

Janzen Rich – UF in Dublin

Major: Information Systems | **Minor:** History

I studied abroad because...

I'd never been to Europe before - I wanted to see the world! I also needed to have a productive summer - the UF in Dublin program gave me the best of both worlds. I was able to knock out class credits, work at an amazing internship at the Screen Directors Guild of Ireland, and see some of the most beautiful places in Europe in one summer!

One of my biggest challenges before studying abroad was:

I never thought I could study abroad for an entire summer for financial reasons - but I didn't realize how many opportunities there are to fund a program! I applied to as many scholarships as possible and thankfully got quite a few that helped me worry a little less about money while abroad.

A typical meal I had while studying abroad was...

Lidl Strawberry Crisp cereal, every day. I often got lunch somewhere near my internship and cooked a simple meal for dinner most days. I miss how cheap Irish groceries are!

My favorite spot in my host city was:

Phoenix Park is the Central Park of Dublin and one of the most beautiful places in the city. The park is absolutely massive, great for running, biking, or a picnic. There's a herd of deer that roam the park who will eat right out of your hand! I wish I would have spent more time there!

One cool event I got to experience while abroad:

I actually got free Taylor Swift tickets for a show in Dublin from my internship. While I'm not the biggest fan, it was an opportunity I couldn't pass up. The production and effects at the show were absolutely amazing and it was genuinely one of the coolest concerts I've ever been to.

The most memorable experience for me while abroad:

A bunch of us did a massive city-wide scavenger hunt across Dublin a few days before the program ended. It was great to see a lot of sights since we knew the city so well by that point. The whole night was a lot of fun and a great way to put a capstone on the trip while bringing us closer as friends before heading back home.

A skill I picked up while abroad:

I actually expanded my cooking skills quite a bit while abroad. It's easy to make a wide range of meals by trying all sorts of different foods because Irish groceries are so cheap! I definitely recommend cooking to save money for trips, excursions, and souvenirs.

What I found most challenging while abroad:

Time management is always difficult in college, but even more so in a new and exciting city! Balancing work, class, and play was difficult, but it's a skill you will build quickly through trial and error. Coming back to America, I find myself far more organized and better with my time than before I left!

What surprised me most about study abroad was...

how close I would be with the people on the program with me. I was anxious about making new friends before leaving, but everyone on my program was fantastic and we made so many memories together. I still talk to some people from my program every day!

My last bit of advice is...

Don't plan too much! There are so many things to do I didn't know about until I got to Ireland, and they were some of the best things I did while abroad. Also - be open to new experiences and try new things. You often won't regret those new experiences!