



My roommate Shelley Webb (also from UQ) at Glendalough, a 6th century Monastic Settlement in County Wicklow

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My semester abroad at the University College Dublin (UCD) has been an extremely rewarding experience in a million and one ways. Academically, the load is much different – 6 subjects are required to constitute a full-time study load, which is quite hard to juggle if you don't attend all the lectures. In my experience, there wasn't much expected of the students in regards to extra workload outside of lectures, so attending lectures, most of which were not recorded and without powerpoint presentations, was very important to pass! Lectures and their subject matter were very interesting – it was so different to be exposed to a euro-centric interpretation and perspective on the law and important legal issues.

However, it was my personal experience at UCD, and the friendships I forged, that made my exchange the most memorable. There is a really strong community of like-minded exchange students living on campus at UCD and I found no time had passed before I managed to forge close and sustaining friendships with others. Likewise, the Irish people themselves are absolutely lovely – welcoming, friendly, and always up for a good time. Living in Dublin also provided an excellent platform to exploring other parts of the GORGEOUS Irish countryside as well as parts of mainland Europe. Throughout my semester in Dublin I managed to visit Prague, Krakow and London as well as taking a few long weekends to explore the rugged Irish landscape. To anyone who is considering going on exchange, I wholeheartedly hope you do it. It was the best experience of my life and I have gained so much independence and insight because of it.