

Why Study Abroad in Galway Ireland?

I have been connected to Ireland my whole life, from growing up with my grandfather singing Danny Boy to my passion and long time hobby of Irish dance. I am eager to study abroad in Galway to further immerse myself in my heritage and live in the country I associate myself with most. Even though I have traveled to Ireland once, I know that when I return to study abroad in Galway, I will feel like I am going home in a way. I pride myself in my Irish heritage and grasp every aspect of it. The country and the culture are a part of me; everything Irish makes me come alive.

Galway is the perfect place for me to jump into the culture and learn more about where I come from. Studying Irish dance for 12 years is what really helped me develop an appreciation and love for my Irish background because of the music, Irish people I was surrounded by and the dance itself. I am ready to take this appreciation for Irish culture to the next level and study abroad in order to gain knowledge about Irish Literature, history and culture as well as to gain a further understanding of who I am as a person, student and future educator. It is my goal to expand my Irish education to not only music and dance but to Irish academics as well. Since Writing Intensive English is one of my majors, I hope to take literature classes that introduce me to pieces of writing, short stories and poems that will bring me into the mind's of those native to Ireland both the past and present.

As a future teacher, it is crucial to understand that different students come from different backgrounds and families. Stepping away from the regular life in Milwaukee and living abroad will be an opportunity to enhance my people skills and will give me a new outlook on how people live and learn outside of the United States. I am excited to learn in a new way from professors who may approach teaching in a style I am not familiar with. Studying academics in Ireland is one way to gain knowledge from the abroad experience but living in Galway will provide me with a certain knowledge books can't provide. I plan to focus on my writing skills while I am in Ireland as well as reconnect with my passion for Irish dance. I plan to not only keep a journal, but also to practice poetry and story writing. I hope to be inspired by my travels and experiences in Galway and record it in multiple aspects writing. I am excited to reconnect with Irish dance as well to fully immerse myself in the abroad experience in Ireland. I love to travel, write, and dance and I want Ireland to be the core location and inspiration for these passions. Galway will give me the breath of fresh air I am looking for in my college life and I am confident that my experience there will forever change me.

More than anything, I am excited to separate myself from the comfortable life in Milwaukee I have made for myself. I see my semester in Galway as a time and place to reflect on myself not only as a person, but also as a student and future teacher. Living abroad is something not everyone has the opportunity or the courage to do. Learning to live somewhere far from home in a city I am completely unfamiliar with will help me grow as an independent person as well as give me a different perspective on life. In the long run, going abroad will give me a chance to see myself disconnected from the world I am used to. I am ready to step back and look at myself completely removed from my natural habitat. This will allow me to reflect on where I have been and where I plan to go in my future endeavors. Studying abroad will not just allow me to explore the world I live in but will also give me the opportunity to explore myself.

Walsh

When I return to Milwaukee, I will have one semester of college left before I dive into the real world and begin my student teaching. I will come back refreshed with culture and a newfound independence after a semester of learning from professors, other students combined with my travels and reflections. Going abroad will give me the strength and confidence that I can do anything even if it is intimidating. When I stand up in front of my students for the first time, I will be a different person from who I am at this moment; more worldly, unafraid and ready to share all I know after not just studying at Marquette University, but also at National University of Ireland. This will be a once in a lifetime adventure and I am excited to leap into the unexpected life Galway has waiting for me. I know that through traveling the country and learning amongst a diverse group of people, I will fully understand why I am proud to be Irish.