

UW Chemical & Biological Engineering Summer Lab in Limerick

Important Dates

Arrival in Limerick, Housing check-in: Wednesday May 27, 2026

First day of class: Thursday May 28, 2026

Last day of class: Wednesday July 1, 2026

Housing check-out, Departure from Limerick: Thursday July 2, 2026

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Course overview

The Operations and Process Laboratory, CBE 424, familiarly known as Summer Lab, is a required Chemical Engineering course. It is typically the last requirement prior to graduation, and it is only offered during the summer. It involves performing experimental work and writing reports based on the results. The course runs for eight hours a day, five days a week, for five weeks and it is considered a full-time commitment and also is full-time enrollment for UW purposes.

UW-Madison students can complete CBE 424 abroad in Limerick, Ireland. The course is hosted by the University of Limerick's (UL) Department of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering. A UW-Madison CBE faculty member will co-facilitate the course along with faculty from UL. All staff grade the experiments/lab reports they supervise. While the UW staff member has the final decision on grades, all staff actively participate in the evaluation.

All lab manuals will be provided at the beginning of the course. Each group will complete all formal labs and a select number of informal labs. A report will be due a few days after each lab is completed. Reports are usually written individually. The final lab will not have a report; instead, there will be a final presentation to the professors, students, graduate assistants, and lab technicians.

The course is designed to make you think independently. There is not much assistance provided by instructors unless you have specific questions or concerns. It is very important to read the lab manual thoroughly and come to the lab prepared.

Laptop/textbooks

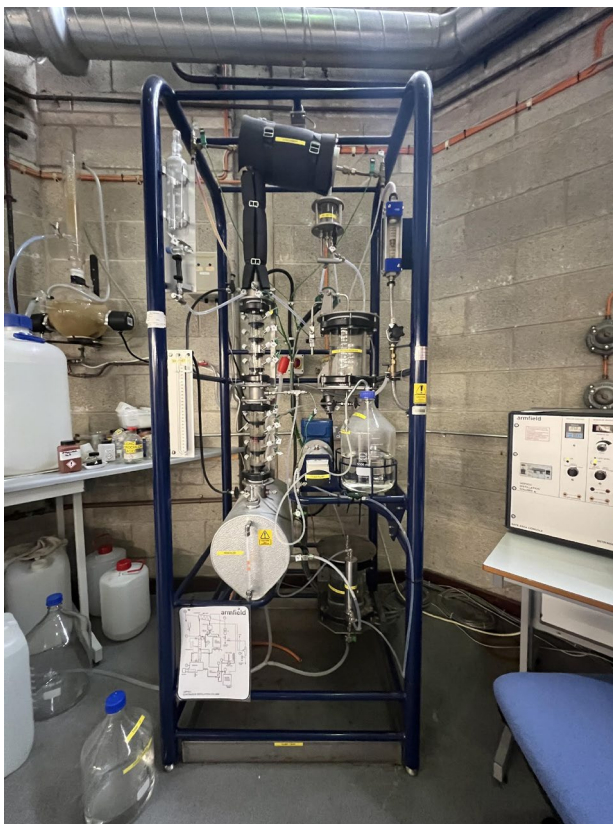
You are required to bring a laptop computer with you to the program. You will not need a printer; reports will be submitted electronically through Canvas, Google Drive, or similar platforms. Publications such as Perry's Manual or CRC are available online through the UW library site which is accessible from abroad. The lab manual and other supplies will be provided.

Lab partners

You will have an opportunity to choose your lab partner later in the spring term. Your preference will be noted and generally honored unless there are additional considerations. The final decision is made by the course director.

Lab

The lab is Room CG024 in the ground floor of the Main University Building (13 on [this campus map](#)). Lab coats and safety glasses are provided to all participants at the beginning of the course and are required upon entry. The lab is a 15-minute walk from the student housing, so you'll need to plan travel time accordingly.



Technology

The University of Limerick is a participant of the 'eduroam' consortium. You can access the eduroam network within the university using your UW Madison credentials. Information on how to set up your computer or phone [can be found here](#). You should do this while in Madison to streamline your connection process once overseas.

Many US mobile phone providers have international phone plans that you can arrange prior to departure. Given the short duration of this program, this is a good option to look into with your provider. You can also purchase a SIM card in Ireland and have a local number, though you will need to make sure your phone is unlocked, which needs to be done with your provider and prior to departure. You will need to make sure you have a phone number that works in country and is not dependent on WiFi. The country code for Ireland is +353. If you get a local SIM card, your number will begin with this number.

There are a few companies in Limerick where you can purchase SIM cards- here are the links to their webpages:

- [Three](#)
- [eirMobile](#)
- [Vodafone Ireland](#)

There are different options/costs depending on the GB of data and the number of call minutes included. Most companies do not require a contract, and you can 'top up' your card when your balance runs low. Companies don't typically ship SIM cards abroad, but you could order them and have them sent to the residence hall or wait to purchase one upon arrival. The easiest way to acquire an international SIM card is at the airport upon arrival. There will be stands selling them. e-SIM cards can also be a good option as they can generally be ordered and set up prior to departure. If you buy an e-SIM ensure that you can take regular phone calls on it in case of an emergency; this is not always a standard option because some e-SIMs are data-only.

Travel to Limerick

You are responsible for making your own travel plans to Ireland. There is not a group flight. You are encouraged to travel with one or more members of the group if possible. It is strongly recommended that you fly directly into the Shannon Airport (airport code SNN), which is located 24 km from Limerick City. If you fly into Shannon and arrive on the designated arrival date, UL offers optional bus transportation to campus. If you fly into Shannon on a different day, the most convenient (yet most expensive) option is to take a taxi. There are other options as well, which you can read about.

It is, however, often less expensive to fly into the Dublin airport. If you fly in earlier or into other airports (Dublin, Cork, etc), you will need to arrange your own transportation. You can find detailed instructions below.

Flying into Dublin

If you fly into Dublin, you will need to make your own way to Limerick. Dublin Coach provides a bus service from the airport directly to the University of Limerick. [Detailed instructions are provided here](#), including timetables and other links and information.

The University of Limerick is located in Castletroy, four kilometers from the Limerick City Centre. You can take the local bus and ticket prices are about two Euros/ride. You must pay the driver in cash. Please have coins or small bills available. The UL stop is the University of Limerick (Stables) bus stop, which is number 16 on this [campus map](#). You may also get a Leap Card using your provided student ID at the Student Centre, preload it with a minimum of €5 and use this card to pay for each trip on almost any transport in Ireland. The advantage is that local bus fares are only €0.65 on local buses. If you ride the bus only 4 times, this will save you money. However, the loaded money is not refundable, so make sure that you only add as much money as you are planning to spend.

You can read more about bus routes here:

- [304 & 304A](#)
- [310](#)

Arrival/Departure Dates

It is recommended that you arrive on the date designated by the University of Limerick. The campus will have some welcome activities Wednesday afternoon/evening for several groups of

international students and expects students to be arriving at the university earlier that day. If you plan to arrive early or stay after the end of the program, you will need to make and pay for your own arrangements off campus.

All summer school students will meet for orientation on Thursday morning. Coordinators will take you on a short campus tour and introduce you to the university. You will also be taken to the lab and introduced to the rules and procedures.

Before departure, there will be a farewell event at which you will receive a certificate of attendance. Here's a photo from a past farewell ceremony:



Accommodations

Housing arrangements are in one of the campus villages at UL. The students were housed in Thomond Village during the Summer 2025 session. The housing resembles an apartment with 2, 4, or 6 single rooms including an ensuite bathroom as well as a shared kitchen, balcony, and common area. Example room photos:



Most likely, all UW students will be in the same student “village” (building cluster), which will be assigned prior to your arrival. Check-in will be Wednesday morning or mid-day, depending on your arrival. Students will have single rooms in the residence hall, but may have a double on field trips or site visits. Amenities in the residence hall include WiFi, 24/7 security, a weekly change of sheets and towels and cleaning of the room and bathroom. Example of provided toiletries:



The housing staff may not provide toilet paper each week, but if you run out you can talk to the reception desk. There are laundry facilities on-site with washers and dryers costing approximately 3 Euros per cycle. There are only 4 washers and 4 dryers for the entire housing community, so it is best to get there early. Housing for days before or after the program may be available if arranged in advance, and depend on availability.

While there is no curfew, please respect other residents and keep noise to a minimum at all times.

Food and mealtimes

Lunch and dinners at a campus cafeteria are included in the program fee on Monday to Friday. It's up to you how you handle your other meals, but breakfast is available a la carte at various locations on campus Monday to Friday as well. Breakfast is served from 8-9 and typically includes small pastries, cereal, and a hot item. Lunch (12:30-13:30) and dinner (17:00-18:00) have one main entrée, but there is sometimes a vegetarian option as well. Common dishes include curry, stew, and pasta. Many meals include potatoes so you may want to take or purchase some spices to add some variety.

There are grocery stores relatively close to campus that you can take the bus to or walk if you're feeling ambitious. There is also a small store, Spar, on campus (similar to a Kwik Trip) where you can buy snacks and other miscellaneous items.

On days when meals are not provided, you may opt to have food delivered to your housing. Deliveroo is a common app used for this. Additionally, there are a few food places on campus including The Stables (an establishment that many UL students and staff frequent), The Scholars Club, Apache Pizza, and Starbucks.

UL offers additional advice on food, shopping, and student life here:

<https://www.ul.ie/global/incoming-students/pre-arrival-information/orientation/life-limerick>

Visa

US citizens do not need a visa to travel to Ireland on this program since they will be in country for less than 90 days. The European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) is currently scheduled to go into effect in late 2026, but has been delayed multiple times. We recommend you pay attention to the news and the official ETIAS website in the leadup to your departure to Ireland. At this time we don't expect that Summer 2026 students will need to apply for ETIAS.

https://travel-europe.europa.eu/etias_en

Once ETIAS goes into effect, ETIAS will not be required for entry into Ireland, but if you are planning on personal travel in continental EU countries, we encourage you to get your ETIAS travel authorization before leaving the U.S. If you plan to change planes in an ETIAS country, we recommend submitting an ETIAS application in case you will need to leave the international transfer area. It can take up to 30 days to process your application. If you are not a U.S. citizen check the ETIAS travel authorization web page to determine if ETIAS or another visa is required.

If you will transit through the United Kingdom (such as London Heathrow International Airport) on the way to Ireland you will need to apply for and receive the UK's Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) prior to departure.

<https://www.gov.uk/eta/apply>

Non-US citizens may need to obtain a visa prior to departure depending on citizenship and they are responsible for confirming whether or not they need a visa. International students who need a visa must obtain the ["short C visit study visa"](#). You are responsible for your own visa application and are cautioned that the time frame to obtain the visa in the spring is short, so you need to be responsible and complete the required steps well in advance.

International students also need to check with ISS regarding their US (F-1) visa status and considerations. Please contact your ISS advisor for more information and to discuss your situation, especially if you will be graduating in the summer you are completing CBE 424 abroad.

Limerick

Limerick is the third largest city in Ireland, and one of the country's oldest. It is located in the west, about two hours from Dublin and an hour each from Cork, Galway and the Cliffs of Moher. Frank McCourt (author of Angela's Ashes and other books) was from Limerick, as was Rose Fitzgerald- John F. Kennedy's mother. It is also home to King John's Castle, Saint Mary's Cathedral and near Bunratty Castle and Folk Park. You are strongly encouraged to take time to explore the city throughout your stay!

Some notable things to do/see in Limerick:

- [The Milk Market](#)

- [Saint Mary's Cathedral](#)
- [Bunratty Castle](#)
- [The Hunt Museum](#)
- [The Treaty Stone](#)

Weather

The weather in Ireland is very unpredictable. One minute it may be 85 °F and sunny while the next it may be cold and raining. The weather in Limerick in May and June typically has highs of about 60-65°F (15-20°C) and lows of about 50°F. It typically rains about half the days during the summer months. Business casual clothing will be appropriate for industrial visits and the final oral presentation. Specific rules apply to technical visits and in the lab (long trousers and closed shoes).

Local Transportation/Travel

The local public bus system is called Bus Eireann and they provide service to the UL on the following routes:

- [304 & 304A](#)
- [310](#)

There are two bus stops on campus: one inside the Main Entrance and the other outside the Student Life Courtyard. You can pay for your trips using a [Student Leap Card](#), which is a discounted fare.

There are also regional bus and train services, which operate from Colbert Station on Parnell Street. From UL, you can take the 304/304A bus to Sexton Street. From Colbert Station, there are regular departures to Dublin, Cork, Galway, Shannon, etc.

[IrishRail](#) has frequent train services to/from Limerick.

Depending on how well you manage your time, it might be possible to do one or two one-day trips during a weekend. Most participants do short day trips to nearby cities within Ireland. The program will also include several day trips to local tourist attractions and industry sites. Longer trips are discouraged and participants are advised to schedule any long excursion before or after the course. Personal trips that would result in missing any lab activities are strictly prohibited.

Packing

Do not pack your passport, travel documents, tickets, or valuables in your suitcase. Keep these items on yourself in a money belt, an inside jacket pocket, or a bag or pack that you can wear slung across your chest. Never put important papers or money in a backpack – it's easy for a pickpocket to get into your bag if it's not in your line of sight.

Keep track of your documents. Keep physical or electronic photocopies of your passport and debit/credit cards. You may also want to leave copies of important documents with a trusted

person back home. Having copies will facilitate the process to replace your passport or stop/avoid payments charged to credit cards.

Limerick and Castletroy are generally safe cities. Places like stations, airports and touristy areas of big cities are more likely areas where pickpockets operate. Always watch your belongings and if you need to stop to look at your phone or a map, do it in a place where you can be completely aware of your surroundings and make sure to keep track of your personal items.

Packing list

Pack light! You don't need as much as you might think and just about anything you need is widely available.

- Laptop
- Chargers
- Adaptor/converter for electronics
- Passport
- Personal hygiene items
- Prescription medication for the duration of your stay (be sure to check that your prescriptions are allowed through EU customs and in Ireland).
- Glasses/contacts and solutions
- Umbrella
- Light (waterproof) jacket
- Money belt or pouch
- Lighter pants, shorts, skirts
- Short sleeved and lighter long sleeved shirts
- Swimsuit
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Lock: If you are staying in hostels while traveling before or after the program, you may be required to provide your own lock for your luggage
- Extra photocopy of your credit cards and the photo page of your passport

Electric Appliances

The standard voltage in Ireland is 230 V. Many U.S. appliances will work in Ireland if used with a good quality voltage converter. That said, small appliances such as hair dryers/straighteners don't usually do well using a converter, so it's recommended to leave those at home! Most laptop power supplies are rated for 110 V-240 V, 50 Hz-60 Hz and should work with a simple plug adapter. Plugs in Ireland are the type G pattern also used in the UK, and different than in the US (and mainland Europe), so you will need to use an adaptor. You can buy plug adaptors (from US to Ireland type) for your laptops, etc. prior to departure. It is also possible to buy them upon arrival, though they are likely easier to find and cheaper in the US.

Money

You will likely use a debit/credit card for most purchases. Make sure to let your bank/credit card companies know that you will be in Ireland so they won't block your accounts! Check with them so you know what charges you may be assessed for transaction/currency conversion fees while using your cards abroad. It is strongly recommended that you make copies of your cards (front and back) in case you lose them so you have account numbers as well as the contact information to notify them. You can withdraw euros from ATMs. You may want to do so at the airport upon arrival so you have some cash, though exchange rates at airports are much higher. The best rates can be found at large banks such as the Bank of Ireland.

All transactions will be in euros. The euro/dollar exchange rate varies slightly day-to-day, and has gradually changed between 1.2 : 1 and 0.8 : 1 over recent years. Most students quickly adjust to thinking in Euros and do not need to constantly convert prices to dollars.

Safety

In terms of protecting your belongings, valuables and cash, you should take the same precautions that you would in any major U.S. city. Leave your best jewelry and other valuables at home. **Don't travel with anything that you are not prepared to lose.** Although cities in Ireland have the reputation of being safe (and probably safer than most U.S. cities), you do not need to invite trouble by flashing jewelry, watches, wallets, phones, etc. Political statements on t-shirts and other clothing should also be avoided. Pickpocketing can be an issue in Dublin, especially in the summer, but by using the same common-sense precautions you would in any large city, you will likely avoid any issues of this kind. In general, keeping a lower profile and avoiding attracting attention is the way to go.

The number for emergency services is below:

Emergencies: 112 or 999 (provide access to police, firefighters, etc.)