

Ryan Gearhart – UF in Dublin

Major: Economics

I studied abroad because...

Before studying abroad, I had never set foot outside of the United States. I've always wanted to learn about a different country and culture, so being able to live in Dublin, take classes at a local university and work an internship for a summer was an opportunity I couldn't possibly pass up.

My biggest challenge before studying abroad was...

Stepping outside my comfort zone. I always wanted to do what was comfortable and familiar before studying abroad, but now I'm always looking for the next adventure to take on.

My favorite spot in my host city was...

My favorite spot in the city was the second floor of the KC Peaches on Dame Street. The view of the streets of Dublin was wonderful.

The weirdest food I tried while abroad was...

Chicken Hearts con Chorizo

One cool experience I had abroad was...

Through my internship, I was able to see Coldplay perform at Croke Park!

Some advice...

Make an effort to take a weekend/day trip by yourself. Studying Abroad is all about stepping out of your comfort zone. It can be intimidating at first, but some of my favorite trip I took abroad were by myself.

The strangest or most unforgettable thing that happened to me was...

The most unforgettable event that happened to me while abroad was the one time I got lost outside of Dublin trying to go to a driving range.

Something I took away from my time abroad is...

The most important thing I got out of my study abroad experience was not the personal and professional development, but the friendships I made that will last the rest of my life.

The most surprising thing about studying abroad is...

Even though I was told before I went over how friendly the people of Ireland are, you can't even begin to explain their kindness until you experience it yourself.

Lastly, I would like to tell you...

Getting from wanting to study abroad to actually going abroad can seem like an overwhelming process, but don't be afraid! Study Abroad advisors and IPSAs like myself will be here to help you every step of the way so you too can have your own life changing experience.

