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

Madeline’s Major: Kinesiology

Academic Life: At NUI Galway, I took classes with a mix of Irish and foreign students from around the world. In my humanities and social science classes, there were generally two lectures per week and a tutorial for some classes. There was very little homework or required classwork during the semester. Final grades consisted of a single midterm and final, either an exam or paper.

Advice For Someone Considering Galway: Galway is a small town, but a huge center for Irish culture. From the friendly and open people who know how to enjoy themselves, to the nearby and easily accessible sites such as the Cliffs of Moher, studying in Galway will give a very authentic taste of Irish culture and life.

What She Learned About Herself: I am generally not materialistic, but this experience showed me how minimalistic I could be. Living abroad and traveling Europe made me appreciate the ability to travel lightly. It also brought an appreciation for experiences to the forefront. For me, the memories are much more important.

Most Memorable Experience: One of my favorite experiences was taking a road trip around the southern part of Ireland with a friend and her mom. It gave me the opportunity to learn more about my adopted country and see many things, from big cities to small towns and the diverse landscapes, from the mountains to the ocean coast. I was grateful for the chance to visit tourist attractions like kissing the Blarney stone, as well as lesser known activities like kayaking in a bioluminescent lake.

“Studying in Ireland has made me more open to experiencing new things and trying everything once.”

Madeline at Lake Inagh, a glacial lake in the Connemara region.