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Major: Information Systems

I studied abroad because...

I wanted to live abroad for four months in a city that I knew little to nothing about. I wanted to use the time to learn about a new culture and what it is like to study, work and live there.

One of my biggest challenges before studying abroad was...

my rigid schedule. At the time, I had to balance some hardships that were happening in my family with the rest of my schooling. I was so fortunate to have overcome the obstacle and went abroad, I would have regretted it if I didn't.

A typical meal I had while studying abroad:

For breakfast, I would usually go to my favorite coffee shop in Dublin and get their Mexican Quinoa wrap (I am constantly craving it). For lunch and dinner, I would usually meal prep like I would at home. During the weekends, when I explore the rest of Europe, I ate whatever looked appealing and authentic.

My favorite spot in my host city was...

a coffee shop right in front of the college. The coffee shop became my favorite spot because it felt at home, and I wanted to make Dublin my home for four months. I always studied at two coffee shops in Gainesville; I wanted to bring that habit with me to Dublin, and I was glad I found one where the staff knew my order the minute I walked in.

One cool event I got to experience while abroad was...

celebrating Saint Patrick's Day in Dublin!

The most memorable experience for me while abroad was...

how many places I got to visit and see. In four short months, I went to over 14 cities and 10 countries.

A habit I picked up while abroad:

The phrase: "thanks a million". The Irish people said that in place of "thank you", and it was just so easy to pick up!

What I found most challenging while abroad was...

the learning curve of how to navigate around in each city that I visited.

What surprised me most about study abroad was...

how much I learned and grew while I was abroad. I didn't really think I would for going to an English-speaking country. But whether it's the courses I took abroad, the internship I had or just living day-to-day, there were so many new skills and knowledge that I picked up.

My last bit of advice is...

not give yourself excuses to not go abroad. Again, there are so much to see in the world and so much to learn. You can never understand these experiences through a textbook.