig, Westmeath and in Belfast.

In 2005, Citywise opened a 1,500 sq m purpose built education and outdoor centre in Jobstown to serve the education, social and personal development needs of young people, especially those in their teenage years in West Tallaght. This achievement was the result of focussed hard work over a ten year period in the area. Over 300 young people, ranging from highly alienated youth to local young people with third level aspirations, use the centre activities regularly; the limitation of their involvement impeded only by staffing levels.

The idea, which lies at the heart of all Citywise activities is that once a young person gets involved, Citywise seeks to maintain that involvement over a number of years, providing the person with greater educational motivation and ensuring that they engage in constructive sporting and youth pursuits. Citywise Education was set up as an independent company in West Tallaght to run this centre (The Durkan Centre).

There are also Citywise activities elsewhere. Currently in Ballymun Citywise is working with the Plough Club in developing a new centre along the lines of that in West Tallaght activities take place in rented premises and depend almost totally on volunteer input.

Just pop into your local Students' Union office if you want to find out more about RAG Week, Citywise or find out how to get involved.
DIT Stereotypes

Dublin is not solely the preserve of the snobby Trinity student or the perma-tanned UCD student - here at DIT, we like to have our own stereotypes to mercilessly slag. To help foster a bit of campus rivalry before you even set foot on the place, we invite you to examine the DIT stereotypes.

Aungier Street:
Traditionally the Aungier (pronounce Avm-jer Street by the locals) is seen as the UCD version of UCD, just a little closer to the Liffey than they’d like. The guys are generally seen as ‘focks’ and often spend as much time and money on their hair as any of the girls. The cailins are sometimes referred to as the ‘Barbie dolls’ of DIT (not our words, we’re just impartial observers!). They are generally quite nocturnal creatures, needing to get up at the crack of dawn in order to GHD, fake tan and gel nail themselves into perfection - all so they can tell people they’re big fans of the ‘natural look’. The uniform generally consists of white or grey uniforms, beige boots and rugby jerseys.

Kevin Street:
Ah, Kevin Street, the oldest DIT. The locals refer to the two conjoined buildings as the ‘old building’ and the ‘new building’. Realistically, this is a blatant lie - it’s the ‘old building’ and the ‘new building’. Kevin Street is stereotyped as home of the science and computer students, essentially the nerds of DIT. Girls are a rarity in Kevin Street and the boys know it, so they take it in shifts to hang out with them. They can often be recognized by the fact that they carry ‘gadgets’ and wear t-shirts that no-one else understands, but they find hilarious. Known to deal with problems by asking people if they’ve tried turning it off and then back on again, it is of no consequence whether the problem is a flicked up computer or a crying girl, the question is deemed appropriate in all manner of situations.

Mountjoy Square:
The stereotypical view of a Mountjoy is that of a young, free-spirited, hipster type people. Mountjoy Square is the sort of campus where if you leave an inanimate object down for longer than five seconds, it will end up in a sculpture or as a representation of someone’s inner turmoil. They have the ability to make anything art and the sheer will to do so. Easily distracted, they are recognized by their traditionally ‘arty’ attire, piercings, tattoos and hemp trousers are all commonplace. As are pirates. We have no idea or explanation as to why.

Cathal Brugha Street:
Smells great! No sooner are you in the door than the waft of various foods assaults your senses - particularly if you’re a starving student. The Brugha is the home of hospitality and food! Although a relatively small campus, it pulls the students from all around with the promise of meals you can’t hope to pronounce, never mind afford. The average Brugha student can be easily identified by the fact that they’re carrying knives (not in a violent way, in an artistic way) The favoured of all the CBST students is the trainee barman. There’s nothing like a cocktail class on a Friday afternoon to make you the most popular guy in town!

Bolton Street:
The name’s Ferguson, Massey Ferguson... if ever one of the DITs had the association of cliche’s it’s fair to say it’s Bolton Street. The fine producer of some of the best engineers this side of Dublin, Bolton Street was known for a long time as the ‘boys’ college’. There were a few girls who wandered in, but often they were lost, so the lads drew maps to help them find their way out. A Bolton ‘pack’ (they rarely travel alone) can be spotted any night of the week out for the craic and girls (girls is pronounced as having two syllables). If there’s a County Colors or Farmer’s Ball within a ten mile radius, that’s where you’ll find the Boltons.

Rathmines:
Essentially, Rathmines is the DIT equivalent of the Fame Academy. A clay with the miners is like being in a musical. Even a simple request like ‘can you pass the milk?’ can provoke a verbal onslaught and rather than be embarrassed, the rest of the room will join in. A trip to the bathroom can involve anything from leg warmers to a ukulele, sometimes both. If it can be sung or acted out, you can count on a Miner to make it so.
Student Finance

Student cards mean student discounts! Always ask for the student discount. It can be anything up to ten percent, and in Peter Mark it's 20%!

Students Union Shops are the cheapest and most convenient shops around! Insomnia coffee in the Union Shops is a fraction of the normal price.

Get a student Travel card if you will ever take a bus or train in your four years! The discounts are huge, especially on the train. Don't forget to renew it every year! Forms are available in your local Students Union offices and shop.

Look out for free/discounted services advertised on ditsu.ie and in the SU common areas: e.g., free haircuts. Hairdressers are always looking for hair models for their trainee hairdressers - don't worry they are always supervised!

Mobile phone companies are always trying to undercut each other, so shop around to find the best deal. To find out the cheapest option for you, go to www.callcosts.ie to compare the cost of personal mobile phone and broadband operators.

If you have broadband internet, call your friends on Skype. Skype is completely free to communicate with other people on Skype and cheaper to landlines and mobiles around the world - Just download at www.skype.ie

The 'Grant'

If you are eligible for the maintenance grant you should spend it wisely. Write a list of what you have to pay for - your essentials and not those shoes you saw last week! Your essential payments should include: food, light and heat, rent and travel expenses. If you think you are eligible for the maintenance grant, ensure you apply for it as soon as possible. For more information on maintenance grant visit www.studentfinance.ie

If you are not eligible for the maintenance grant, do not fear. DIT provides a Student Assistant fund for students who are in financial difficulty. This fund is available for all full-time students in courses longer than a year. The forms are available from your local Students Union Office. Visit www.ditsu.ie to find out more information.

If your time table isn't jam packed, it might be an option to look into getting a part-time job. We know they are little scarce at the moment, but dust off that CV and keep on the look out! Check out www.ditsu.ie/jobs-list.

If you are finding yourself in financial difficulty throughout your time in college call into your local Students Union Office and we can give you help and advice.

More Info

Financial advice websites:
www.ditsu.ie/finance
www.studentfinance.ie
www.mabs.ie
www.itsyouromoney.ie
www.financialregulator.ie

If you are finding yourself in financial difficulty during your time in college call into your local Students' Union Office and we can give you help and advice.
DIT Student Services
http://www.dit.ie/campuslife/studentsupport
Student Sports, Recreation and Support Services Fund:
- Student Assistance Funding
- Personal Accident Insurance Scheme
- Accommodation Service
Contact: Mail student.services@dit.ie
Tel: +353-1-402 3394
Fax: +353-1-402 3449

DIT Health Centres
Student Health Service, DIT Aungier St. serving the South City DIT colleges; Aungier St, Kevin Street, Rathmines, Temple Bar, Conservatory of Music.
Situated: Room 205, second floor of Aungier St. college
Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 9.30am-12.30pm, 2.15pm-4.30pm
Contact: 01 402 3051
Student health centre Bolton Street serving the north city DIT colleges: Bolton Street, Mountjoy Square, Caltham Brusha st, Linnenthal.
Situated: Linnenthal Lodge, across from main entrance to Bolton St college.
Opening Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-12.30 1.30-4pm
Contact: 01 402 3044

DIT Disability Service
http://www.dit.ie/campuslife/disability/
Contact: If you have any queries please contact the office at 01 402 7681 or email susanne.dulan@dit.ie

DIT Student Counselling Service
Contact: If you have contacted our secretary, she will allocate the next available counsellor to you.
Contact: Ring our secretary Gabby Lynch on (01) 402 3352, text to 086 0820543 or email gabby.lynch@dit.ie

DIT Mature Student Office
Contact: Bob O'Nuarch
Mature Student Support Officer
K3-L7 Lower Rathmines Road
(01) 402 7658
mss.info@dit.ie

DIT Student Retention Office
Contact: K3 Lower Rathmines Road
Call 01 4027661

DIT Careers Service
Contact: DIT Careers Service southside
Room 203B, DIT Aungier Street, Dublin 2.
Tel: 01-402 3052
Email: Careers@dit.ie
Contact: DIT Careers Service northside
63-73 Capel Street, Dublin 1.
Tel: 01-402 2861
Email: Careers@dit.ie
4pm 10am – 4pm and then 2pm-4pm, Monday to Friday.

DIT Chaplaincy Service
See http://chaplaincy.dit.ie
Contact: Co-coordinator Chaplaincy Service
Aungier St Room CO03(0002) – 402 3050
143-149 Rathmines Rd. – 402 3307
Call 087-6417309 or mail Mary at
Mary.Flanagan@dit.ie

Clubs & Societies and DIT Sports
Societies are run by students for students supported by DIT and Students' Union through advice, administration & finance.
Contact: Anita Conway - Societies Organiser
anita.conway@dit.ie or 01 402 7123

No matter what your sporting aspirations are, DIT Sports is committed to helping you achieve these.
Contact: DIT Sports & Recreation Office
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Together is better

DIT campus life
A BETTER STUDENT EXPERIENCE

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The biggest change you will notice is that you are treated like an adult, because you are one (unless you're one of those gifted children who got 600 points in the leaving aged four and a half). So what will being treated like an adult feel like?

The first thing you will notice is the room itself. Very often your lectures will be in theatre style rooms, with tiered seating and benches instead of tables. If you were in school you'd see a great opportunity to chat and pass notes to one another, but in college it allows you to get a very different experience where the lecturer engages you from the front of the room. Fortunately in DIT, most classes are not that large, but some may have over 100 students.

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Need help?
Don't worry. If you are having trouble with a particular subject, you need grinds, there is a grinds-file on the www.dit.ie and you should be able to find someone to help you there. As so many courses in DIT are maths related, there is a Maths Learning Centre there to help with any maths problems. They run evening workshops and are completely free of charge (you will receive regular emails from them). If you can't get the help you need, are having trouble adjusting to your new and exciting way of life, never hesitate to contact us.

What's a lecture?
Far from being a ten minute rant by your mother on the importance of drying the dishes, a lecture is a type of class used to deliver information to students. Most lectures will just involve taking notes while some can be very engaging with long discussions between the lecturer and the class. It is important to know that a lecture often does not contain all you need to know on a particular topic. It may be an overview, and you are expected to study the topic in more detail in your own time.

What about tutorials?
A tutorial is a much more informal type of class. They often cover the same material as a lecture but is more detail. The class is often split into smaller groups for tutorials, to allow for discussion and debate. If you are having trouble with a topic, this is a great opportunity to work with others on it, and get help before you fall behind.

What are labs for?
Labs, or laboratory sessions are similar to tutorials in that the class is split into smaller groups. Not every course has labs, and labs may not mean the same thing to every course. In the science, engineering and other technical courses, labs are an an opportunity for you to gain a practical hand-on experience of what you are studying. You will then be expected to write a lab-report on the experiment.

Self-Directed Learning?
This is a technical term for studying in your own time. This is an essential part of life as a college student. You need to find the mode of study that works best for you. Many like studying in groups, while study as they have internet access, thousands of books, and academic journals. You will also be able to view many journals and texts online tool throughout your time in DIT.

Need some Study skills?
This year, Campus Life, DITSU and the Access Service are getting together to offer a comprehensive range of study skills classes to all interested students. Want to find out how to write the perfect essay or make a great presentation? Then these free lunchtime classes are just what you need! The classes cover 5 main areas:

- Assignment Preparation (including Plagiarism Awareness)
- Time Management
- Working in Groups
- Making a Good Presentation
- Exam Preparation & Techniques

The classes run throughout Semester 1 and are each delivered twice - once for Northside Students (delivered in Cathal Brugha St.) and once for Southside Students (delivered in Aungier St.). Each class runs for about 45-50 minutes between 1 and 2pm and is absolutely free. No need to make an appointment, just come along on the day. For full details and lots of useful downloadable notes, visit http://www.dit.ie/study
Believe it or not college is not just about academic achievement. If you want to get the most out of the college experience, you have to get involved! DIT have some of the best Clubs & Societies in the country (Fact- we’re award winning!). The Students’ Union has strong ties with both DIT Clubs and DIT Societies, mainly because both provide great opportunities for you, the student.

The range of Clubs and Socts are really far too many to go into detail here, but believe us all taste is catered for! And if by some stretch of the imagination its not we can help you set up your own Club or Society. Early in the Semester there will be a Clubs & Societies Festival where the various Clubs & Socts will be manning stands promoting their activities.

The Clubs & Socts Team are a friendly bunch so don’t hesitate to contact them for any reason at any time. Your local Students’ Union office will also be able to answer general questions or put you in contact with either Clubs or Socts.

Sign Up to join any of over 120 amazing Clubs & Societies
Joining costs just €2 - €5

Get Involved
For more info see www.socs.dit.ie
and www.ditsports.ie
COMPETITION: BE OUR GUEST

Would you like to receive a FREE PASS to all of the official DIT Students’ Union events for the year? What if we mentioned that these gigs in the past have featured the likes of THE CORONAS, FIGHT LIKE APES, DELORENTOS, THE SAWDOCTORS & FRED? Thought so! Well, we have some great acts being lined up this year, and you could be there for free...

To be in with a chance to win log onto our Facebook page. Just visit DITSU.IE or FACEBOOK.COM/DITSTUDENTSSUNION.

Just friend us and leave a comment completing this sentence: WHEN I FOUND OUT I GOT INTO DIT, THE FIRST THING I DID WAS...

The 3 funniest entries (as judged by us here in DITSU) will win the fabulous prize of 2 tickets to every one of our events for the year.

Closing date for entries is Friday 17th September at 5pm. Winner will be notified by email and announced on Facebook. You must be a registered DIT student to win. A valid DIT Student Card will be required to claim prize.

Seemed like a good idea...

...here’s a better one

Ulster Bank

Talk to your local Ulster Bank Student Officer today!