

Field report semester abroad

Please do not mention any personal data (name, e-mail address, etc.) in the field report.

Photos (with description) can be inserted at the end of the report.

I agree with the publication of the report and the inserted photos:

Yes No

Study programme at the EUF
European Cultures and Societies
Combination of subjects (for Educational Students)
Country
Ireland
Partner university
University of Limerick
Semester abroad (e.g. fall semester 2016/17)
Fall semester 2019
Duration of the semester abroad (lectures and examinations)
September - December 2019
Preparation
<p>It was easy to prepare for the time abroad. The staff at the University of Limerick was direct and helpful in answering any questions or issues I had with the upcoming semester.</p> <p>The registration process for the courses was also easy and convenient. In regards of the courses themselves, I intentionally picked subjects different from my main course studies to check if they would be easy to take part in without any beforehand experience on that topic, and I can confirm that for the ones I chose there was not much need for preparation outside of a basic understanding of the topic.</p> <p>The main difficulty however was housing. I had to resort to searching for housing once I arrived there because I did not manage to get a place at the student dormitories. While</p>

it might have been partly due to applying late for them, I have heard from other students that applied much earlier than me that they did not get housing either.

I was able to find a host in late september, but this should still be taken into account.

Studies at the partner university (e.g. period of lectures, language of instruction, courses offered, type of examination)

The period of lectures lasted for thirteen weeks from september to december, and overall gave enough time for both assignment work in the courses as well as preparation for the final examinations.

The main language of instruction is English, and so were all the courses I partook in.

In terms of variety, I would say the University provided a great selection of courses for different topics and fields, ranging from arts to social studies to engineering, so overall I think anyone could potentially find something to suit them.

The examinations tended to be the standard fare. For some courses, part of the grade was determined through presentations over the course of the semester, with the rest done by an exam or other project. Another course, Creative Writing, was based more around the texts written over the course for the grade as well as overall participation, and two other courses just required essays.

Life in the host country(e.g. living, shopping, leisure, costs)

Living conditions around the area of the host house were overall good. It was a fairly quiet and calm neighborhood with easy access to shops or restaurants. As a matter of fact, I would say that Limerick as a whole is a pretty calm town to go through.

Shopping prices were more expensive than what I was used with in Germany, although I would say the item quantities were higher to accommodate that. There were plenty of shops with different varieties of items as well throughout the city and at quick and convenient access. Rent prices may vary from one place to another, but the Erasmus grant money was enough for me to pay for all the months I stayed.

In terms of activities to do, the university features plenty of student clubs based around different hobbies to partake in, as well as a few cafes for social activities and the library for reading. Outside of the university, the city similarly offers a good amount of cafes, restaurants, pubs and nightclubs. At the same time, certain parts can make for a good sightseeing tour, especially the main tourist attraction at King John's castle and surrounding area.

Practical tips/conclusion

Overall I can say that my time in Ireland was quite remarkable and I left the country feeling very satisfied with the proceedings. I would heavily recommend Ireland and the University of Limerick to anyone interested in studying abroad.

In terms of practical tips, overall there is not anything too specific for Ireland, but I would still recommend primarily to heavily focus on finding suitable housing, and secondarily to be generally friendly and open to the local populace.

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