

Experience report study abroad semester

How was it?

You may have heard this question more often now that you are at the end of your semester abroad. The International Center would also like to know how you evaluate your semester abroad and what you need to know. The experience reports will be published and serve to help orient others going abroad. The International Office would also like to use the contents for advertising purposes if necessary. We would therefore like you to keep this in mind when filling out the report.

1. General information

Please do not mention any personal information (name, e-mail address, etc.) in the experience report.

I agree to the publication of the report and the attached photos:

Yes No

Study program at EUF

BA European Cultures and Society

Subject combination (if BABW)

Klicken oder tippen Sie hier, um Text einzugeben.

Host country

Ireland

Host university

Limerick University

Semester abroad (e.g. fall semester 2020/21)

Fall Semester 2021

2. Your Experience Abroad

At this point you can share the experience you made abroad. Sometimes it is not so easy to report on such experiences in such a compressed way. We have therefore prepared some questions to help you do this. At the end of the questionnaire, you will also find a free field for you to fill in, in which you are welcome to enter aspects that are not covered by any of these questions.

How did you prepare for the semester abroad?

I read reports of senior students who did their semester abroad in Ireland and made notes of all important things.

How did you establish social networks in your host country? Do you have any tips on how this can be achieved?

Limerick University provides a huge network of social activities, they also assign a studybuddy and many extracurricular activities

Did you learn the local language, respectively how important did you think it was for your stay?

English is the spoken language there other than Gaelic, I learned basic language which helped to widen the social circle.

**How was the study program at the partner university structured?
(e.g. premises, workload, language of instruction, examination forms, accessibility)**

What intercultural encounters/competencies shaped your stay?

The study program at UL was very structured, the workload was divided into different sections until the final exams. Lectures were very well organized keeping Covid-19 situation in mind, some lectures were prepared online in order to avoid close contacts when number of students were high in some courses. English was the language of instruction.

What intercultural encounters/competencies shaped your stay?

It was my first time in Ireland, I found local community very friendly and cooperative. I learned how to tackle in situations independently and widen my perspective of thinking about other cultures while making friends from different countries in Ireland.

Which perspectives on the host country/country of origin have changed and why?

The stereotype about Irish people about foreigners have been changed as they are very friendly and cooperative to international students.

What was your daily life like where you were? (e.g. living, shopping, leisure, inclusion)

It was not easy in the beginning as the system there is a bit different than Germany for example the transportation and shopping. All stores stay open on Sunday as well.

What are the unique or special issues in the host country and what were the opportunities for engaging with these issues?

During Covid-19 Pandemic, it was not so easy to cope with all challenges faced, some of the lectures were delivered online, some of the leisure activities got cancelled because of bad weather but overall, I was able to gain the best experience of my life with this semester abroad.

Is there anything else you would like to share? (e.g. anecdotes, criticism, etc.)

EXPERIENCE REPORT ON SEMESTER ABROAD

I am very happy with my experience of this Erasmus semester abroad and would highly recommend to other students, as it is one of the best experiences of my life. I have learned a lot through this stay and became more confident and independent. The only drawback which I faced was not finding a University accommodation and was mentally and psychologically depressed during my search, but in the end, I somehow managed and this became a part of self learning experience as well.

University of Limerick provided me best learning experience and polished my ability to work under pressure and unforeseen circumstances. Erasmus coordinators were very cooperative and very easy to reach and always found solutions of problems no matter small or big. Academic staff was wonderful and made my overall stay very memorable.

I would like to thank my home University Europa Universitaet Flensburg, for providing me this wonderful opportunity.

3. Photos

Finally, you can upload photos here, which visualize/represent your stay abroad well. If necessary, add a description. The following questions can help you choose the appropriate photos:

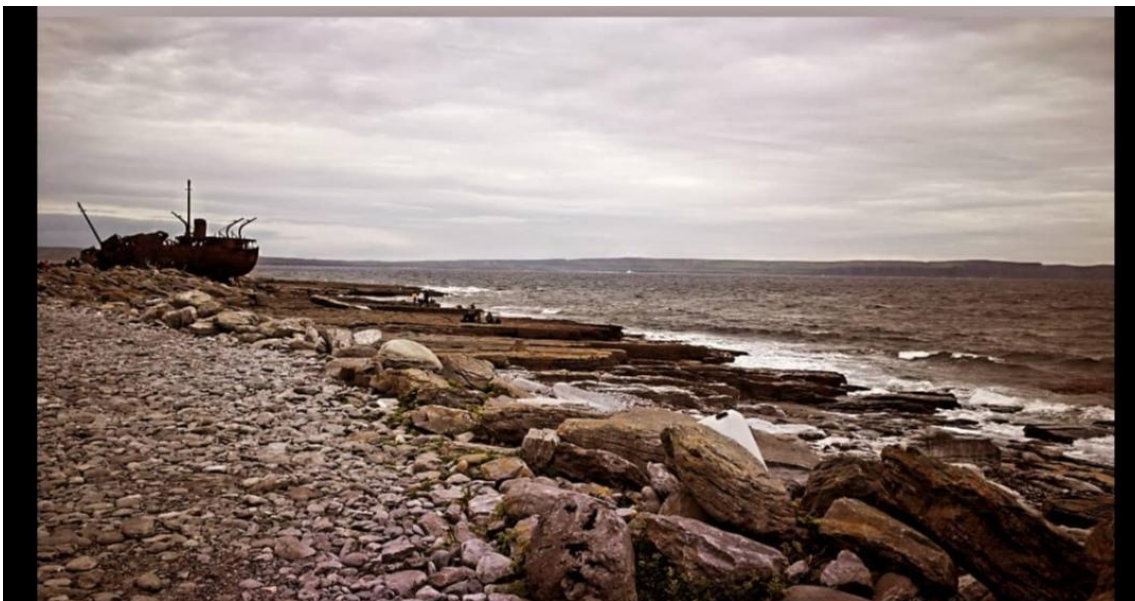
- Does the photo possibly reinforce prejudices or stereotypes about the country?
- Do you have the consensual consent of the persons depicted in the photos?
- "A picture is worth a thousand words!" What does your picture say about the country and your semester abroad?



Hiking-"Mangerton Mountain" – Source: Author



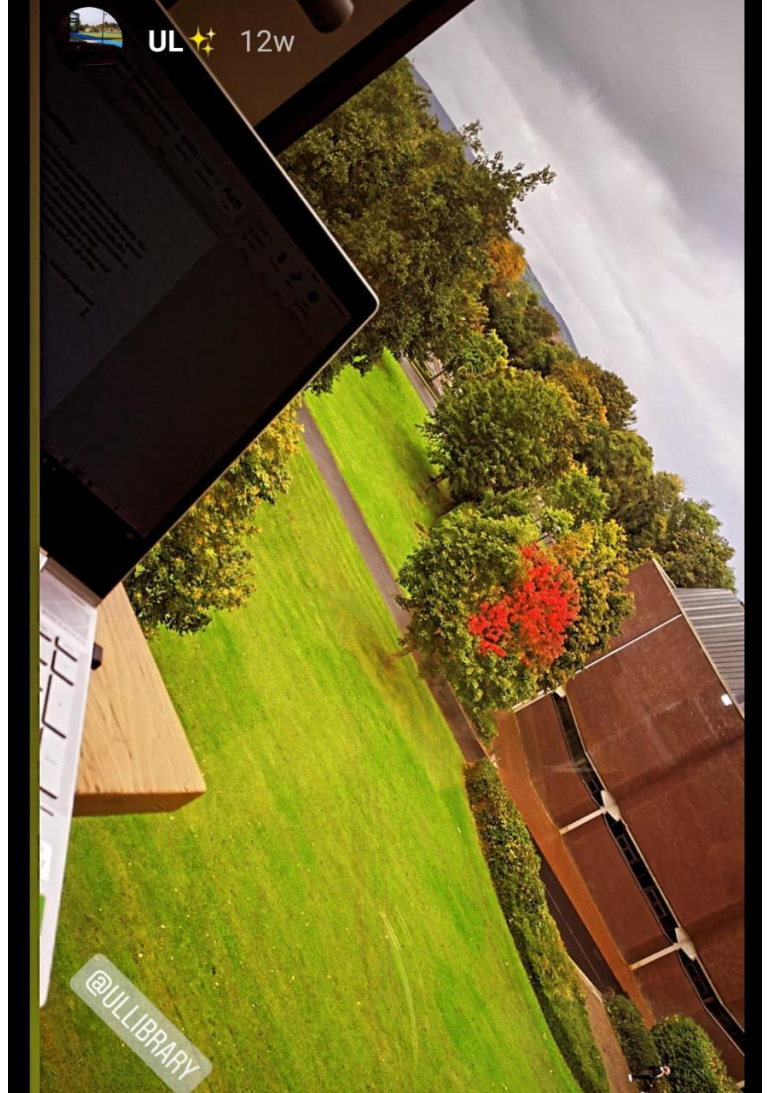
Limerick City – Source: Author



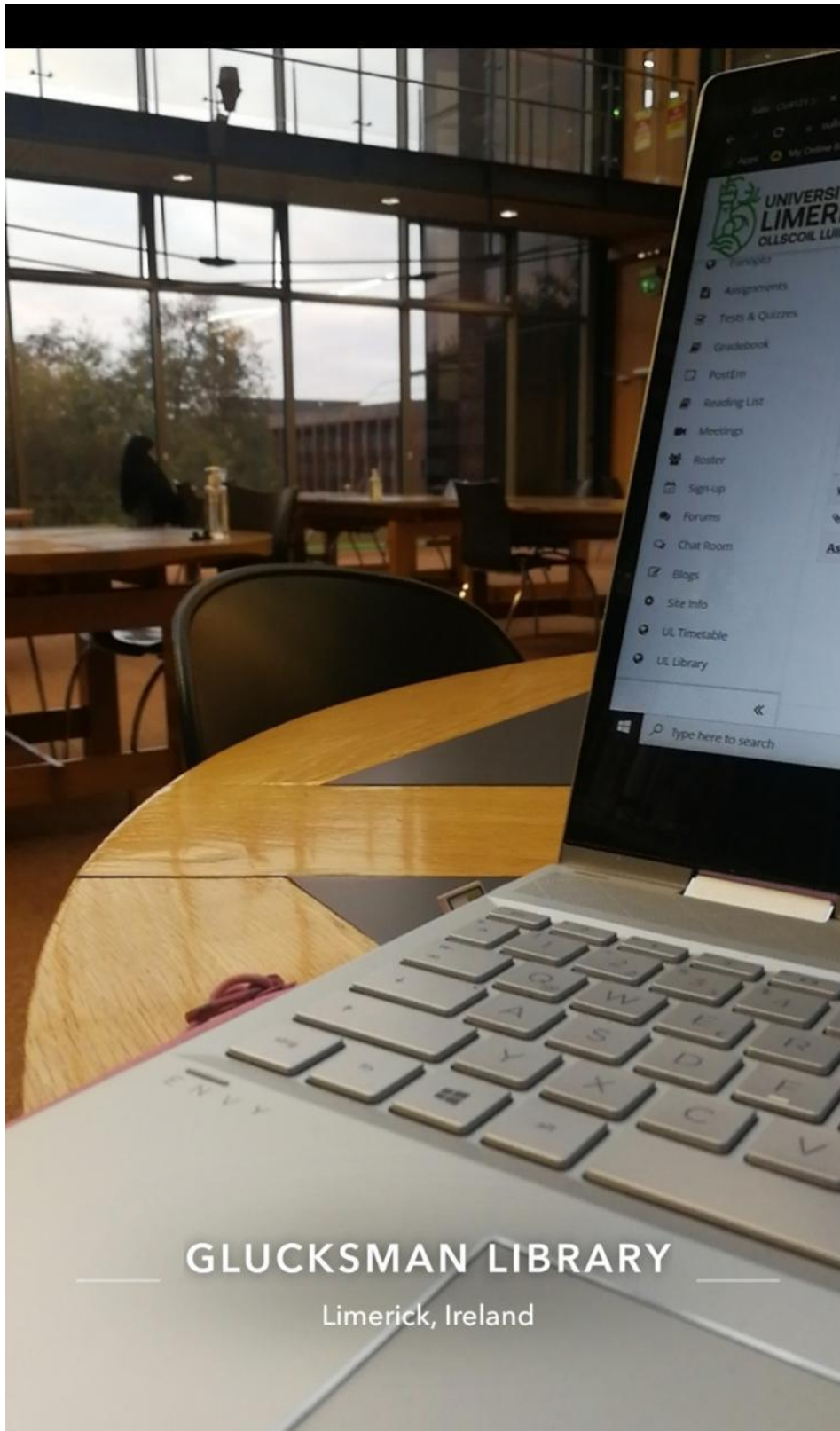
Old Shipwreck boat in Inisheer, Aran Islands, Glway County, Ireland – Source: Author



Aran Island –Inis Oirr– Source: Author



Library UL – Source: Author



Glucksman Library UL - Source: Author



UL Crafts– Source: Author

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