

Rusin Andonov – UF in Dublin

Major: Information Systems | Scholarships: CAPA Study Abroad Scholarship

I studied abroad because...

To discover the world and discover more of myself and who I am. I wanted to broaden my life experiences and perspective, professionally developing myself in a global setting. Also, I wanted to have a network of friends and peers who are pushing themselves to make the most of life and their careers.

My biggest challenge before studying abroad was...

Financing the trip and convincing myself whether it was a worthwhile investment. However, I realized I should take risks and seize opportunities that come around once. It has been the most knowledgeable and fulfilling investment I have made

My favorite spot in my host city was...

The paths along the river Liffey spanning the extent of the city center. Walking the river whether at night or a morning run and seeing Dublin come to life in the early morning or fading in the afternoon. You can truly see the city as it breathes life. Also, the river allows you to travel in time as you see the transformation of Dublin from the Victorian times to the FinTech and multicultural hub it has become.

The weirdest food I tried while abroad was...

Drisheen, an Irish version of black or blood pudding.

One cool experience I had abroad was...

Going to a Irish football game at Croke Park, a national symbol of Irish culture and pride. The atmosphere was amazing and the game was enthralling.

The most surprising thing about studying abroad is...

The one thing that truly surprised me during and following the trip is how much the lifestyle and work environment in Europe suited me, having a perfect balance between work and leisure. I now have a goal of possibly living and working in Europe sometime in my near future.

Lastly, I would like to tell you...

Reading or hearing about the experience of studying abroad, traveling the world, and discovering who you are and what the world offers cannot be grasped until you experience it firsthand. Seeing another culture and country will open your eyes and mind to how you want to grow and what you want to strive for in life. Make life happen!

