Personal information
Name: Kelly Muller
Major: Animal Science
Name of host university: University College Dublin
Period/Time of Exchange: Fall 2016
Address of blog if you had one: N/A

Practical Advice

Visa There is no visa requirement for Ireland. Once you have arrived in Ireland, there will be Orientation Events for international students. During these orientation events, they will explain to you how to register with the Garda National Immigration Bureau. This registration process is in lieu of a visa.

Housing I chose to apply for on-campus accommodations. Although on-campus accommodation is not guaranteed for international students, everyone I met who wanted to live on campus was able to. The on-campus accommodations were very nice 6-person apartments. They were similar in price to living on campus at Cornell. I would highly recommend them.

Arrival The only problem that I had getting through immigration was that I couldn’t understand the immigration officer’s accent! There is an orientation for international students the first week that you are on campus. I would highly recommend going to the events. The events are a great way to meet people and often have free food!

Academics

The University UCD has two main campuses. All of my classes and my apartment were on the Belfield campus. The second campus is within walking distance or a short bus ride away. The facilities at UCD are very modern. There is a brand new science center that is very impressive. There are also plenty of support systems in place for international students. I frequently visited the International Students Office for questions about classes, the best way to travel around Dublin, and upcoming activities that I could get involved in.

Courses Before the start of the semester, I looked at the online course database and selected classes that I was interested in. I then emailed my preferences to a UCD advisor that had been assigned for me. My advisor signed me up for classes. Once I was on campus, I decided to change my schedule and the International Students Office helped me do so.

I took the following courses and would recommend all of them:
AESC 10010 Land Use & Environment
PHYC 10070 Foundations of Physics
ANSC 30030 Animal Genomics
IRST 30150 Ireland Uncovered
RDEV 10170 Introduction to Politics in Humanitarian Action

Difference between studying at Cornell and at your host university
During the semester, there were very few assignments and exams. Most of my classes had one or two very small grades during the semester and the majority of the grade was determined by a final exam during finals week. This set-up was very nice because it allowed me to travel most weekends without feeling too burdened by work, but it meant that my last two weeks were stressful.

Life Abroad

Language They speak English! If you would like to learn Irish there are numerous opportunities to do so.

Health and Safety I never felt unsafe during my time in Ireland. There are campus security officers who will walk you home at night if you would like.
Overall exchange experience
The University College Dublin is a fantastic place for your study abroad experience. I found that the classes lined up with my program very well and the campus environment was very enjoyable. I met some amazing people and got to travel all over Europe. I loved my experience and would highly recommend choosing this school!

Additional Tips for future students

Packing There is an Ikea and Penneys in Dublin where you can get everything that you need (bedding, clothes, kitchenware etc.) so I would not worry too much about forgetting something. I brought a few pairs of shorts thinking that it would be warm when I first got there in September. It was never warm enough to wear them. I never went to any formal events, so bringing a fancy dress was not necessary. Comfortable versatile clothing that can be put in a backpack while you are traveling is ideal.

Anything else that students should be aware when studying at your host location.

Ireland is a truly magical place. Enjoy every minute of your study abroad experience. You will make friends from all around the world. Keep in touch with these people, they will enrich your life in ways you would never have realized.