



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student information

Study programme WU	Health & Society
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	10/01/2024
Exchange destination: University	University College Cork
Faculty	Humanities
Country	Ireland
City	Cork

2. Motivation for exchange

a. Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I have always wanted to do a semester abroad because of the good stories I heard from other students. I wanted to see how it would be to live in a different country, study at a different university and make new connections.

b. What is the reason you chose for this country?

I chose this country because it was within the EU and I liked that they speak English in Ireland. This would make the transition at least a little bit easier. Also I heard really good things about the people and the nature in Ireland.

c. What is the reason you chose for this university?

Because of the courses they offered. I am specializing in Gender Studies and feminist courses. University College Cork had a lot to offer in that regard.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

a. Do you have any advice about reaching your exchange destination?

Unfortunately, Ireland is hard to reach by any other means than by plane. I would have really preferred to travel more sustainably, but since Ireland is an Island, it is hard to reach. Taking a ferry or driving takes a long time or is quite expensive. I flew with Ryanair, because this is an Irish company, the tickets were really cheap.

4. University and studying

a. Could you provide some general information about the followed courses?

	Course	ECTS	Short description of the contents	Appreciation of course: 1(low) – 5(high)	Remarks
1	Feminist Visual Activism	10	This module will engage with multiple forms of critical and creative practice that seek to challenge gender inequality and address gender-based violence	5	This was one of the best courses I ever followed during my studies. The teacher was amazing, and I learned a lot.
2	Gender, Sexuality and Inequality	5	This module explores issues of social inequalities based on gender and sexuality.	4	
3	Poverty and Social Exclusion	5	Concepts and measures of poverty and social exclusion; anti-poverty strategies in Ireland and internationally.	4	
4	Special Education and Disability: Principles, Policies and Practices	5	The course centres around historical and current views on difference, special schooling and inclusion. Also on models and representation of disability. Lastly, about educational provisions for students with specific disabilities such as dyslexia, general learning disabilities or autism.	5	
5					
6					

b. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses that were taught in English (Yes): All courses were in English since that is the main language in Ireland.

c. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses in my field of interest (Yes): University College Cork offers a really wide range of courses suitable for international students across all different fields or interest. In my case, there were a lot a courses in humanities and sociology.

d. I am satisfied with the level of the courses that I followed (Yes): The courses were really interesting and offered depth into different topics.

e. I am satisfied, in the end, with the selection of courses I followed (Yes): I am really happy with the courses I followed. These courses were a lot different from the courses I could chose back at the WUR. They really enriched my knowledge.

f. What is it like to study there?

The workload was less than at the WUR. I quite enjoyed this for a bit. The study forms were lectures only. We occasionally had to give a presentation and examination was in the form of essays. The academic level was still high and the content of the lectures was interesting.

g. What is the culture of the university?

I felt as though the culture of the university was similar to the WUR. This could also be because I chose courses that enrolled less students than other courses. This made the lecturers very approachable. Engagement with students differentiated between courses. At some courses I had almost no contact with other students because there was no group work. Some courses had us work together, which allowed for engagement.

h. What does the university offer students additionally?

The university offers a wide range of student societies and student sport clubs, also the sports facilities are free for all students. I joined the powerlifting club, which I really enjoyed, this was also an opportunity for me to make Irish friends.

5. Housing-traveling-living

a. What are the possibilities for housing?

It is possible to sign up with the University College Cork housing facilities, although these are quite expensive (about 1100-1200 euros a month), or far away. But you can email them about your budget and they will help you out. I chose to rent through EazyCity, a private housing company. I lived in shared housing near campus which costs about 890 euros a month. This is still really expensive, but about the cheapest you can get in Cork at the moment I studied there.

b. What is the culture like?

E.g. Differences with home, local cuisine, habits, manners?

I found Irish people to be really friendly and really approachable. Almost anyone was open for a chat. They have a lively pub culture which is very fun. The local cuisine mainly exists of a full Irish breakfast and roast dinners.

c. Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?

E.g. Cost public transport card, taxi prices, how to travel to the university?

You can get a student Leap Card for public transportation, all the bus rides within the city are than 65 cents per trip. The card itself is only 5 euros. Trips to other cities are a bit more expensive, 8 euros to Dublin for example. You can also sign up for a city bike which is only 10 euros a month. You can bike around and pick bikes up at certain locations. I would walk to the university. Most places in town are a maximum of 20/30 minute's walk.

6. Expenses

a. Can you give an indication of your expenses for/during your exchange?

Category	Expenses
Travelling there	120 euros return
Visa - if applicable	-
Vaccinations - if applicable	-
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	-
Daytrips/sight-seeing	Don't know, did a lot
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	890 shared housing
Grocery costs per month	200?
Public transport costs per month	Maximum of 20, depending on trips
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	100

b. The price levels were in general [higher; lower; equal] in comparison to in the Netherlands:

It really depends on the type of expenses. Rent was a lot more expensive. But groceries, going out and restaurants were mostly a bit cheaper than the Netherlands. Also, public transport was cheaper.

c. Additional remarks regarding expenses?

7. Free time

a. What are must-sees in the area?

E.g. Nearby destinations, how do you prefer to travel, when to plan?

Cliffs of Moher, Galway, Kinsale, Ballycotton Cliff walk, Glengariff, Killarney National Park, Aran Islands, highest mountain of Ireland: Carrountoohil.

b. What does not appear in a travel guide, but is definitely worth seeing/doing?

It is really fun to watch a Rugby match or go to greyhound racing.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

a. Any challenges? How did you deal with them?

I did not encounter many challenges, everything ran quite smoothly. I was afraid to lose touch with my friends back home, but I continued to text and call them.

b. Best memory?

I think my best memories are going on beautiful trips into the Irish nature. I loved walking around in Glengariff with my friends and climbing the highest mountain in Ireland. I also really enjoyed chill nights in the pub laughing with my friends and drinking pints.

9. Contact details

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
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