Bridget's Majors: History, Community & Nonprofit Leadership

Program: USIT Irish Studies Summer School, Summer

Academic Life: This program offers modules (classes) that introduce students to Irish literature, history, politics, social/cultural studies, Gaelic literature and folklore and the visual arts. Classes are held in the beautiful Graduate Memorial building located in the heart of the Trinity College campus. I was in class with a small number of other American students on my program. I was continually impressed with the friendliness and expertise of the professors and guest lecturers every week!

Most Memorable Moments: The day spent at the Irish Film Institute in Dublin. We were treated to a special screening of three Irish short films and one feature film. I feel like I can now say I understand Irish dark humor, and I gained valuable insights into contemporary issues in Irish society.

On Cultural Differences: In Ireland, traffic is oriented on the left side of the road. Learning how to look both ways before crossing the street was a serious adjustment! Luckily in Dublin, many intersections have “Look Right” written right on the road to help tourists.

Tip for Students Considering Study Abroad: Don’t be afraid to strike up a conversation with locals at a pub or while waiting at a bus stop. The Irish are incredibly friendly and eager to engage with you. I found some of the most valuable lessons I learned about Irish history and culture came not from the classroom, but through chatting with locals.

“I was able to save money by buying groceries and cooking at the residence hall. My roommates and I often made family dinners together!”