

## Travel Report

### GENERAL INFORMATION

---

What was your semester abroad like?

---

**I agree to the publication of the report and attached photos  
(there are no third parties rights to these photos)** Yes

**New outgoing students sometimes ask us for a way to  
contact former outgoings. Are we allowed to pass on your  
contact details in case of inquiries?** Yes

**Academic year** 2023/2024

**Start semester** Herbst/Fall 2023/24

**Duration in semesters** 1

**Study program at EUF** B.A. European Cultures and Society

**Subject 1 (only applicable to teacher training students)**

**Subject 2 (only applicable to teacher training students)**

**Subject 3 (only applicable to teacher training students)**

**Host country** Ireland

**Host university** University of Limerick

### YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

---

**How did you prepare for the semester abroad? What should  
be organized in advance?**

It would be best if you tried to get your language certificate as soon as possible so that you don't have to stress about that in the last few weeks before you leave for your stay abroad. Furthermore, it is helpful to already look for insurance, which is needed when going abroad, pretty early, as those smaller tasks are an additional stress factor in the last days and weeks in the home country.

**Do you have any recommendations for environmentally  
friendly travel (if applicable)?**

If possible, you should try to take the bus or train to travel from A to B, not only when going to the country of your stay abroad but also when traveling there.

**Where did you live and how did you find your accommodation (self-organized/provided by host university, dormitory/private etc.)?**

I lived on campus in the student accommodations. I was really happy with my apartment, but it has to be said that overall the housing situation in Limerick is difficult, and some students who did not receive a spot in the student accommodation (because a lottery decided who got a spot) had difficulties finding a decent place off campus. The Global Office and the UL website are very helpful, and they try to search for a place as easily as possible for international students, but it is a stressful process, and in cases of doubt or uncertainty, it might be best to just call the Global Office and they will try to help you.

**Did you participate in events for exchange students? How did you establish social contacts in other ways?**

On the first Sundays, I always went on trips that UL organized for international students to different sights and cities throughout Ireland. Furthermore, every Friday was an international night at the pub on campus. Both helped to bond with other exchange students.

**How satisfied were you with the host university (facilities, staff etc.) and the course offer (workload etc.)?**

The workload at UL depends on what you study and how much effort you want to put into your assignments and classes, but overall, I would say that the workload at UL for me was a bit less than in Germany. However, the overall structure of the courses is very different from what I was used to in Germany, and I had midterms and finals in every course (e.g., assignments, videos, exams, quizzes, reports, etc.). Furthermore, I enjoyed my courses even though I had to switch some of the ones I originally wanted to take. All the staff and lecturers at UL that I met were very friendly and welcoming, and they tried to make the international students feel welcome and integrated.

**Did you learn the local language? How important was the language for your stay?**

Unfortunately, I did not learn Irish when I was at UL, but English was enough to communicate with locals and in university, as it is one of the official languages of Ireland and many locals do not even speak Irish themselves.

**What intercultural experiences/skills have marked your stay?**

The locals were all very welcoming, friendly, open to help, and, of course, always up for a chat. It is very easy to approach people since Irish people generally love to have a chat, whether it is in the pub, the grocery store, or even while waiting in line, and if you don't approach them, it is very likely that they will start talking to you. Furthermore, living with people from different countries and cultures was also an everyday cultural exchange, which I wouldn't want to miss. I have not noticed myself, but what people have been telling me is that I picked up a bit of an Irish accent, which I take as a compliment. :D

**Which perspectives on your host country/home country have changed - and why?**

I tried not to go to Ireland with an idea in my head of what it was going to be like there. But while living in Ireland, I noticed some things that were very different from what I was used to from living in Germany. I always lived in northern Germany, so I am used to people that are stereotypically more distant and cold in nature, but after coming back from Ireland, I first noticed that this is actually the case and not just a stereotype. I really love how open and welcoming Irish people are, and I find myself spreading some of that energy myself now that I am back in Germany. Another thing that really surprised me when classes at UL started was that the locals were dressed so much differently from the international students. It is obvious that people have different styles, but students at UL were dressed very sporty and casual, which I was not used to from EUF.

**How was your everyday life (leisure, shopping, transportation, inclusion etc.)?**

I tried to see as much as possible of Ireland and its culture on the weekends, e.g., by visiting the milk market in town or visiting cities like Galway, Cork, Killarney, etc. Furthermore, the international night every Friday was an essential way to catch up with my friends and meet new people. I usually went grocery shopping at Dunnes, Tesco, or Supervalu in the city. Most of the time, I took the bus to get there, but it was not a long bus ride, and one could also walk there. I just happened to live on the campus side, which was the furthest away. If one wants to eat on campus, there are a ton of restaurants, cafes, and even a pub. Some cafes, like Starbucks, are more on the expansive side, but there are also cheaper places, like Paddocks.

**Do you have any recommendations for a sustainable stay abroad (projects, initiatives, everyday life)?**

There are many clubs and societies that focus on sustainable living, and there are also some courses dedicated to sustainability. In addition to that, you also have access to a lot of regionally produced food. Furthermore, there are many buses going in the city but also between cities that allow you to get around in Ireland.

**How did you manage financially? How much did you spend on visa (if applicable), travel, accommodation (per month), living expenses, leisure activities, other expenses (books etc.)?**

Luckily, I did not have to pay a semester fee or a visa and was financially supported by Erasmus, but living in Ireland is definitely rather expensive. My rent for a room in the student dormitory was around 870€/month plus a 500€ deposit (it was one of the more expensive dorms). Groceries are also a bit more expensive in Ireland than in Germany, but if you plan your meals in advance and do not buy only the most expensive brands, you are going to be fine. Furthermore, the cashiers will ask you if you have a club card to save money, and if you don't have one, it is very likely that they will ask the person behind you in line if they want to borrow theirs from you. You can, of course, also ask them yourself. Traveling around in Ireland is cheaper than in Germany because you can get a student bus card, which gives you a discount on short bus rides but also longer rides, for instance, from Limerick to Cork. Tickets for the cinema are also very cheap, and it's just 5€ to see a film. Overall, I would say that with some financial support from my parents, savings, and the Erasmus+ money, I got around okay, but this definitely depends on a person's lifestyle and financial situation. If you receive AuslandsBAföG, you might not need financial support from your parents, and so on. What I am trying to say is that the financial side should be considered when thinking about going to Ireland, but you should not stress too much about it.

**What was your best/worst experience? Is there anything else you would like to share?**

The worst experience for me was finding accommodation. Even though I was lucky enough to have a place in the on-campus accommodation, the time before I got the place was really stressful. Another thing that was stressful to me was the preparation for the end-of-term exams and papers because I wasn't used to the amount and kind of work that was required. Some of the best experiences for me were definitely the people I met and the daily life with my roommates and friends I made. Something that I did not expect to experience in Ireland was days that were only dedicated to partying, like UL Christmas and Halloween. Really try to find some locals to tell you about it in advance so that you are not overwhelmed by what is going to happen. Spoiler alert: no one is going to class! I also love Ireland's nature and weather. I was expecting it to be really depressing and dark because of the rain that Ireland is definitely known for, but the rain was nothing like what I was used to from Flensburg. I can say that it was raining almost every day in Limerick for at least some minutes in autumn and winter, but the sun came out right after and the wind blew away all the clouds. Never in my life have I ever seen as many rainbows as in Ireland. There were also some days when the rain did not stop, but I got used to the rain pretty quickly. The nature is just overwhelmingly beautiful. The grass is greener in Ireland, is all I can say.

**Would you recommend a semester abroad at your host university? For what reasons?**

Without a doubt, yes!!! The University of Limerick makes the whole experience amazing for you. The staff tries to support you wherever they can, and being a bigger university, they have better resources to organize activities that help you meet new people and feel integrated.

## PHOTOS

---

In this section, you may upload some photos that represent your stay abroad. When selecting the photos, please bear in mind that the pictures will be visible online if you have given us the permission to publish your report.

**Photo (1)** file\_65ae5dcabd134-processed-8a7a11b4-e620-4898-bec9-6283a9eed005.jpeg

**Photo (2)** file\_65ae5f9e1b9da-processed-82c21347-1aef-4663-a1aa-6b948d7d5b5e.jpeg

**Photo (3)** file\_65ae5dd926605-original-15147e2d-1750-484c-a600-91c5aeb3342c.jpeg

**Photo (4)** file\_65ae5de6270a6-original-46bf6651-22a9-45f8-8d81-445ae6f5c43f.jpeg

**Photo (5)** file\_65ae5fb339ecd-processed-80f4aec3-992f-4deb-aaba-a1e30d553dcc.jpeg

**Photo (6)** file\_65ae5fd3e9bc5-processed-0b5d1563-41f0-45d4-a186-f7b5cd6785e6.jpeg

**Here you have the possibility to enter descriptions/explanations for the photos**







































