

**Katrina Byrne: University College Dublin**

**UQ Program: Bachelors of Commerce/Law**

It is difficult to describe one of the most rewarding and memorable experiences of my life in a short 200-300 words. My exchange to UCD in Semester 2, 2010 was much more than an academic experience, rather an opportunity for my twin sister and myself to travel around Europe and make lasting international friendships. During my exchange I undertook 6 commerce subjects, some third year electives and some second year core classes. Only in second year of my commerce/law degree, enrolling in appropriate subjects was an onerous task, as I held reservations as to the difficulty of some of my third year electives. Nonetheless, the content of the classes proved to be more than

manageable and the lecturers are very approachable and always available to assist students.



Campus life provided me with the greatest opportunity to make new friends (Irish and International) as well as easy access to the University. During orientation week, UCD

encourages students to join clubs and societies and I would thoroughly recommend anyone planning to attend to join QSOC (Commerce Society) and ESN (Erasmus Society Network). QSOC offers many social events, eg. club nights as well as organising for students to interact with leading employers. Most of my international friendships were made on the ESN organised trips to Belfast and Galway. These weekends were some of the best I have ever had and ESN provides these trips around Ireland at a very low cost.

In addition to these outings, my twin sister Natalie and I also travelled to Cork and Killarney, the Wicklow Mountains and Barcelona via Ryan Air. We decided to focus our travels on Ireland, having already journeyed across Europe on a 12 day Contiki Tour before the start of semester and planned another Contiki tour skiing in Austria for a week on the completion of our exams. In hindsight, this itinerary most suited our studies as we were able to travel on the weekend and be back in time for lectures Monday morning. Some hot inside tips would be to travel as early in the semester as possible, the best coffee is at Insomnia Cafe in the Quinn School of Business and Thursday nights are the best at the student bar. Also, either bring or buy a decent coat in Ireland as well as snow boots early!

In all, this exchange has opened my eyes to an exciting world filled with culture, adventure and friendships. *"The World is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page"* ~St. Augustine