

NACADA Conference 2018 – Blog Post 1

It won't be long before the NACADA Conference is upon us, so exciting times ahead! This is the first in a series of blog posts aimed at conference attendees and presenters, so we hope you find them useful and informative.

A number of queries have already come in to the organising committee, the most common one being "What's the best option to get to the hotel from the airport?" so read on... We'll list a number of transport options to get to University College Dublin (UCD), where the conference is being hosted, and also to the city centre.

Dublin airport is located in the north of County Dublin, approximately 12km or 7.5 miles from Dublin City Centre. It has two terminals, both of which have extensive transport links to the city and beyond. UCD is located approximately 7km or 4.5 miles to the south of the city centre.

Transport options from the airport

Train

Unfortunately, there are no direct train services to the airport. There is a light rail service operating in the city centre (the LUAS, <https://luas.ie>), and a coastal rail service (the DART), but neither serve the airport. Dublin has two major railway stations – Connolly and Heuston – which provide nationwide services. You can find information on the DART and nationwide train services here: www.irishrail.ie.

Bus

There are a number of bus options for transport to the city centre and nationwide, provided by both public and private operators. These include:

Dublin Bus: This is the public city bus service which serves Dublin and surrounding areas. They operate the Airlink Service, which links the airport to the city centre, and costs €6 for a single journey. Full details, timetables and online booking can be found here: <http://www.dublinbus.ie/en/Your-Journey1/Timetables/Airport-Services>.

Aircoach: This is a private operator which serves the city centre, the greater Dublin region, and also stops at UCD. Tickets can be booked online (cheaper than paying on the day) and a single fare to UCD is €9. Full details, timetables, and online booking can be found here: <http://www.aircoach.ie/timetables> The 700 route is the one to take for UCD.

Others: These include Airport Hopper (<https://airporthopper.ie>) and Cityscape (<http://cityscapetours.ie/dundrum-dublin-airport-bus>) but neither serve UCD or the city centre, so are only of use if you are travelling to points outside the greater Dublin area.

Taxi/Uber

Taxis are plentiful at Dublin Airport, with ranks serving both terminals. Taxis are metered, so fares are calculated on a distance/time basis. Some taxis will offer a straight price for (e.g.) a trip to the city centre. Expect to pay between €15 and €30 for a metered taxi to the city centre, and €30 to €45 to UCD, depending on traffic, etc. Most taxis operate on a cash-only basis, though a small number may support debit/credit card payments. Taxi drivers are obliged to give you a receipt on request.

A useful metered fare calculator can be found here: <https://www.transportforireland.ie/taxi/taxi-fare-estimator>. For flat rates, we'd recommend that if there are more than one of you sharing a taxi, you clarify with the driver whether the rate is being offered on a per-passenger basis or not.

Uber is illegal in Ireland, as unregulated taxi services are not permitted.

Car Rental

Most major car rental companies operate out of Dublin Airport, and details can be found here: <https://www.dublinairport.com/to-from-the-airport/car-rental>. It's worth shopping around to get the best deal – broker sites can often offer a better rate than the company websites – try Rental Cars (<http://www.rentalcars.com/ie>) or Argus (<https://www.arguscarhire.com/car-hire/ireland>) for the best deals.

Both on-street and private parking (e.g. multi-storey) is available in Dublin city centre, with multi-storeys usually around the €3 to €4 per hour range. On-street parking is cheaper (about €2 to €3 per hour), and in most areas is free after 7pm. However, if you outstay your allotted time for on-street parking, you may get clamped. The release fee for a clamped car is €80.

Private Helicopter

Only if you *really* want to show off - <http://www.executive-helicopters.com> are probably your best bet!