

# Shreya Dundigalla – UF in Dublin

**Majors:** Information Systems & Psychology | **Minor:** Leadership

## I studied abroad because...

I love to travel and I loved the idea of immersing yourself into a new culture. I wanted to see the world and have interesting experiences that I couldn't get at home.

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

I was really worried about being away from home, especially because I'm close to my family. I wouldn't be able to see them for three months and I would be halfway across the world. However, I knew I needed to push myself and go out there, and I'm so glad I did!

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

Irish coffee! "Chips" (we call them "fries" in the United States) with garlic-mayo dip was delicious, as well!

## My favorite spot in my host city was...

Phoenix Park. I loved walking around and taking in the beautiful greenery. I even got to feed some deer roaming the park! There are other nature spots like St. Stephen's Green which are just as lovely!

## One cool event I got to experience while abroad:

I was able to go to a free Hackathon at Google Headquarters in Dublin! I made lots of new friends as well as made some great connections with Google employees.

## The most memorable experience for me while abroad:

The word *craic* (pronounced "crack") means fun in Ireland! I learned that the hard way when my coworkers asked me if I had good *craic* over the weekend.

## A habit I picked up while abroad:

The Irish say things like "That's lovely!" and "That's just grand!", and I find myself saying that, too!

## What I found most challenging while abroad was...

I missed my family a lot at first, but over time it became easier to deal with! I used FaceTime and Whatsapp to communicate, it was really easy. I started to get immersed in the Irish culture and exploring, and I wasn't homesick anymore.

## What surprised me most about study abroad was...

the fact that I really changed. People say that study abroad "changes" them, and it's true! I'm more confident in myself and what I can do.

## My last bit of advice:

You can do more than you think you can; don't let your mind stop you.