



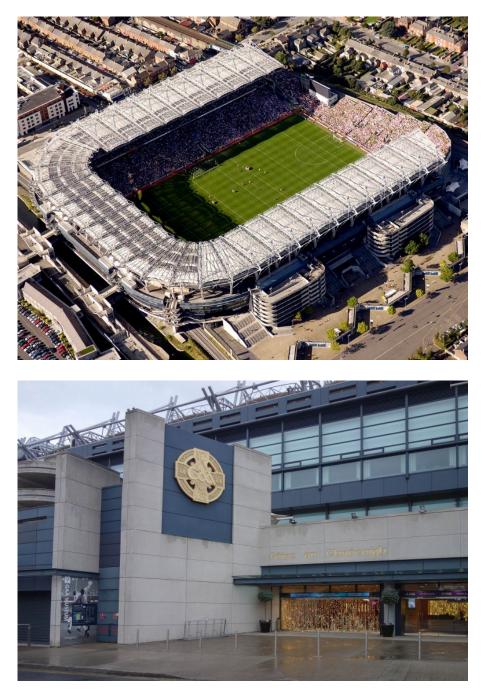
Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) are delighted to welcome delegates to Dublin for the 2023 ENQA General Assembly. Below we have included some information to help you plan your visit to Ireland in October. Should you have any questions, please find contact details at the end of the documents. We hope you enjoy your visit to Dublin!

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# Venue

The 2023 ENQA General Assembly will take place in the Croke Park Conference Centre at Croke Park, in Dublin. Croke Park is a Gaelic games stadium in Dublin, Ireland, and is also the headquarters of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA).



Venue website: <a href="https://crokepark.ie/meetings-events">https://crokepark.ie/meetings-events</a> Address: Croke Park, Drumcondra, Dublin 3 Location: <a href="https://crokepark.ie/meetings-events">View the park, Drumcondra, Dublin 3</a> Location: <a href="https://crokepark.ie/meetings-events">View the venue on Google Maps</a> Please see transport and route options below.

# Moving Around Dublin

# Public Transport:

Public Transport in Ireland is provided by TFI (<u>Transport for Ireland</u>). You can use the <u>TFI app</u> or <u>website</u> to plan your route and view live departures.

A **LEAP** card can be purchased to allow access to buses, DART/Commuter Services (rail) and LUAS (tram). Visitors to Dublin can get information on the <u>Leap Card website</u>. Leap cards can be purchased online before you travel (ensure you allow time for the card to be posted to you) or at the Airport in arrivals at:

Bus & Travel Information Desk (T1 Arrivals) Spar (T2 Arrivals) WHSmith (T1 Arrivals)

You can also pay-as-you-go on public transport; however, cash fares are more expensive, and you will need <u>coins only and exact change</u> for busses.

# Taxis:

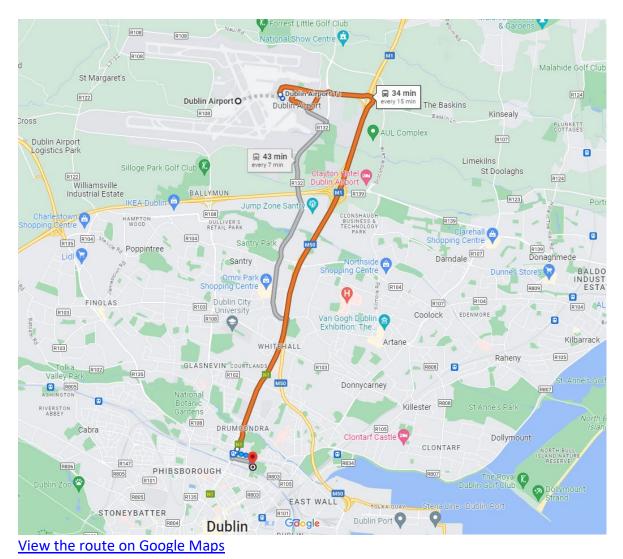
Taxis can be expensive in Ireland. You may wish to use <u>TFI's taxi fare estimator</u> to check prices before you travel.

Taxis can be picked up at a rank or flagged down on the street. They are identifiable by the yellow roof plate, which lights up when the taxi is available. You can also use apps such as <u>Free Now</u> to order, book and pay for a Taxi.



Getting to Croke Park Conference Centre or Croke Park Hotel from Dublin Airport *By Bus:* 

The 700 bus, operated by AirCoach will bring you from Dublin Airport to Drumcondra which is a 7-minute walk to Croke Park Conference Centre and an 8-minute walk from to the Croke Park Hotel (The hotel entrance is located approximately 50m from the conference centre entrance). The 700 bus runs from T1 (Zone 2) and T2 (Zone 20). Timetables can be viewed, and tickets can be booked at <u>www.aircoach.ie</u>. Prebooked tickets cost €7 one-way and €8 return.



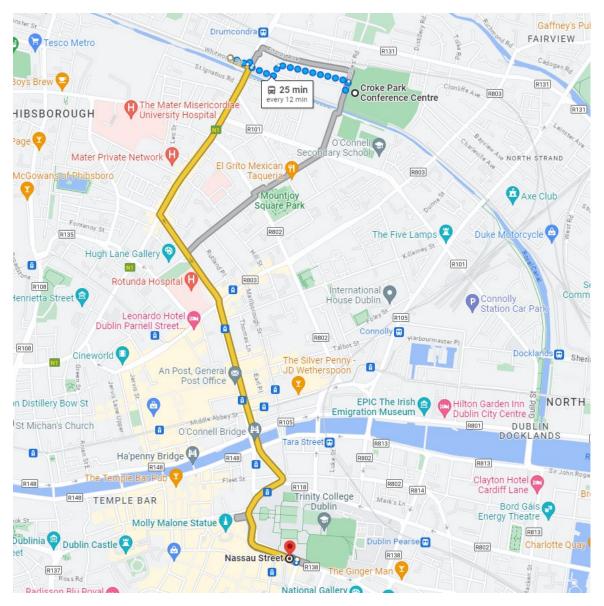
#### By Taxi:

You can take a taxi from Dublin Airport directly to the Croke Park Conference Centre or hotel. There are signs in Dublin Airport Arrivals which will point you to the taxi rank. The fare will cost approximately €20-25. All taxis in Ireland use meters which calculate the rate as you travel. Taxis will accept credit/debit card payments, as well as cash.

# Getting to Dublin City Centre

#### From Croke Park Conference Centre or Croke Park Hotel:

The number 40 bus towards Earlsfort Terrace from St Patricks Road will bring you through the city centre stopping on O'Connell Bridge (10 min walk to EPIC Museum) and Nassau Street. The number 7, 7A and 11 busses are alternative options which also follow this route.



#### View the route to Nassau Street on Google Maps

#### From Dublin Airport:

As above, the 700 bus, operated by AirCoach will bring you from Dublin Airport to Dublin City Centre. The 700 bus runs from T1 (Zone 2) and T2 (Zone 20). Timetables can be viewed, and tickets can be booked at <u>www.aircoach.ie</u>. Prebooked tickets to the city centre cost approximately €9 one-way and €13 return (prices vary depending exact stop).

# Hotels and Accommodation

There are several events taking place around Dublin during the week. <u>Please book your stay</u> as soon as possible, as hotels will fill up quickly and prices will increase.



Croke Park Hotel (€185 per night):

Website: https://www.doylecollection.com/hotels/the-croke-park-hotel

The Croke Park Hotel is located 50 metres from the Croke Park Conference Centre entrance. It is the recommended hotel and there is a nightly rate of €185 for ENQA General Assembly delegates. Individual bookings can be cancelled without penalty up to 48 hours prior to check in. Please note that a limited number (50) of rooms are available at this rate **until 10 July**, after which the number of rooms available at this rate will be gradually released. <u>We</u> recommend booking as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

#### Booking details for the Croke Park Hotel:

Call or email the hotel directly and use the booking code **BOOK241023** to avail of the agreed rate. The hotel reservations team can be contacted on +353 1 871 4550 or by email: <u>crokepark@doylecollection.com</u>.

Alternative Accommodation Options:

Skylon Hotel (approx. €180 per night) Website: <u>https://www.dublinskylonhotel.com/</u>

The hotel is located in Drumcondra, close to Dublin City University Campus. Croke Park Conference Centre is a 22-minute walk or 15—minute bus ride away.

Trinity City Hotel (approx. €200 per night) Website: <u>https://www.trinitycityhotel.com/en/</u>

This hotel is located in Dublin City Centre, beside Trinity College. It is also close to Tara Street Station, from which you can travel to Croke Park Conference Centre via train (20 minutes total journey time). See <u>the route on Google Maps</u>.

Hotel Riu Plaza the Gresham Dublin (approx. €185 per night) Website: <u>https://www.riu.com/en/hotel/ireland/dublin/hotel-riu-plaza-the-gresham-</u> dublin/

This hotel is located on Dublin's O'Connell Street and is 17 minutes from Croke Park by bus, or 18 on foot.

Hotel 7 Dublin (approx. €235 per night) Website: <u>https://www.hotel7dublin.com/</u>

This hotel is located on the North side of Dublin City Centre and is a 15-minute walk to the Croke Park Conference Centre.

Clayton Hotel Cardiff Lane (approx. €280 per night) Website: <u>https://www.claytonhotelcardifflane.com/</u>

This hotel is located in Dublin City Centre and is approximately 30 minutes from Croke Park.

# Social Programme

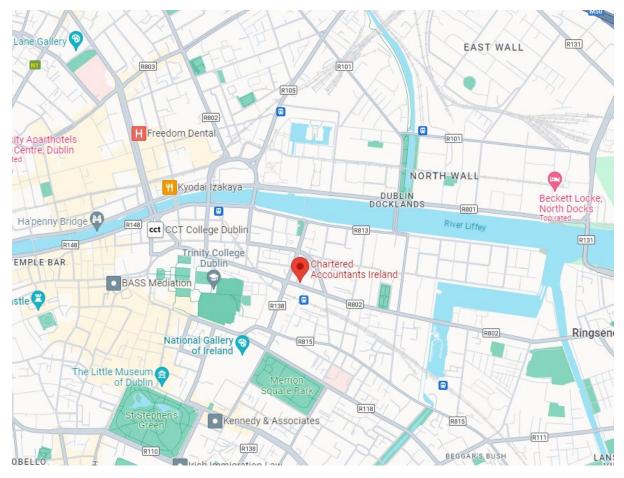
## Wednesday 25 October 2023

# *13:30 – 14: 30* Introduction to the Irish Education and Quality Assurance Systems (*registration required*)

This session is only open to participants that registered in advance. The host agency Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) will introduce delegates to the Irish Education and Quality Assurance Systems. Further information and details (including venue, directions, map) will be sent in advance to those registered.

The presentation will take place in Chartered Accountants Ireland, 47/49 Pearse St, Dublin 2, D02 YN40





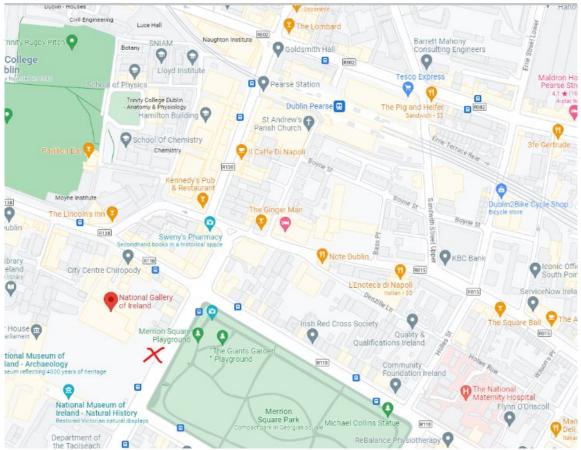
View Chartered Accountants Ireland on Google maps

# 15:00 – 16.15: Walking Tour of Dublin (registration required)

This session is only open to participants that registered in advance. This exceptional and easy-going tour will give you an introduction to Dublin's rich history and culture - exploring many of the renowned sites and hidden corners of Dublin. Learn about Dublin's 2,000 years of history and the even older cultural Irish influences. The tour will be facilitated by <u>www.walkingtours.ie</u> in small groups.

The meeting point for this tour will be at the gates of the Nationl Gallery of Ireland on Merrion Square, as shown on the image and map below.





View the meeting point on Google Maps

#### 16:15 – 18:30: Break

There will be a break for delegates to exlore Dublin at their own pace and pick up something light to eat before the evening's events.

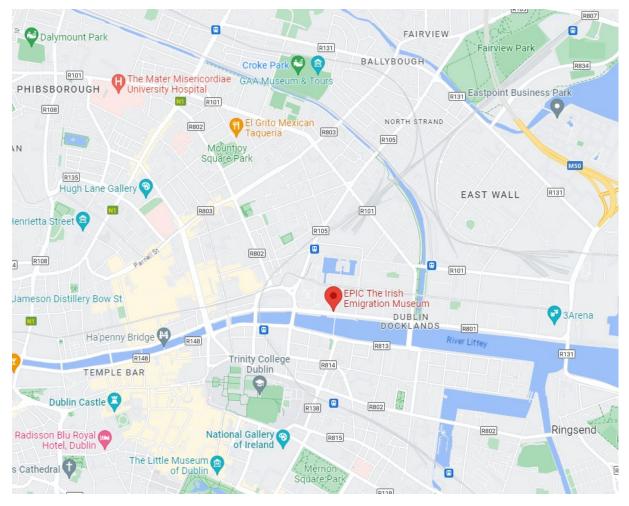


18:30 – 22:30: EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum (registration required)

This session is only open to participants that registered in advance. This museum provides a unique insight into Ireland's history and culture. Discover why 10 million people left Ireland and explore the impact they had on the world.

A guided tour of the EPIC Museum will begin at 18:30 and will be followed by an evening reception. Delegates will have an opportunity to chat and network over food and drinks, served casually.

The museum is located in Dublin City Centre, close to a wide range of public transport links. You can get more details on how to get there on the <u>EPIC Website</u>. Travel from the Croke Park Hotel or Conference Centre will take approximately 30-40 minutes by bus to O'Connell Bridge.



View the EPIC Museum on Google Maps

#### Thursday 26 October 2023

# All activities on Thursday 26 October are only open to participants that registered in advance.

#### 18:45 – Coach collection (registration required)

A coach will collect delegates travelling to the Guinness Storehouse from Croke Park Hotel. Delegates who are not staying at this hotel, can also use the coach service. The coach will depart at 18:45 from the <u>Croke Park hotel</u>, which is located 50m from the conference centre.



19:30 - Self-guided tour of the Guinness Storehouse (registration required)

The <u>Guinness storehouse</u> experience will show you the history, heart and soul of the world's most popular stout. The self-guided tour will commence at 19:30 and will be followed by dinner.

#### 20:00 – Dinner at the Guinness Storehouse (registration required)

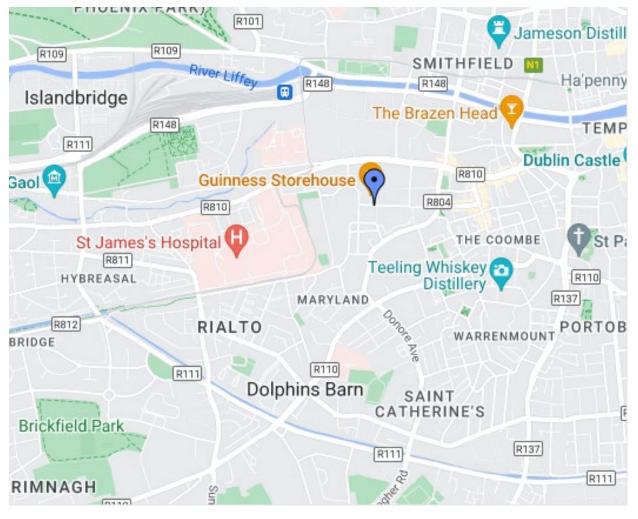
Seating for dinner will commence at 20:00 following the self-guided tour.

#### 23:30 – Coach return (registration required)

The coach will collect guests from the Guinness Storehouse at 23:30, returning to the Croke Park Hotel.

#### Travelling to the Guinness Storehouse

The Guinness storehouse is accessible by a wide range of transport options. For details, please visit the <u>Guinness Storehouse website</u>.



View the Guinness Storehouse on Google Maps

Social programme continues on the next page.

# Friday 27 October 2023

#### 13:00 – Lunch as per General Assembly programme

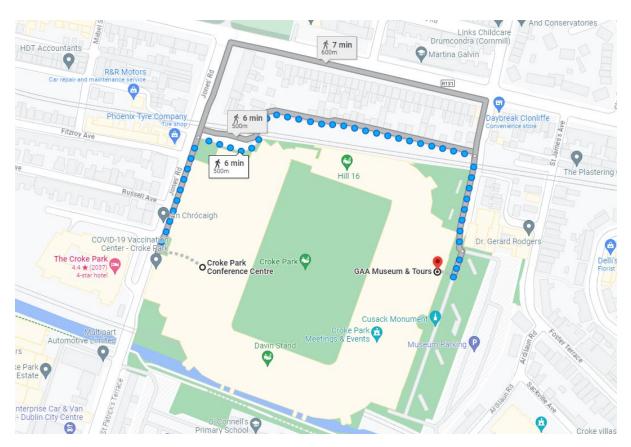




This session is only open to participants that registered in advance. The <u>Skyline Croke Park</u> <u>Tour</u> will begin on the final day of the assembly, shortly after the last session ends. It will last approximately 90 minutes. This thrilling rooftop walkway is Dublin's highest open-viewing platform and offers breath-taking panoramic views of Ireland's vibrant capital from the mountains to the sea.

The tour highlights all of the capital's main landmarks while giving you an insight into its heartfelt history. Then of course there's the sporting highlight – the incredible view from the platform that's suspended over the Croke Park pitch itself.

This tour departs from the GAA Museum at Croke Park, a short 6-minute walk from the entrance to the Croke Park Conference Centre. Staff will be there to direct delegates on the day. **If you are taking part, please leave your cases in the hotel for storage.** 



View the route on Google Maps.

Document continues on the next page.

# Useful information

## Personal Safety:

Please take care on public transport and in Dublin city. As in all large cities care is needed as pickpockets are always on the lookout. We advise delegates to use transportation outside of daylight hours rather than travelling on foot.

## Tourism:

For things to do around Dublin, you can visit the <u>official Visit Dublin website</u>. Here you can browse and search a variety of attractions. You'll also find a list of <u>free activities and</u> <u>attractions</u> around Dublin. Our national museums and galleries are free and are worth checking out. Some favourites include <u>Hugh Lane Gallery</u> and <u>The National Museum of</u> <u>Ireland at Colins Barracks</u>.

If you're extending your stay and plan to visit other places in Ireland, you can find lots of information about attractions and activities on the <u>Discover Ireland website</u>.

#### Public Transport and Taxis:

The Transport for Ireland website has details of all public transport services as well as a taxi fare estimator <u>https://www.transportforireland.ie/</u>. Please see more details around assembly-related travel above.

## Dining:

Dublin has a diverse range of dining options. The app and website <u>Open Table</u> is often used locally for making restaurant bookings and also offers restaurant menus and reviews. Most places will have availability for walk-in service, however if you have somewhere special in mind, a reservation is recommended to avoid disappointment, especially on weekends.

# Chargers and electrical items:

For Ireland the associated plug type is **G**, which is the plug that has three rectangular pins in a triangular pattern. Ireland operates on a 230V supply voltage and 50Hz.



#### Weather:

The weather in Dublin in October can be mixed, but mostly cool, wet and windy. The average temperature is 11°C. We recommend packing a few warm layers and a raincoat.

#### Visa requirements:

A list of visa required nationalities and non-visa required nationalities can be found here.

If you are visa-required national, you will require a visa to visit Ireland. A short stay 'C' conference/event visa will allow you to travel to Ireland for up to 90 days to attend a conference, symposium or other event, for example for business or academic reasons.

Further information regarding a short-stay conference visa can be found on the <u>Department</u> <u>of Foreign Affairs Website</u>. If you require a visa, you should prepare your application as soon as possible, at least 3 months before you travel. Please reach out to Caoimhe Marshall (<u>cmarshall@qqi.ie</u>) should you require a letter from QQI, as the organiser, to submit with your visa application.

## Currency and payments in Ireland:

The currency in Ireland is the Euro. Most stores and services will accept electronic payments (including credit card, debit card, Apple Pay and Google Pay), as well as cash.

Contact: If you have any questions, please contact: Caoimhe Marshall cmarshall@qqi.ie