Our number of incoming students in the first semester far exceeds the number of Erasmus students in the second semester. With the ever increasing number of students studying abroad, this has brought on two main challenges: capacity in courses and accommodation shortage.

Below is a little table to show you the advantages of the second semester, if you ever have students who may not be fully decided which term they’d wish to spend in Ireland 😊

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| **First Semester only** | **Second semester only** |
| Is very short – only three months. This is because we do not require our incoming students to come back after Christmas to sit their exams, which take place in January. | Is four months long, as students take their exams in May, at the end of their semester. |
| There is a huge shortage of accommodation in the first semester as many domestic and international students are looking for a place to stay. | There is more accommodation available in the second semester, as oftentimes domestic students move back home, or drop out, etc. |
| Due to capacity, students may not be able to get into all classes they wished to attend. | The lower number of students means that students are more likely to be accepted in all classes they put down on their LA. |
| The weather!!  it can be an obstacle when it comes to travelling, or enjoying activities with our student societies. | The weather is far better in the second semester, which means the students can better enjoy travelling around the isle. The evenings get longer and allow for more activities outside. |