

# International study idea floated on Scholar Ship

**U**NIVERSITY students in Ireland are being urged to take to the seas as part of their learning experience. The Scholar Ship is an ocean-going academic programme for international students aboard a passenger ship.

Representatives from the programme are visiting the Republic later this month in a bid to entice undergraduate and post-graduate students to set sail.

The programme is open to all students north and south and a series of financial scholarships to help European students take the programme, which usually costs about \$10,000, have been launched.

Developed by a consortium of leading international universities, the Scholar Ship brings students and staff from around the world together to form a "transnational learning community".

During one 16-week semester, students are taken around the world and pursue numerous opportunities through a port programme in which they participate in academic field studies, shore excursions and independent travel.

Countries included on the academic cruise are Greece, Portugal, Panama, Ecuador, Fiji, Australia and Japan.

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Integrated into the scheme's classroom curriculum, making for a sophisticated experiential learning experience.

About 600 students from around the world embark on each voyage. While on board, students are immersed in a multicultural living environment.

Organisers say the international student body and staff form a learning community that "integrates academic, cultural, and social experiences in programmes that would be virtually impossible to duplicate otherwise".



"The basis of the programme is inter-cultural studies and it is aimed at students who are interested in global relations," John Larkin, the Scholar Ship representative for Britain and Northern Ireland, said.

"Students will have an academic experience in which they will learn to study international cultures while experiencing international countries.

"If you are going to study international cultures then it should be done in an international environment rather than a classroom."

Undergraduate students can transfer their credits earned while on board back to their home universities, while post-graduate students will be awarded a free-standing certificate upon completion of the semester-long course.

"It is a fee paying programme and costs \$19,950. That includes fees, food and accommodation," Mr Larkin said.

"We are offering various levels of scholarships so students will get some contribution towards their tuition fees at both undergraduate and post-graduate."

■ Representatives from the ship will be at the Grad Ireland fair at Dublin's RDS from February 21-23. Visit [www.TheScholarShip.com](http://www.TheScholarShip.com) for more information.



■ **SHIP OF DREAMS:** The Scholar Ship brings students and staff from around the world together to form a "transnational learning community" during one 16-week semester

PICTURES: The Scholar Ship

