

Report on my Erasmus experiences

Name: Muriel Högger
Class: Tou_e 08
Study program: Tourism
Exchange: Limerick Institute of Technology (LIT), Limerick, Ireland / Erasmus /
September 2009 – May 2010

Having already been on an exchange during high school it was quite clear for me that if I had the opportunity to go abroad again I would take it without hesitation. Although being aware of the fact that high school exchange and college exchange years would be considerably different I was willing to put in the extra effort of organising this second exchange for a huge part on my own. My reasons for this exchange vary in range from the curiosity about the host country's culture, the hunger of travelling and meeting new people to the intention of perfecting my language skills and gaining new studying insights.

Ireland was my first choice because I didn't know much about the country itself and I wanted to study at a college where English was the first language of students and teachers alike in order to improve my English skills.

The friendliness of Irish people has been one of the most impressive experiences during my stay in Ireland. From the first time I sat foot on Irish soil to the very last one, Irish people have always surprised me with their honest willingness to help, be it giving directions or giving assistance at college. Furthermore I was very much impressed by the stunning beauty of Irish scenery and of course by the enthusiasm for sports especially Rugby, of which I am now a big fan myself.

This exchange gave me the opportunity to get to know myself better and how I integrate myself into a new environment. During the 9 months I have improved my English skills which will help me for my last year at HTW Chur as well as my future career in tourism. Being able to organise things myself and being able to communicate and work with different cultures will also be beneficial for my professional life.

The support I got from HTW as well as LIT was fantastic. I felt that if I had a problem I could approach either one and they would help me. Being only 7 Erasmus exchange students at LIT made the communication and interaction with the Erasmus co-ordinators really easy and warm.

If I had the opportunity again to study abroad I would take it in the blink of an eye. It is one of the best experiences one can make! I would recommend it to everyone that is not afraid of leaving their old life behind them and start a new one in a new country which in the beginning might be a little lonely but will bring so much enrichment to their life in the end.

