I studied abroad because...
the great part about college is all of the new experiences we get to have, and nothing can compare to study abroad in terms of newer experiences. Being immersed in a different culture and learning to adapt to a whole new way of life is incredible, and all while being with others in your same position makes the whole thing feel safer and easier.

One of my biggest challenges before studying abroad was...
the added costs of living and transportation that went along with maximizing my experience abroad, which did some serious damage to my bank account. I don't regret it; however, the simple cost of it all will likely keep me from studying abroad again.

A typical meal I had while studying abroad was...
fish and chips, which is a way of life in Dublin (go to Burdock's for the best, trust me). A full Irish breakfast is incredible, but most often breakfast just consisted of something quick like a granola bar or some fruit. Lunch was often a sandwich, and dinner could be any number of things ranging from fish and chips to a burger to a calzone or burrito. Dublin is very alike to the states in terms of food available.

My favorite spot in my host city was...
anywhere that I was with my roommates, so even time in our apartment was great. But going out to places like Brendan's Cafe or a picnic outside St. Patrick's Cathedral are simple things I will never forget.

One cool event I got to experience while abroad:
On a trip to Bristol, we happened to go at the same time as the city's annual trademark hot air balloon festival, which was a really fortunate coincidence. I highly recommend the city overall, as it has the London feel without being so big and crowded.

The most memorable experience for me while abroad:
My internship was fantastic, yet my first day went so bad, and I don't think I'll ever forget it. I rode the bus there, and while walking down the stairs to the first floor of the bus the driver slammed on the brakes and I went flying down the stairs and fell flat on the floor. Everyone stared at me, and I scrambled off the bus. Sadly, this was the wrong stop, and I had to walk 20 more minutes. I introduced myself to my boss, who offered me tea. I didn't want to be rude so I accepted, yet it was BOILING hot, and I ended up spilling it all over the lobby. It was bad.

A habit I picked up while abroad is...
my newfound tea addiction. I drank it every day at work, and I've brought that back with me. I also love watching Gaelic football and hurling now, and I force it on my friends whenever possible. I also say "craic" a lot, and no one understand me.

My most challenging experience while abroad:
The morning of a weekend trip to Glasgow my phone was stolen at the airport. I still had two weeks left in the program, and learning how to acclimate to my schedule without it was surprisingly difficult as I used it for nearly everything from alarms to a map. Getting a burner phone helped, but I still relied a lot on my roommates for help.

What surprised me most about study abroad was...
how a place can be so foreign and not foreign at the same time. There were often times when I would forget that I was abroad, but there were other times I would be completely lost.

My last bit of advice:
No matter what, you're not going to pack correctly. But I do advise you bring nice clothes that you can dress down, as you would be hard pressed to find a situation where a button down won't substitute for a t-shirt, yet the opposite can't be said.