Program: National University of Ireland Galway (NUI Galway), Fall


Academic Life: The studying component was a bit of an adjustment from UW-Madison. An equivalent of a three credit course meets only two hours a week and most classes require relatively no work throughout the semester, with the final exam counting for the bulk of your grade. I was fortunate enough to take classes with both international and local students ranging in topics from psychology, sociology, service learning, and even an Irish literature and dance course! I quickly realized that no matter what your academic pathway was, at NUI Galway you could be sure to take classes you loved, be academically challenged, and find support needed to lead you to success.

Housing: I ended up living in Niland House and could not have been happier. The location was amazing, being just a fifteen minute walk to school and a block away from downtown. However, the best part was that it was home to many other international students and served as a great way to meet people right off the bat.

Advice To Someone Considering Galway: To someone thinking of studying abroad in Galway, I have to say find the “craic.” “Craic” is the Irish word to describe things that are insurmountably fun. Whether it is meeting locals, walking through the markets and downtown area, or joining a society at school, there is “craic” everywhere.

What He Learned From His Experience: NUI Galway provided me with the life changing opportunity of partaking in a service learning course. This course placed me in an underprivileged school as a mentor, tutor, and literacy advocate. The things I learned in this setting about both myself, the Irish culture, and the work of teaching will follow me into my future endeavors.

Luke pictured at the Giants Causeway.

“I left more cultured, open-minded, and aware of what it takes to make a lasting impact.”