Alexis’s Major: Nursing

Program: University College Dublin Nursing, Summer

Academic Life: The academic program at UCD was an extremely positive experience. I was enrolled in a Research Methods course that discussed a variety of topics from conducting a research study to analyzing and critiquing studies. The classes consisted mostly of lectures, but also integrated some hands on student activities and interaction among students. Students from colleges across the United States as well as Irish students participated in the program. Also, I appreciated that the professors/class coordinators did a great job balancing class time with free time. This allowed us to explore all that the city of Dublin and the rest of Ireland had to offer.

Cultural Difference: One cultural difference that was very noticeable was the pace of life. It seemed to me that everyone’s lifestyle was at a slower pace than it is back home in the US. People take their time to enjoy meals and walk the streets as if they have all night to get where they are going. Everyone just seems more relaxed and less concerned with schedules. I really enjoyed this aspect of Ireland’s culture. Usually, I am high strung and always on a time crunch, but overseas I felt much more relaxed and was able to enjoy things more than I do when I am home.

What Sets Alexis Apart: I believe that experiencing a culture unlike one’s own is an extremely important character builder for many students. For me, understanding that not everyone comes from the same background or has the same beliefs is vital when it comes to a career in health care. It also showed me that I can be completely independent and succeed at doing so. Being in a foreign country alone is certainly a way to build upon one’s independence. It teaches you to manage your own finances and be responsible for finding your own way in unfamiliar territory.

Alexis at The Cliff Walk in Ballycotton, Ireland.

“It was a life changing experience, and I enjoyed every minute of it.”