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**CHALLENGES FACING FOREIGN STUDENTS STUDYING IN IRELAND IN 2022**

By

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Under the supervision of

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This project is submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the degree of BA (Hons) in  
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## **Abstract**

The research is conducted to find out the impact of internationalization on the foreign student living and studying in Ireland. The primary motivation for conducting this research is to find real time challenges of the foreign students studying abroad in context specifically related to Ireland. The research has opened the doors for betterment of the life of foreign students in Ireland and paved path for further research. The approach used for conducting this research is a mixed approach using primary and secondary research data including survey questionnaire and in-person interviews. The study is formulated based on a population sample of 63 respondents. The respondents are selected from the different universities, and all were foreign students from different countries. The data observations obtained are coded as variables in SPSS to run statistical data analysis to derive results. Overall, the study shows the significance in the results obtained of *Cost of living* and *Work restrictions* shows that low wages with specified working hours per week affects the affordability for the students' living cost and the house owner preference for the Irish natives for renting house tends to create it challenging to find occupancy for the international students. The in-person interview revealed that psychological stress post covid and stress of communication barrier impacts the productivity of foreign students in Ireland.

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## **Chapter 1 – Introduction**

### **1.1 Context and Background**

The research area selected is related to the research about the life of students living in abroad, to specify my research direction I decided to research about the foreign students studying in Ireland. There are multiple reasons for selecting this topic, one of the reasons is my interest toward studying abroad and second is it helps me to understand the challenges that my university fellows from foreign countries faces. The scope of this study is it provides insights about the international students studying abroad and helps in addressing the challenges identified. These- can be utilized to create possibilities to address those challenges to find about the financial management, the area I had selected for research including the assessment of financial hindrances and the finances management of the students living abroad. The right financial management reduces the burden by proportionate funds allocation with planned spendings.

### **1.2 Research Purpose**

The study conducted is based on the following research aims to find about the experience of international students in Ireland and to identify the challenges for international students, to find out the job possibilities for the foreign students, to identify the challenges in finding jobs for foreign students in Ireland, and to assess the practices of international students to overcome difficulties of cost of living.

### **1.3 Research Question and Objectives**

This objective of this study is to find out the challenges of foreign student living and studying in Ireland. The study is constructed to find the following challenges and possibilities:

- What are challenges associated with the students living and studying abroad?
- What are the limitations for the students and challenges?
- What are the possibilities for the students living and studying in Ireland?

## **1.4 Research Expectations and Outcomes**

The expectations associated with this research are to Identify the challenges of students living and study abroad, to find out the possibilities for international students, for addressing financial management and assessing the insight of the foreign students experience in Ireland.

- Family pressure and financial Challenges
- Possible work restriction on Study visa
- High Cost of living (factor affecting students life abroad)
- Do these students have potential of being valuable employees for businesses?
- Employers' awareness about the student challenges
- Challenges for foreign students' life studying abroad in Ireland
- Ireland as the educational aspiration center for international students
- Possibilities and challenges for the foreign students studying in Ireland.
- Challenges in Ireland emerging center of studies for student abroad

## **1.5 Chapters Overview**

In chapter 1 of this study the introduction and the research construct are being discussed. Chapter 2 is focused on the literature review where the related studies and concepts. Chapter 3 discusses the methodology of the research conducted. Chapters 4 and 5 are based on the data analysis of both primary data obtained and secondary data respectively to derive results. Chapter 6 is about secondary data gathered and its analysis. Chapter 7 is about the limitations of this study, conclusion, and recommendations. Chapter 8 is about bibliography to build reference linkage with study.

## **Chapter 2 - Literature Review**

### **2.1 Introduction**

The impact of internationalization is huge, and it has spread across the Europe the higher education is the part of this internationalization regime and is a part of agenda policy (Mairead and Merike 2016). The students are travelling across the world for higher education and almost all the countries including developed and developing economies welcome the students to pursue their higher education in their country. This provides the country association in terms of foreign relations with the countries hosting students and creates a cultural exchange and encourages cultural diversity.

### **2.2 Psychological Impact**

It is evident from the study of (O'Reilly, Ryan and Hickey 2010) shows the psychological impact on the minds of the students who are studying and living abroad. The significant differences are being observed in their thinking patterns and mental illnesses including psychological distress, higher level of difficulty in adjustment in different sociocultural settings are also become a part of their lifestyle. The study was to observe the differences in the thinking pattern and psychological state of the native students living in Ireland and the international students who came for study abroad. These kinds of psychological challenges are also there for the students studying abroad and managing themselves on their own (Péchenart 2003).

### **2.3 Preferred Study destination**

According to the report published by (HESA 2020) shows that there many different reasons because of which students prefer to study in UK, the reasons include the better employment possibilities for student, positive learning environment and the better accreditation and the study program design attracts higher number of students (Nelson, Dickson & Hargie 2003). The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) provides the most credible source of statistical data to provide insights into the education system. According to the study In UK there are huge number



of international students who living there and studying and in Ireland approximately 2% of total students which are studying there in different universities are international students.

Another major challenge for the students studying abroad is the concerns for their academic performance because it comprises of many different factors. (Mak, Westwood, Ishiyama, & Barker 1999). The literature suggests that social and emotional well-being is necessary for students who are studying abroad. Student experience cannot be separated from academic literacy and holistic student experience (Sheridan 2011).

## **2.4 Factors affecting Students**

According to the study it shows that student experience studying abroad are getting affected by certain internal factors which can also create pressure it may be due to the stress due to shift in culture, it could be due to social discrimination and due to feeling of being deprived, some time it can be due to homesickness which may lead to helplessness, and social isolation. The social life of the students gets badly affected due to excessive work-study routine.

### **2.4.1 Student Counselling**

According to another study by (Slatenetal 2016) shows that international students living abroad need social support and effective counselling to make them capable to adjust them with cultural shift and it reduces the feeling of stress on students (Chen & Zhou 2019). It is equally important to address the issue for international students who often face diminished social support in foreign countries. The declined social support creates the feeling of disappointment and leads to social isolation (Sandhu 1995).

### **2.4.2 Sense of belongingness**

The one of the characters of international students living abroad observed is their social association developed with their campus, environment and their social circle creates feeling of bonding which keeps them connected and motivated. Feeling of belongingness is one of the factors that keeps them intact with their university and keeps them motivated to strive for their best future.

### **2.4.3 Cultural Shift**

There are so many hindrances for the students living abroad for higher education to complete their studies. They will have to face and overcome many challenges that come in front of them due to many prominent changes in culture and environment (Pechenart et al. 2003). The language barrier is one of the challenges that limits the productivity of a person because of inability to understand the language of the natives where students arrive to proceed their studies. This language difference is the most initial and the major challenge for the international students who are the active players in this shift of internationalization (Jean 2015).

Findings shows from number of studies which have indicated that proficiency in language has a significant impact on individual's academic performance, The reasons reported by different students for experiencing problems are related to differences in study methods, test assessments, or classroom instruction (Cadieux & Wehrly 1986; Poyrazli & Grahame 2007).

It is quite difficult to learn and understand any new language instantly. It takes time to understand and get adjusted with environmental shift due to change in region and culture.

The different countries have different economic scenarios, and the valuation of a currency depends on that, the exchange rate of the currency is defined and evaluated based on the differences observed between domestic and foreign currency. The differences in rates in currency ultimately play a vital role in student's life who are studying abroad. According to the study international students are mostly dependent on the remittances received from the families from their home countries. The slight shift in the currency rate defines the overall spending of students studying abroad and makes it very difficult for the students to manage those funds sometimes. They will then need to do overtime to meet their expenses, or some students will start to reduce their necessary food needs which may affect their health badly. The currency exchange rate has a significant impact on the life of students living and studying in foreign countries.

### **2.4.4 Scholarships and Employment**

According to the study In the Irish universities due to the international scholarships there are higher number of international students who are studying and finding employment opportunities in Ireland. The study shows that approximately 62% of students in Irish universities are foreign

students, whereas employed among the are approximately 31% which shows that half of these foreign students will have to strive harder, and they will have to compete to get in competition to get employed. There are opportunities for employment for foreign students in Ireland but at the same time there is challenge of fair employment which limits the employment for all the foreign students (Wang and O'Connell 2020).

#### **2.4.5 Social Isolation**

According to the study conducted by (Abe & Zane 1990; Poyrazli & Lopez 2007) in different Irish universities shows that international students living abroad will often get suffer with different psychological problems. One of these psychological challenges that students will have to face is social isolation abroad. There are many fold challenges for the students including the challenge to get adjusted with language, academic difficulties, financial difficulties and along with that lacking social support in foreign universities (Orr & Unger 2011). The students in such an environment started to lose their self-esteem. Most of the students lead to social isolation to the fear of not getting adjusted to this environmental and cultural shift. The students studying in foreign countries face high expectations and they may experience psychological crises which leads to social dysfunction (Porcelli et al. 2019).

The social isolation is key to many different diseases arises from psychological barrier including diseases like high blood pressure, different heart diseases, also weakened the immune system, it may cause anxiety, depression, decline in cognitive capacity, in the severe cases the social isolation may leads to Alzheimer's disease, and even causes death.

Culture has huge significance in every society. In the world culture of every society has slight differences which helps zin differentiating cultures. The culture of Ireland is different from the culture of Asia, Africa & USA. These differences limit the interactivity and productivity of students in different cultures. This challenge also limits individuals' performance. According to the study by (Xia 2009) shows that internationalization creates a culture shock for the individuals in the new culture creates psychological discomfort in new environment. To adjust with the cultural shock is a long term and on-going process. It happens when a person has poor adaptability for the environmental shift creates feeling of alienation and discomfort for the person who is in cultural shock. The reason of culture shock can be emotional or psychological (Xia 2009)

The students seeking opportunities to go abroad to study should be prepared for these psychological shifts which makes them adaptable to changing environment. The study by (Xia 2009) shows that culture shock can comprise of climate, language, values, social roles, rules, and relationships. Culture shock persists due to the persisting problems and negative experiences in new environments.

#### **2.4.6 Culture Shock**

The study shows that as a result of culture shock in cases of extreme psychological distress individuals started to feel home sick. Home sickness may be caused by cultural variation and the level of homesickness varies depending on the individual experience of distress (Finn & Darmody 2015).

Food is an essential need for every human, but the study shows that their huge number of students belongs from different communities. Likewise, the Muslim community eats halal meat according to the results the factor observed shows that it is very difficult for especially Muslims to find halal meat to eat in foreign countries which affects their eating pattern (Driscoll et al. 2019).

It also impacts their health badly. They often need to cook on their own to sustain. It is one of the challenges the student will have to face in Ireland. The food factor impacts the students of different societies differently.

The research shows that according to study of (Xia 2019) the students living abroad will have to work in the free hours after their studies time to live the best lifestyle abroad. In order to ensure that is necessary to work part time along with studies. The survey conducted in university shows that these jobs limit the hours for student to study, which means deviating student from studies due to the pressure to find job and work. It becomes mostly difficult for the students to manage the pressure of work studies and they often leave their jobs because of their inability to handle stress. According to the study of shows that from the responses gathered from foreign students studying in the universities in Ireland, shows the following that after spending years in the university there develops a feeling of belongingness with university, city, and colleagues than it becomes very difficult for the international students to leave this environment in which they get themselves adjust in years. According to study (Elliot et al. 2016) shows that it is journey for the students full of challenges and excitement for the international students to live for specific period of time during

their stay in foreign country it gets developed strong bonding with place and university which makes very difficult for the students to leave back to their home country.

## **Chapter 3 – Methodology**

This study is focused on finding the impact of internationalization of the non-resident students studying in Ireland. The research is focused on finding the challenges and opportunities for students living abroad. The method adopted to conduct this study is mixed method and conduct the research through survey questionnaire by inviting the participants through email and digitally on social media through WhatsApp. The data is assessed based on demographic variables. It helps us in differentiating the challenges and opportunities of the students studying in different years of their studies.

### **3.1 Research Construct**

The research model is designed to find the impact of internationalization with consideration of the following factors including Work Restriction (WR), Financial Awareness (FA), Cost of Living (LC), Demographics (DG) and Pressure factor (PF) the study is conducted to take in consideration the impact of variables how the students life get affected and can enhanced for students studying in Ireland.

### **3.2 Sampling Strategy**

The Irish universities practice number of policy implications based on accreditation and quality assurance. The sample selected consists of the university studying students in different study years from different universities by obtaining data with direct reference and friend of friend's circle to obtain and reflect the true sentiments and to find out the possibilities and limitations for the foreign students studying in Ireland. The participants are invited to become a part of this research through email and by the messaging application WhatsApp. Similarly, the students were asked for in person interviews and 4 students from different demographics agreed to become a part of in-person

interview, and the data obtained from these interviews are reflected in deductive research based on coded variable analysis.

### **3.3 Targeted Respondents**

The sample population for this research includes the cluster sample of students studying from different countries on scholarship in Ireland. The respondents from different universities based on mutual references are invited to participate in this research. The medium for data gathering includes the Google forms which are being shared through email surveys, WhatsApp link share and social media groups where international students become a participant.

### **3.4 Population Sample**

The population sample for research includes the students studying from different countries living and studying in Ireland. The research population sample consists of 63 respondents. The sample is gathered from the different students living in different counties of Ireland.

### **3.5 Objectives of the Study**

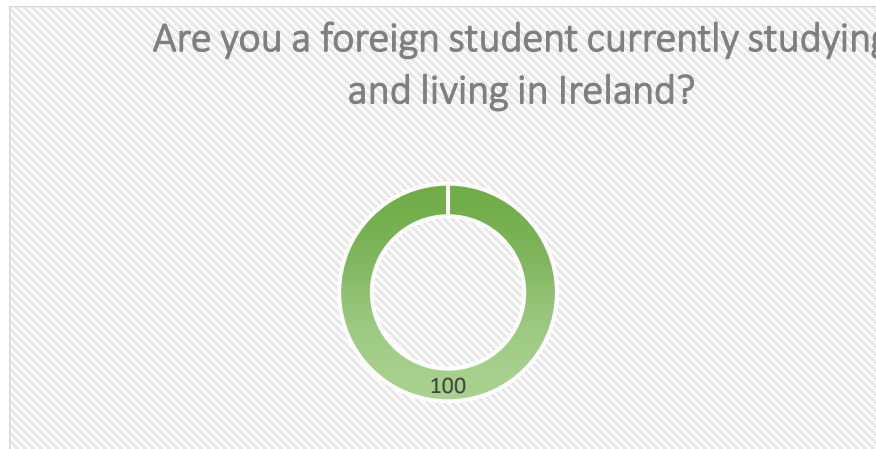
This study is conducted to determine the Impact of Internationalization in terms of challenges and opportunities for international students. The research is determined to develop a clear picture of internationalization on the students studying in different universities of Ireland.

Specifically, to find about the experience of international students in Ireland, to identify the challenges for international students, to find job possibilities to overcome financial burden abroad, to observe problems in finding jobs for foreign students in Ireland, to assess the practices of international students to overcome difficulties of cost of living.

## Chapter 4 – Analysis and Discussion of Findings

### 4.1 Demographic Profile (DG)

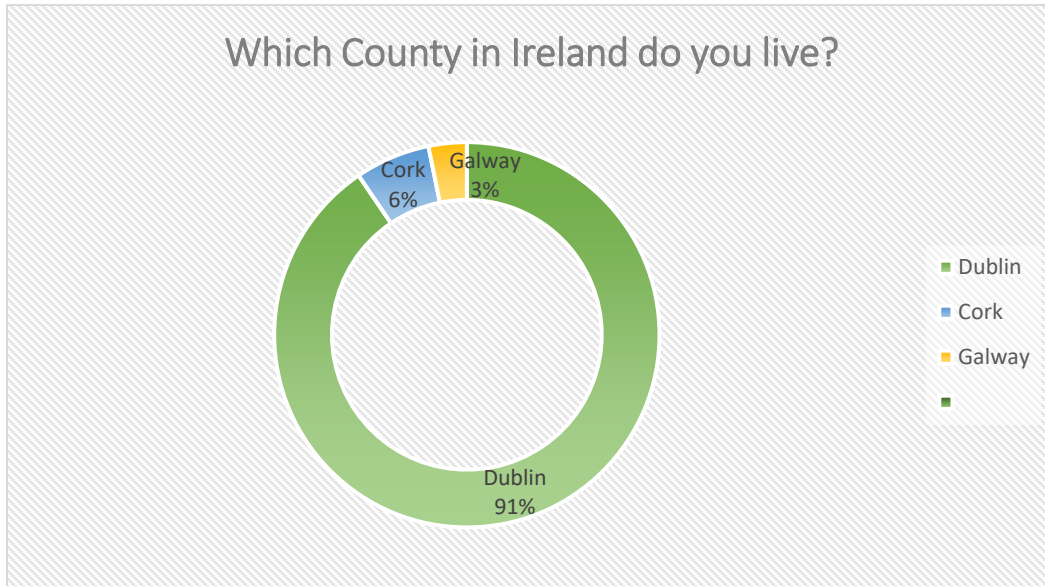
The demographic profile of the respondents is obtained to reflect the impact of responses and to derive the results data findings shows the following results:



#### Are you a foreign student currently studying and living in Ireland?

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	63	100.0	100.0	100.0

All the respondents in our sample population are currently studying and living in Ireland and located in different counties of Ireland further the data collected also shows clearly about the demographic profile of the respondents. The population sample contains both gender responses collectively.



**Which County in Ireland do you live?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Perc
Valid	Dublin	57	90.5	90.5	90.5
	Cork	4	6.3	6.3	96.8
	Galway	2	3.2	3.2	100.0

**How many times have you moved from one house to another in Ireland over the last 5 years?**

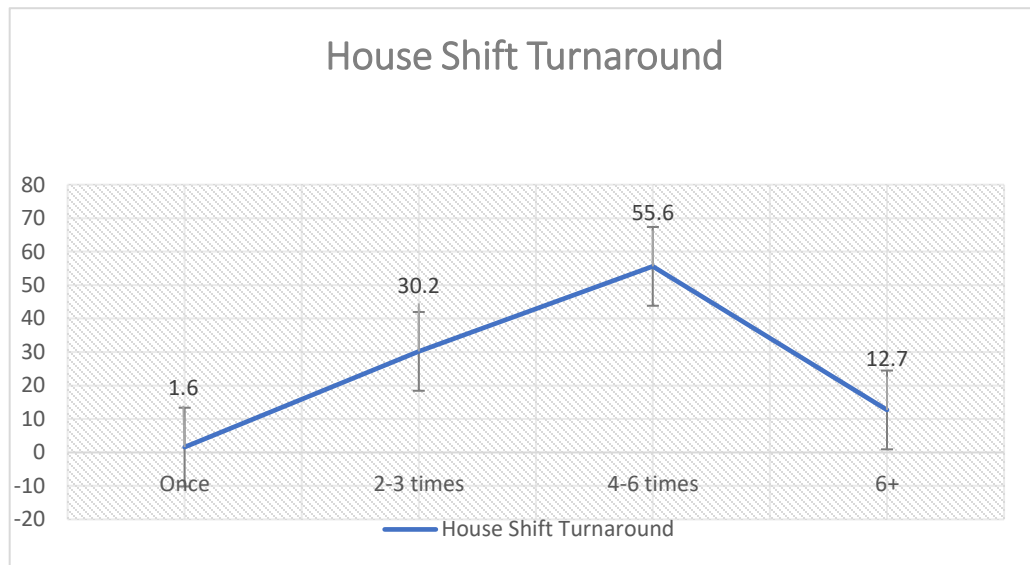
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Once	1	1.6	1.6	1.6
	2-3 times	19	30.2	30.2	31.7
	4-6 times	35	55.6	55.6	87.3
	6+	8	12.7	12.7	100.0
	Total	63	100.0	100.0	

House shifting turnaround is included as indicator that can help us in identifying living cost impact on foreign students and how challenging it could be and the data clearly indicates the trend of multiple turnovers in a span of 5 years and most of the students moved from one house to other



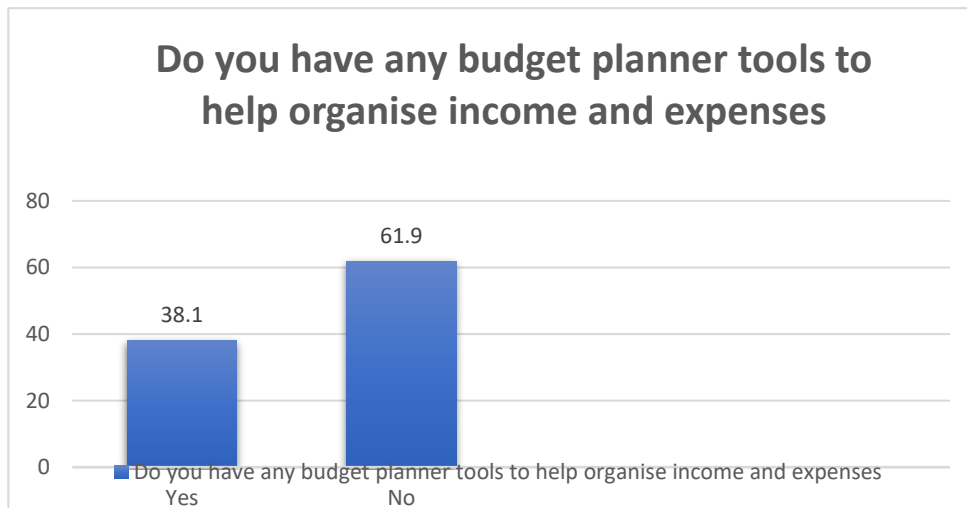
majority population shown a trend of 4 -6 times in this time period which is relatively high number of turnarounds.

The data indicates that 90% of the respondents are from Dublin, 6.3% are based in Cork and 3.2% of respondents are in Galway. Dublin is the capital city along with it has central important and highest number of populations comparatively and the study centers including, Trinity College, Technological University Dublin, Dublin City University and many others. Considering Dublin as center of studies, most of the foreign students who are trying to get admission have preference to get admission in Dublin. In this study the population sample of 63 respondents and among which 57 were from Dublin.



## 4.2 Financial Awareness

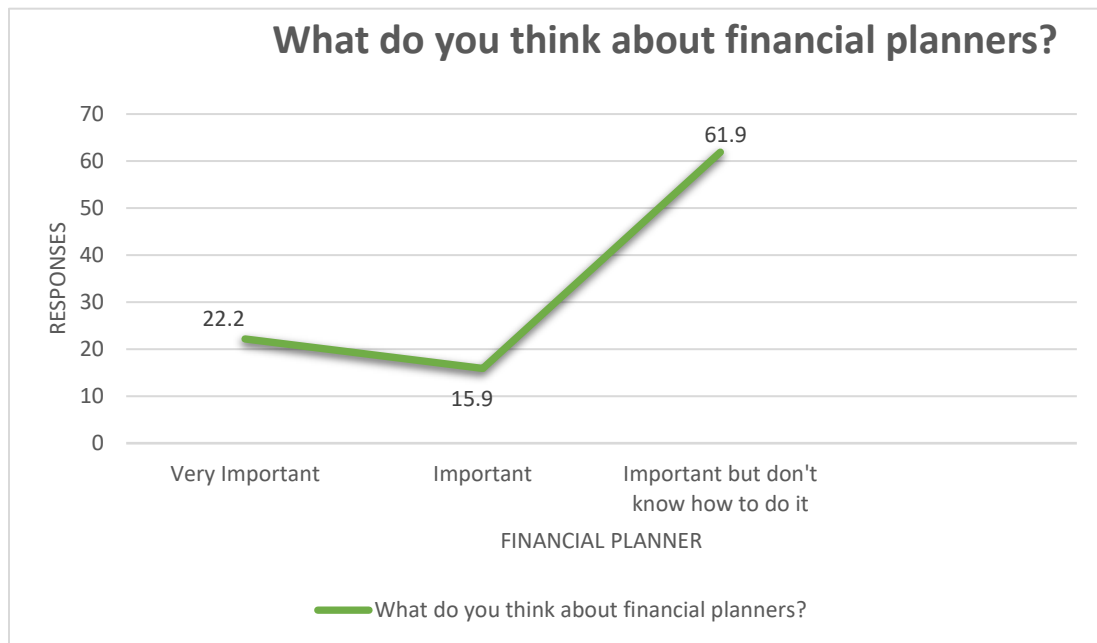
Financial awareness is one of the most important factors that can impact on every person's life positively. Financial awareness can help us in management of available finances. It is an art of optimum utilization of available that comes with proper understanding and practice. According to the data gathered the responses obtained for the budget planner tools importance only 38% of respondents answered Yes, they need budget planner tool to organize their income and expenses while 61.9% responded as No, they don't need it. This shows that less than 50% of the population sample is planning to manage their finances and the rest are spending unplanned it is one of the factors that could create impact on financial management.



**What do you think about financial planners?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very Important	14	22.2	22.2	22.2
	Important	10	15.9	15.9	38.1
	Important but don't know how to do it	39	61.9	61.9	100.0
	Total	63	100.0	100.0	

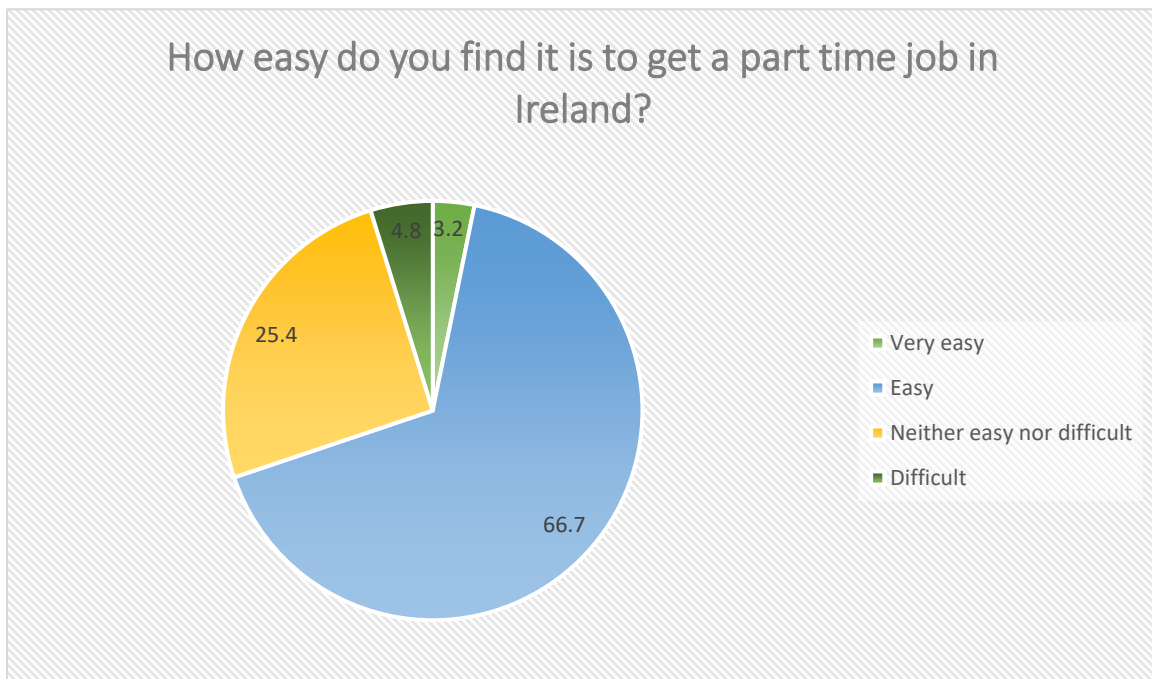
The respondents were asked to tell us about the importance of the financial planners in their life, result shows that 22% of respondents responded as it is very important while 15.9% responded and considered it as important and 61.9% the major portion of population responded as Important but don't know how to do it shows that most of them are unaware about the importance of tools and usage. This lack of awareness about financial management impacts the students and ties the financial burden on them.



**How easy do you find it is to get a part time job in Ireland?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Very easy	2	3.2	3.2	3.2
	Easy	42	66.7	66.7	69.8
	Neither easy nor difficult	16	25.4	25.4	95.2
	Difficult	3	4.8	4.8	100.0
	Total	63	100.0	100.0	

The responses obtained for the part time job in Ireland helps us to identify for the following variable of Part time Employment opportunities for the students indicates that 66% of respondent's response as it is Easy to find a part time employment in Ireland. Whereas 16% responded as neither easy nor difficult while rest of 3% responded as it is difficult to find a part time job in Ireland.

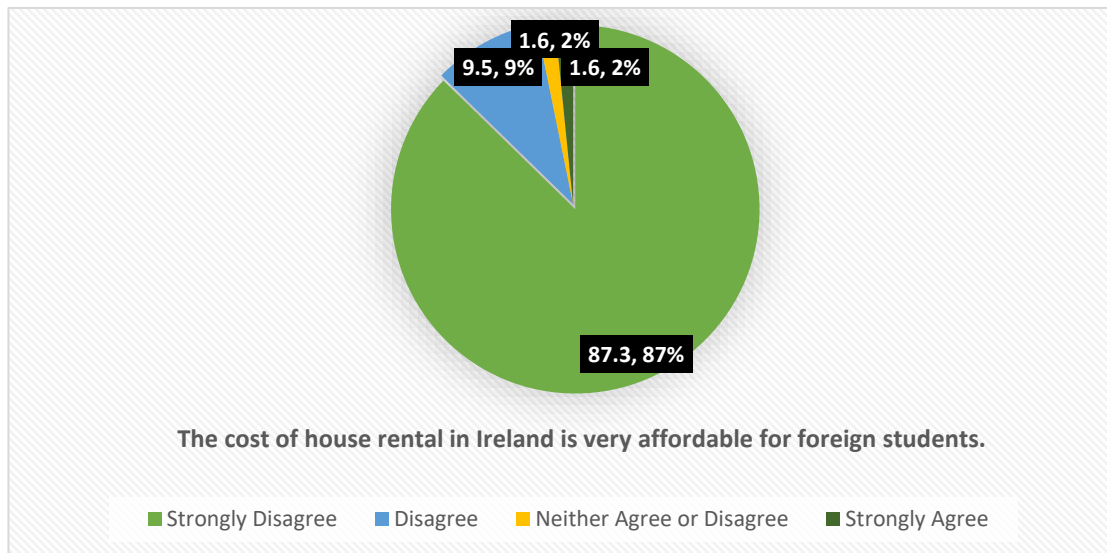


### 4.3 Living Cost (LC)

Cost of living is one of the most influencing factors that makes the life of foreign students challenging. The data obtained is statistically analyzed shown the following observations in data: The data obtained based on observations gathered from the survey the 87.3% of respondents strongly disagreed with the statement that cost of house is affordable for foreign students in Ireland.

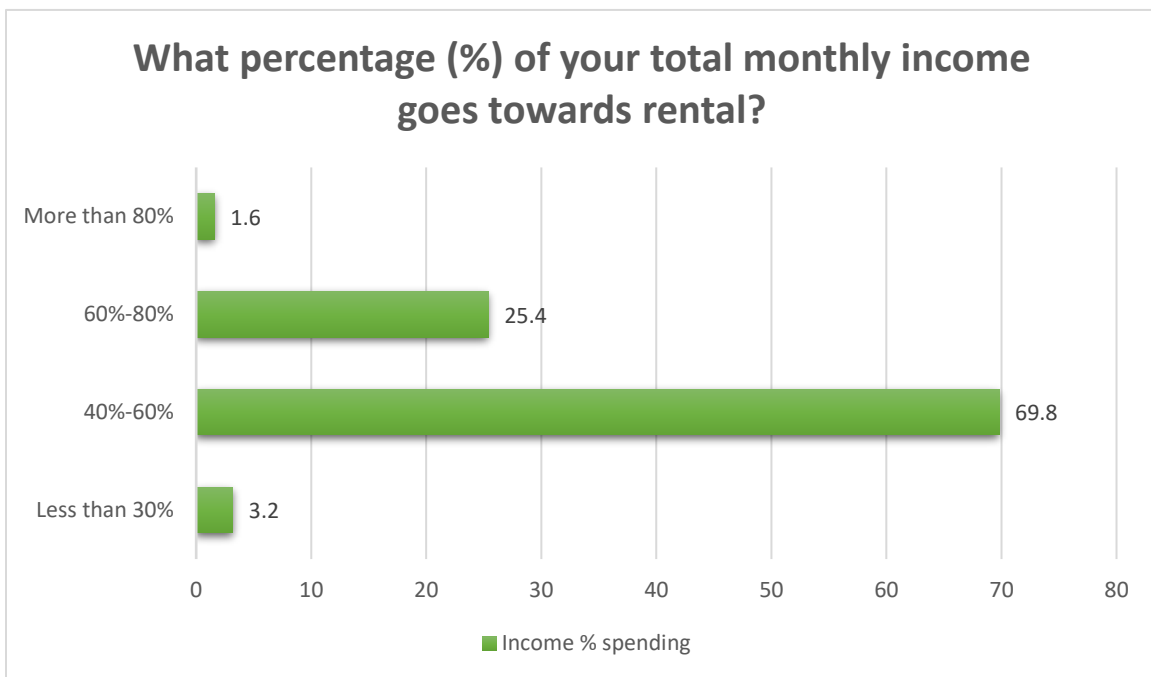
**The cost of house rental in Ireland is very affordable for foreign students.**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Disagree	55	87.3	87.3	87.3
	Disagree	6	9.5	9.5	96.8
	Neither Agree or Disagree	1	1.6	1.6	98.4
	Strongly Agree	1	1.6	1.6	100.0
	Total	63	100.0	100.0	



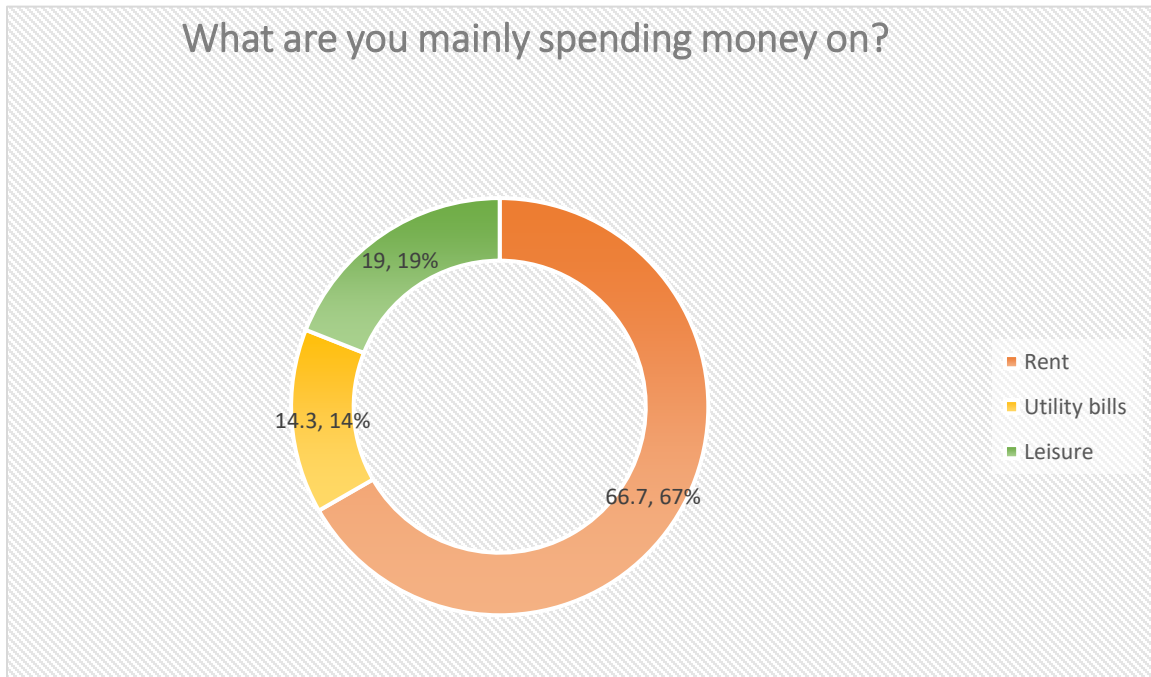
**What percentage (%) of your total monthly income goes towards rental?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Less than 30%	2	3.2	3.2	3.2
	40%-60%	44	69.8	69.8	73.0
	60%-80%	16	25.4	25.4	98.4
	More than 80%	1	1.6	1.6	100.0
	Total	63	100.0	100.0	



**What are you mainly spending money on?**

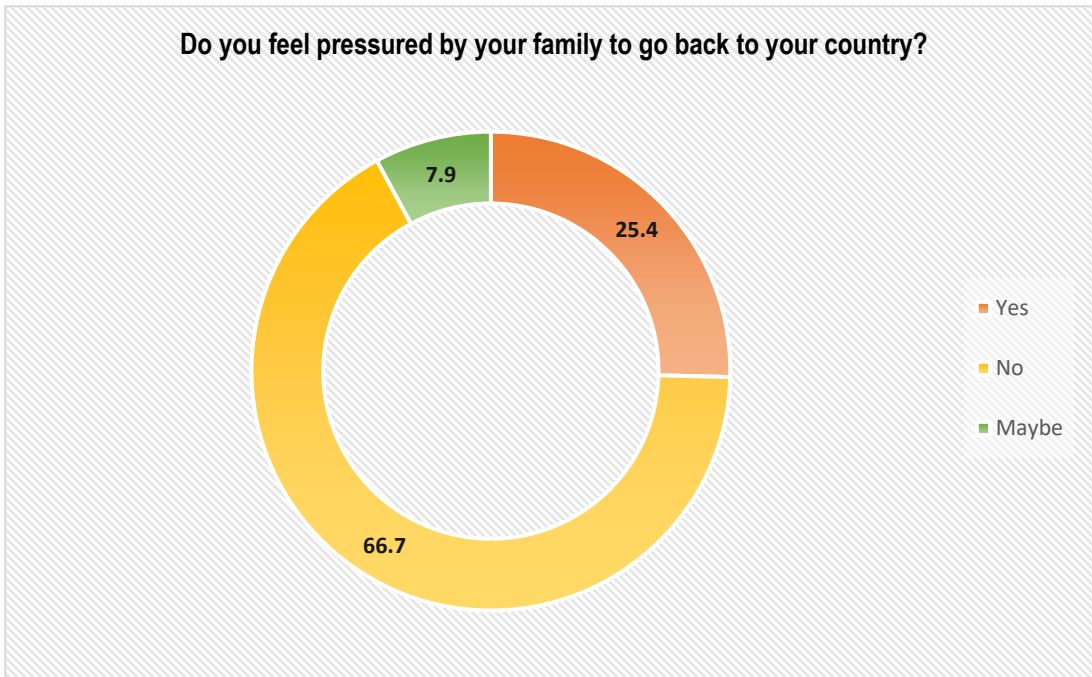
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Rent	42	66.7	66.7	66.7
	Utility bills (such as gas, electricity, internet, etc.)	9	14.3	14.3	81.0
	Leisure	12	19.0	19.0	100.0
	Total	63	100.0	100.0	



**4.4 Pressure Factors (PF)**

Family pressure in terms of distant living and the feeling of homesickness are the ultimate factors that may affect foreign students and make the situation difficult for them to manage abroad. Both the feelings based on emotional bond with family impacts productivity. According to the data gathered from the study 25.4% respondents agreed and said, ‘Yes’, they feel pressured from family

to come back to home country while 66.7% say ‘No’ they don’t feel any such pressure while 7.9% responded ‘Maybe’.



**Do you feel pressured by your family to go back to your country?**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	16	25.4	25.4	25.4
	No	42	66.7	66.7	92.1
	Maybe	5	7.9	7.9	100.0
	Total	63	100.0	100.0	



According to the data collected the responses obtained show that 65.1% of students feel afraid of making mistakes so they avoid speaking and 17.5% are afraid of making some mistakes but they speak anyway while 17.5% don't bother about anything and they don't feel afraid and express their opinions.

**How do you feel when you're not able to communicate and express yourself properly in an English conversation?**

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid I'm afraid of making some mistakes, so I don't speak.	41	65.1	65.1	65.1
I'm afraid of making some mistakes, but I speak anyway.	11	17.5	17.5	82.5
Not afraid to express oneself	11	17.5	17.5	100.0
Total	63	100.0	100.0	



## **Chapter 5 -Data Analysis**

### **5.1 Data Analysis**

The study construct shows the variables including Demographic profile (DG), Financial Awareness (FA), Work Restrictions (WR), Living Cost (LC) and Pressure Factors (PF) the variables shows that Demographic profile data shows that all the 63 respondents are foreign students and studying in Ireland, majority sample population is based in Dublin and few from Cork and Galway respectively, the cost of living is high so the students' needs to shift their living 4-6 times in a span of 5 years resulting very high turnaround of tenants, (FA) most of the students faces financial pressure but majority is unaware about the use of financial planners and also about the importance of financial management which has resulted in shortage of finances and ties financial burden. The cost of living and financial awareness is directly proportional to each other. (WR) The students have restrictions to work maximum 20 hours per week which result in limited income which is insufficient to meet living cost. The (PF) is the pressure factor is assessed based on the student burden of going back to home due to family pressure and the student language barrier both are indicator of pressure factor on foreign students. It is a dependent variable reflecting the impact of WR, LC and FA on (PF) results as the foreign students lacks confidence to speak and express their opinions with the fear of making mistakes, this limits their productivity.

### **5.2 Qualitative Data Analysis**

The data gathered from in person interviews to support the research and derive results from the findings, the questions are formulated to determine the impact of financial challenges for the foreign students living in Ireland. 4 students are selected for in person interview and deductive research is conducted to find the relation among variables selected.

#### **5.2.1 Living Cost**

The common sentiment observed among all the respondents regarding living cost shows that all the students are facing higher cost of living. Every student living in Ireland needs to manage the

living cost because it is the cost which is unavoidable. Apart from the cost of living it is quite difficult for the foreign students to find occupancy in Ireland. There are limited avenues for getting houses or portion rented for foreign students. The resident prefers to rent out house or living space to Irish residents only. This is an additional challenge tied in with living costs.

### **5.2.2 Work Opportunities**

According to the data obtained from in person interviews the data shows that there are limited work opportunities for the foreign students studying in Ireland. They have limited options to avail to work as a part time with limited number of work hours. The part time workers can only work 20 hours a week and have limited scope of employment. The earnings from this limited number of work hours are insufficient for the students to meet their expenses. It added financial burden on the foreign students.

### **5.2.3 Financial Pressure**

The response obtained in person interviews is that the most challenging factor for the foreign students living abroad is financial pressure which comes in front while paying their rent for residence and while paying their fees. The opportunities for part time employment are scarce, which shifts the burden of finances on the students. Most of the students get worried about financial pressure on their family while requesting finances from their home country. The burden tied due to differences in currency exchange rates.

### **5.2.4 Communication Barrier**

The foreign students are from different cultural backgrounds and having different native languages, one of the most prominent and common response obtained is of language barrier which limits the productivity of students in classrooms and social circles. They are unable to communicate properly in English, so they prefer not to speak and stay quiet. This factor limits the social connectivity in campus and in class. It also led to social isolation and stressed-out students.

### **5.2.5 Psychological Stress**

The Psychological stress is very common factor observed in the lifestyle of foreign students living in Ireland. The in-person interviews are conducted shows the responses obtained that the psychological stress is derived by different factors that affects the mental health of foreign students living in Ireland (Cadieux et al.,1986). This stress is mostly driven by financial pressure, communication barriers and limited employment opportunities. Apart from all these factor COVID pandemic has also badly affected the mental health of students. After this most of the students tend to need psychological therapies to get themselves retained in their routine life.

The research is based on a deductive method which is used to deduce the results from a given set of questions. The following findings are obtained based on the following questionnaire:

<b>Questionnaire In-person Interview</b>	
<b>1</b>	What do you think about the cost of living in Ireland?
<b>2</b>	Could you describe the process of renting a house in Ireland as a foreign student? Is there any difference you feel (think?) when you apply for a house vacancy between an Irish resident or European and you?
<b>3</b>	What is the situation when looking for a job with a student visa?
<b>4</b>	Are you doing therapy after starting to live in Ireland?
<b>5</b>	Could you describe what is your most challenge as a foreign student?

## Chapter 6 – Secondary Research Data

According to the study conducted by economic times under India Times reflects that data that over 32000 students studying in Ireland from 100 different countries. The NFQ is the model of grading which is 10 level grading system prevails in Ireland and the system is like the UK Education system. The NFQ is National Framework of Qualifications, it is the system which enables the learners to evaluate their pathway and provide guidance about the current level of qualification in individual having and ways to take career path, it is based on 10 different levels. The junior certificate starts from NFQ Level 3 and so on. These defined mechanisms of grading for students even create possibilities but also limits the productivity because of the pressure of passing and meeting criteria to qualify to higher level. (The Economic Times, 2022)

In Ireland the universities are offered 2000+ different educational courses including full-time study programs diplomas and certifications in 18 different universities and out of these 18 there are 8 universities which holds Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) University Ranking which is considered as prestigious ranking for any university in the world. (The Economic Times, 2022)

The Top-ranking universities, in Ireland includes the names of Trinity College Dublin, NUI Galway, University College Dublin, Dublin City University, Maynooth University, University of Limerick and few others secured QS Ranking for year 2022. (The Economic Times, 2022)

There are few different scholarships programs which are being offered to the students studying in Ireland which includes the following scholarships The DIT Centenary Scholarship Programme, and another one is Irish Aid Funded Fellowship Training Programme, and the National College of Ireland Scholarships but all these scholarships are based on provided criteria for each scholarship and the only very few students could avail these scholarship opportunities.

The cost of Living is one of the most challenging aspects for the students who are studying abroad, the estimated cost of living considering different occupancy types between €7,000-€12,000 per year which means approximately €585 - €1000 per month which be the cost of living for individuals. (The Economic Times, 2022)

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**6.1.2 Top 15 Source Markets for Irish Higher Education Courses, 2020/21**

<b>Rank 2020/21</b>	<b>Rank 2019/20</b>	<b>Source Market</b>	<b>Student Enrollments</b>	<b>Change 20–21</b>
3	1	United States	2,458	-2,262
2	2	India	2,609	1,268
1	3	China	3,424	-162
4	4	Canada	1,663	-14
6	5	Malaysia	1,002	-270
5	6	Great Britain	1,525	+308
7	7	France	908	+150
8	8	Germany	734	+18
9	9	Saudi Arabia	655	-49
12	10	Nigeria	543	-65
10	11	Kuwait	602	+10
11	12	Italy	580	+14
13	13	Spain	422	+1
15	14	Singapore	306	-98
14	15	Oman	360	-19

**Source: HEA**

## 6.1.1 HEA Historic Data of Students

<b>Students Growth Year-wise</b>						
<b>Programme Type</b>	<b>2016/2017</b>	<b>2017/2018</b>	<b>2018/2019</b>	<b>2019/2020</b>	<b>2020/2021</b>	<b>2021/2022</b>
<b>Certificates</b>	6605	8200	11197	14068	14291	12806
<b>Foundation and Access</b>	736	721	713	768	583	523
<b>Higher Certificates</b>	5969	5870	5432	5258	4810	4352
<b>Higher Diplomas</b>	2111	2162	2133	2329	2833	2487
<b>Honors Degrees</b>	132608	136592	138910	142074	149427	151816
<b>Ordinary Degrees</b>	23164	21835	20247	18890	17997	16716
<b>PhD</b>	8357	8513	8643	8890	9532	10013
<b>Postgraduate Certificates</b>	2035	1689	2159	2961	4026	3795
<b>Postgraduate Diplomas</b>	3320	3699	4211	4474	6126	5708
<b>Postgraduate Occasional</b>	1050	1037	1116	1319	1743	1543
<b>Research Masters</b>	1445	1502	1422	1639	1667	1738
<b>Taught Masters</b>	20419	21524	22645	24155	26586	27790
<b>Undergraduate Diplomas</b>	3331	3060	3346	3080	2728	2430
<b>Undergraduate Occasional</b>	7093	7339	6329	5792	3314	4582
<b>Grand Total</b>	218243	223743	228503	235697	245663	246299



<b>Differential Growth</b>	<b>5500</b>		<b>7194</b>		<b>636</b>	
<b>Timeline Growth</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>Growth Rate</b>	0.7645				
	<b>% Growth</b>	76.45				
	<b>Students shift from 2017 - 2022</b>	218243	246299	28056		

<b>6.1.3 Estimated Student Enrollments of Foreign students in Ireland</b>		
<b>According to HEA Historic Data Ireland</b>		
<b>Total (2022)</b>	246299	
Data based on year 2022		
<b>Approximately 30K</b>	<b>Population of foreign students</b>	
0.1218032	<b>12.18</b>	%

## 6.2 Trends Impacting the Irish Markets

There are number of factors that create impact on demand and supply of any market. Considering the Irish market specifically in education sector following trends are observed which create significant impacts on market, are as follow:

### 6.2.1 Post Brexit Euro Boom

In the post Brexit world different trends were in circulation all over but in European market observe impact is Double Cohort effect resulted in excessive demand for immigration and foreign students, but the COVID slowed down the pace, but the double cohort applied when the students combined with those who are enrolled in regular applicant.

This double cohort impact on market previously being observed in Canadian market and the strength of educational students inclining to 18% and the similar surge was expected to take place in Irish market. The post Brexit boom was not only limited to these markets, but the impact also was observed on UK Universities (Miteva, 2017). The excessive admission demand in UK educational institutions resulted in high number applications decline and mostly the applications declined are from European countries this tends to arise an opportunity for the student to reach out to best nearest destination and mostly student tends to prefer Ireland.

After Brexit the European students which were paying domestic tuition fees in UK are no longer remaining domestic and the fee charges shifted. So, most of those students prefer the best possible

destination to move and pursue their education and the preference of most of the English students is Ireland (MUKHERJEE, 2021).

### **6.2.2 The Historic Economical Shift**

One of the reasons for the attraction for the students is affordability, because of Brexit the value of Euro falls in exchange of US Dollar, and this was an historic decline in economy from 1.22 USD to the 1.05 USD considering the statistical shifts from December 2020 to May 2022. This was the largest decrease in the value of Euro in 2 years since 2014. This has resulted in US students' affordability to study in Ireland. This also opened opportunities for Irish educational institutions in post pandemic world. All these possibilities are turning Ireland into strong growing market for opportunities.

## **CHAPTER 7 – Limitations Conclusion and Recommendations**

### **7.1 Study Methodology Limitations**

This study conducted in context to the foreign student living and studying in Ireland, the study is conducted with the limit population sample of 63 respondents, so the scope of the study is limited to the sample size. The findings and data are based on the responses gathered from qualitative and quantitative data. The responses obtained are in the post COVID period, so responses also reflect the impact of pandemic. The methodology used in the study is online survey questionnaire and in-person interviews.

### **7.2 Conclusion**

The research is conducted to find the impact of challenges for the foreign students studying in Ireland. The purpose of the study is to enhance the life of foreign students better and to identify the challenges and possibilities for the students studying in Ireland. The study is conducted based on mixed methods including survey-based data and in person interview approach. The study helped in finding out the root ground challenges for the foreign students.

The study uncovered the following findings that the students are facing challenges of finding the affordable places to live and availability of rented houses because the native prefers to rent out their houses and portions for those who have residency permit, so the limited options are available for the foreign students. The cost of living is relatively high for the students, and they are only allowed to work for a limited number of hours every week, so they cannot earn to be self-sufficient in their living.

### **7.3 Recommendations**

There are possibilities in adversities. In this case of the foreign students studying in Ireland, it is possible that Irish universities and government can take initiatives to provide the affordable living opportunities and the industries could be established to obtain productivity through this available work force to utilize their productivity in right direction and they get facilitated in terms of getting part time employment and contribute for enhancing the economy of the country. There is huge proportion of the student according to data who moved to Ireland to pursue their higher education, mostly and European countries and after Brexit the number of students are increasing, so it is opportunity for universities to consider these recommendations to utilize productive human resource and the government could plan initiatives to enhance economy and better the living standards of foreign students with pre-defined limitations as needed limited to their tenure of study.

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## Appendices

### Appendix 1 – Informed Consent Form

#### **Informed Consent Form / Plain Language Statement for Business Research Project for BAAF student in year 3 Independent College Dublin.**

Research Study Title: **A RESEARCH STUDY OF THE KEY CHALLENGES FACING FOREING STUDENTS STUDYING IN IRELAND IN 2022**

Dear -----

This research is being carried out by Flavia Rocha Dias as part of a Degree in Accounting and Finance Studies in Independent Colleges Dublin. The study is being conducted under the supervision of Prof Mary Morgan and Dr. Daniel O’Sullivan (School of Business ICD).

Type of participant:

- I..... voluntarily agree to participate in this research study.
- I understand that even if I agree to participate now, I can withdraw at any time or refuse to answer any question without any consequences of any kind.
- I understand that I can withdraw permission to use data from my interview within two weeks after the interview, in which case the material will be deleted.
- I have had the purpose and nature of the study explained to me in writing and I have had the opportunity to ask questions about the study.



- I understand that participation involves answering five questions related to the challenges of foreign students living in Ireland.
- I understand that I will not benefit directly from participating in this research.
- I agree to my interview being audio-recorded
- I understand that all information I provide for this study will be treated confidentially.
- I understand that in any report on the results of this research my identity will remain anonymous.  
This will be done by changing my name and disguising any details of my interview which may reveal my identity or the identity of people I speak about.
- I understand that disguised extracts from my interview may be quoted in my research project
- I understand that if I inform the researcher that myself or someone else is at risk of harm they may have to report this to the relevant authorities - they will discuss this with me first but may be required to report with or without my permission.
- I understand that signed consent forms and original audio recordings will be retained in Independent College data until 27/11/2022.
- I understand that a transcript of my interview in which all identifying information has been removed will be retained for two years (27/11/2024).
- I understand that under freedom of information legalisation I am entitled to access the information I have provided at any time while it is in storage as specified above.

- I understand that I am free to contact any of the people involved in the research to seek further clarification and information.

Signature of research participant

-----

Signature of participant          Date

Signature of researcher

I believe the participant is giving informed consent to participate in this study

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## Appendix 2 – Online Survey Questionnaire

Are you a foreign student currently studying and living in Ireland?

Yes

No

If you answered YES please continue with survey

If you answered NO thank you for your time the survey has concluded for you.

Q.01 State your level of Agreement or Disagreement with following statement

I find living costs in Ireland are very affordable

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Neither Agree or Disagree

Agree

Strongly Agree

Q.02 How easy do you find it is to get a part time job in Ireland?

Very easy

Easy

Neither Easy or Difficult

Difficult

Very Difficult

Q.03 Which County in Ireland do you leave?

Dublin

Cork

Galway

Limerick

Kildare

Other

Q.04 How many times have you moved from one house to another in Ireland over the last 5 years?

Less than once

Once

2-3 times

4-6 times

6+

Q.05 The cost of house rental in Ireland is very affordable for foreign students.

Please state your level of Agree or Disagree with above statement

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

Neither Agree or Disagree

Agree

Strongly Agree

Q.06 What percentage (%) of your total monthly income goes towards rental?

Less than 30%

40%-60%

60%-80%

More than 80%

Q.07 Do you have any budget planner tools to help organise income and expenses?

Yes

No

Q.08 What do you think about financial planners?

Very important

Important

Important but don't know how to do it.

A waste of time

Q 09 Do you feel pressured by your family to go back to your country?

Yes

No

Maybe

Q. 10 What are you mainly spending money on?

Rent

Transport

Students' fees

Utility bills

Leisure

Q.11 How do you feel when you're not able to communicate and express yourself properly in an English conversation?

For example, in a discussion in class or to give your opinion on a specific topic.

I'm afraid of making some mistakes, so I don't speak.

I'm afraid of making some mistakes, but I speak anyway.

Not afraid to express oneself

Q. 12 Do you believe there is a difference in renting property between someone with an Irish resident permit and a foreign student?

Yes

No

### **Appendix 3 – Interview Questionnaire**

1-What do you think about the cost of living in Ireland?

2-Could you describe the process of renting a house in Ireland as a foreign student? Is there any difference you feel (think?) when you apply for a house vacancy between an Irish resident or European and you?

3- What is the situation when looking for a job with a student visa?

4-Are you doing therapy after starting to live in Ireland?

5-Could you describe what is your most challenge as a foreign student?