

Study Abroad Testimony

So you want to study abroad? Good idea. But choosing the right host country is probably the most important decision you'll ever make, one that will affect the course of your personal and professional life for many, many year

When applying to study abroad, I was nervous that either I wasn't good enough to get in, or I wouldn't be able to cope with being away from what I knew for so long. I've always been a bit of a control-freak and I knew that while studying abroad in The Ireland and traveling throughout Europe there would be so much out of my control. But, it was such an important opportunity for me to get out of my comfort zone. If you worry too much, you'll miss out on the amazing sights and experiences. I've taken that mentality back home with me and it truly is the best souvenir.

Studying abroad adds another level to your college experience. It takes you out of your element and places you in a place where you are less comfortable, enabling you to learn in a new way. Experiencing other cultures around the world broadens your knowledge base and teaches you to think and live differently. It is so important, today, to have a solid understanding of different cultures, and I think sending students abroad is an easy way to set up our generation to be a more globally-minded society.

I'm so glad I went for it, as studying in Ireland and UK really was an amazing experience, propelling me in not only my studies but my future ambitions also. The University of Bangor was very welcoming - especially the Study Abroad Mentors and Staff who were always ensuring we were had nothing less than a fantastic time especially Prof Cahill. The classes were extremely beneficial as I was able to learn different skills that I can now have suffusion information and general idea about EU law, Advocacy, and international Criminal Law.

The study abroad experience gave me so many opportunities that I would not have been able to achieve in neither Iraq nor US - such as having a tour from the first week (May 20) to Dingle Peninsula. We went to Blasket Center. The Center relates the story of the Great Blasket Island, abandoned since 1953. There are excellent facilities in the Center including an extensive exhibition of photographs and story boards, a film documentary in several languages (I hope you could find your mother language over there). During the weekend, I and a number of JD students went Deep Sea Fishing which was a wonderful day for me because it was the first time for me to do it and also we could catch several basket of fish (Lol). In May 27, we had a Dance Lessons to be prepared for Irish dance for the next day. Next day, we went to party at TP's Tavern, which is a very cool bar. We were dancing over there and the Runner ups received a gift and fortunately I was one of them. A good news for you guys that we had a free meal choice. We also got a free drink which was paid by Prof Hood. In May 30, we went to Dublin. The next day, we had a nice tour of Glendalough & Wicklow Mountain. It is a great place to visit because it is a place of great spirituality and inspiring beauty. I assure that you would like it so much and will be remarked in list one of the best place you have

ever seen it. In June first, I and a number of JD students went to a Cliffs of Moher, which stand over 200m high above waves of the Atlantic Ocean. You should not miss this place. In June 4th, we had a Criminal Courts of Justice Tour. It was very beneficial for all of us because you will have an opportunity to see both the Barrister and Solicitor and get a comprehensive knowledge about how it works in a court. Next day, I and Libby went to the downtown where there is a Libby's favorite restaurant called (Bella Cuba) in Ballsbridge. Unfortunately, the restaurant was closed. However, we had a wonderful time together especially at French restaurant when it was a first time for me to try French food. The food was so delicious but little bit pricy (Lol). In Jun 8th, we went to Bangor-Wales by Ferry which is called (Stena Adventurer), the second biggest ferry in the world. Then, after we arrived, we had a tour for one of the famous castles in Conwy. In June 11th, we went to Chester (Criminal Courts Chester England). We explored in Chester and enjoyed their food. In June 13th, we had a Farewell Reception with free wine and then Farewell free Dinner. Every weekend would be another opportunity for adventures and I ended up visiting London. It was fascinating to see how beautiful is. All in all, Study Abroad In Ireland was a great program for me. I have learned a lot from this program. I could say that it is a great program for international students because they could get close and close to JD students and get to know each other. JD students are so nice and humble. When I was at UMKC, there was a gap between JD and international students. We as an international students were afraid to break the distance and get close to JD. However, via this program, I finally found that how nice JD students are. Our living accommodation was a mix of American students, meaning I got to make friends with people from all over the US where SIU students were with us. We studied together, hangout together, went to pubs together. We became as a family and I never had such a feeling that I was not one of them. Many of whom I still keep in contact with today! To be honest, even my language was enhanced because of them. You as an international student would have a great opportunity to share your own culture with US students and make your English better where English is your second or third language. I also have to say that the staff is very cool. Professors are very humble and respectful. Classes are great. I got a lot out of my classes. I should say that our program Director worked well with staff in the host country. The teaching methods used were a good fit for me as a learner and I (as international student) did not have any problem with neither classes nor professor. Professor made themselves available for student's question and concerns. This program was a strong academic program for me because it will help my CV in my career future when I had an opportunity via this program to take EU Law, Advocacy, and International Criminal Law classes. I should say that the work load was appropriate for the credit hours offered. I would like to mention that I was satisfied with our housing arrangement specially "Cottage" in Dingle. I assure you that you will really like it. I was also satisfied with the safety and convenience of the transportations arrangements for this trip and I always felt safe on this program. The length of the program was about right and we had an adequate amount of time for everything. To be honest, this program cost me less than what I expected. The most important thing that I developed greater sense of self-awareness, self-confidence and self-sufficiency as a result of studying abroad. ! I'd

always considered myself as a shy person with a lack of confidence, but this experience has proven that not only am I capable of anything I put my mind to, but in fact that I am able to survive away from home and have a lot more self-confidence than I think. From studying abroad I have not only gained confidence, friends for life, but also amazing stories from all my adventures, a whole new set of study and life skills, American contacts and a life changing experience that I will never forget. To sum up, a study abroad education in UK, Ireland has always placed great importance on the ability of students to work independently and develop their own thinking. As we know that UK Education history can be traced back for 800 years. UK has been welcoming international students for generations. It has a long experience of looking after your needs, and will give you special support from the moment you apply throughout your time in the country. The end result is that students emerge from an international education not only with a thorough understanding of their subject but also with analytical abilities and problem-solving skills that are much prized by employers in later life and my career plans for have been influenced as a result of studying abroad.

I wish the best of luck to you.

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