

Experience report study abroad semester

How was it?

You may have heard this question more often now that you are at the end of your semester abroad. The International Center would also like to know how you evaluate your semester abroad and what you need to know. The experience reports will be published and serve to help orient others going abroad. The International Office would also like to use the contents for advertising purposes if necessary. We would therefore like you to keep this in mind when filling out the report.

1. General information

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

I agree to the publication of the report and the attached photos:

Yes No

Study program at EUF

European Cultures and Society

Subject combination (if BABW)

Klicken oder tippen Sie hier, um Text einzugeben.

Host country

Ireland

Host university

University of Limerick

Semester abroad (e.g. fall semester 2020/21)

HeSe 2021/22

2. Your Experience Abroad

At this point you can share the experience you made abroad. Sometimes it is not so easy to report on such experiences in such a compressed way. We have therefore prepared some questions to help you do this. At the end of the questionnaire, you will also find a free field for you to fill in, in which you are welcome to enter aspects that are not covered by any of these questions.

How did you prepare for the semester abroad?

I did not prepare much, aside from at least familiarising myself with the Irish English accent.

How did you establish social networks in your host country? Do you have any tips on how this can be achieved?

I mostly joined some Erasmus or international chat groups and talked to my neighbours in the student village, which helped establishing contact. My advice is to be open and welcoming to everybody, which will lead to establishing of relationships.

Did you learn the local language, respectively how important did you think it was for your stay?

Since Ireland's day to day language is English and not Irish, I already knew it, however I did not learn Irish. English is of course very important in order to communicate with locals and to take the courses. Without at least fluent conversational knowledge of English, I would not advise going to Ireland.

How was the study program at the partner university structured?

(e.g. premises, workload, language of instruction, examination forms, accessibility)

What intercultural encounters/competencies shaped your stay?

As my study program at home is interdisciplinary, I was allowed to choose freely from any courses at least tangentially connected to European Cultures and Society. The workload is very similar to Flensburg, however there are midterm examinations around 2 months into the semester. Due to the Covid restrictions, I was examined solely through research papers.

What intercultural encounters/competencies shaped your stay?

Klicken oder tippen Sie hier, um Text einzugeben.

Which perspectives on the host country/country of origin have changed and why?

I really have not changed my views on Germany or Ireland, aside from a deeper understanding of the Irish view on Europe and the EU and a first hand account on the Republic of Ireland's view on the "troubles"

What was your daily life like where you were? (e.g. living, shopping, leisure, inclusion)

My daily life was not very different from the one in Germany, mostly going to Campus some time in the morning, depending on the time I had my first lectures. Shopping in

EXPERIENCE REPORT ON SEMESTER ABROAD

Ireland is also relatively similar, since both countries are EU countries, and also was very supportive of a vegan lifestyle. However, one of the most common shops in Ireland called Dunnes does not take foreign debit cards, and you can either pay by credit card or cash.

What are the unique or special issues in the host country and what were the opportunities for engaging with these issues?

The cost of living in Ireland, especially rent is very high, I paid 700 Euros a month for a small room in specialised student accommodation. There really is not much you can do about that, 700 Euro is actually rather low. But one has to be very mindful of that when choosing Ireland. Another issue, that I had to cope with, is that it is pretty much expected to own a credit card in Ireland and many shops and other facilities expect you to pay by credit card.

Is there anything else you would like to share? (e.g. anecdotes, criticism, etc.)

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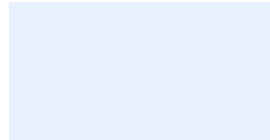
3. Photos

Finally, you can upload photos here, which visualize/represent your stay abroad well. If necessary, add a description. The following questions can help you choose the appropriate photos:

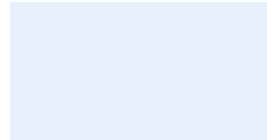
- Does the photo possibly reinforce prejudices or stereotypes about the country?
- Do you have the consensual consent of the persons depicted in the photos?
- "A picture is worth a thousand words!" What does your picture say about the country and your semester abroad?



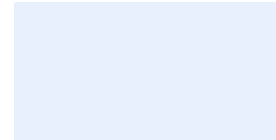
*Irish
Countryside*



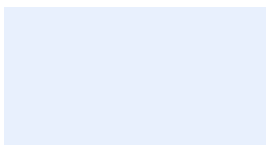
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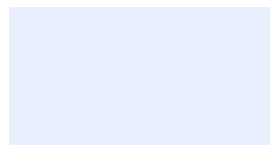
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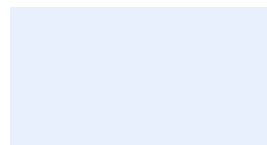
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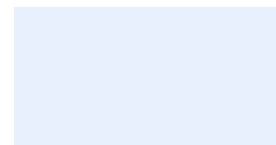
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Many thanks for your support!