

ERFAHRUNGSBERICHT ZUM AUSLANDSSTUDIUM/ EXPERIENCE REPORT FOR THE SEMESTER ABROAD

Please send the complete report per e-mail to erasmus.outgoing@hu-berlin.de

1. When, where, and for how long have you been an Erasmus student?

I was at University College Dublin from September to December 2018.

2. LAND UND LANDESTYPISCHES/The Country and its Characteristics

Dublin is the capital of Ireland. You get pretty much what you expect, although you might have to pay a bit more for it than you thought. The Irish have Guinness, Gaelic Football and the craic. They also like Germans, which makes it very easy to get around. Coming from Berlin, the most remarkable feature I experienced was how friendly everyone was. Even the bus drivers. I am serious. When it comes to the relationship between the commuter and the bus driver, Berlin is war, Dublin is peace. The bus drivers stop and wait for you when you run to catch the bus (unlike in Berlin). When you leave the bus, you thank the man behind the wheel for being so kind to bring you to wherever you wanted to be (unlike in Berlin). You actually say 'thank you'. Isn't that wonderful?

3. FACHLICHE BETREUUNG/Academic Advising

UCD is top-notch when it comes to academic advising. You can always go to the coordinator of European History if you lost track of what it all means anyways. Or just because you need help with your paper.

The history department does not offer many classes on Master level, so you cannot choose between loads of options. However, the seminars they have are substantial. They usually cover big topics like the First World War or Approaches to the Middle Ages. It's not like at Humboldt where seminars often deal with small issues, which are then studied in detail. It's up to you what you prefer.

I could take every course I wanted. Course registration was hectic, but successful.

4. SPRACHKOMPETENZ/Language Proficiency

You should be able to speak English. You are in Ireland.

5. WEITEREMPFEHLUNG/Recommendation

UCD can sometimes feel like it wants to be your family. Like they want to take care of you. It's not like in Germany where universities forget your existence once you have paid your registration fee. In Dublin, they really make sure that you are (and behave) in line with the system. Course registration is rigid, deadlines are strict. You can often only choose between given topics for your papers. And it makes sense, because you don't have much time anyways. Social life on the campus is regulated as well (alcohol only in the university's own pub! No smoking! For hobbies please join a society!). And since the campus is in the middle of nowhere far far away from the city centre, chances are that nothing unexpected ever happens. UCD is an own enclosed world. They provide everything for you, but you have to give up a bit of your freedom in return. That's at least how I felt. It's a deal, really.

6. VERPFLEGUNG AN DER HOCHSCHULE/Meals at the University

The cafeteria is too expensive to eat there every day. You will have to prepare your own food and then hope that the queue before one of the microwaves on campus is short enough for you not to miss your next class.

7. OFFENTLICHE VERKEHRSMITTEL/Public Transportation

UCD is not in the city centre. Depending on where you live, you might have to cycle a long way or take the bus. For students, public transportation in Dublin is more expensive than in Berlin. You get a so-called Leap Card, which in essence is a pre-paid card on which you put money. Every time you take a bus, train or tram something will be deducted. It's cheaper if you only take the bus and not the train. I paid about 80 Euro per month for my Leap Card.

8. WOHNEN/Accommodations

I found my room over a website from UCD: <https://www.ucdaccommodationpad.ie>. You need to be a UCD student to register there. Many families post their homes there, when they have a room free. Prices start at about 500 Euro, but you might have to pay as much as 800 Euro/month. Yes, 800. There is a housing crisis in Dublin and it will affect you.

Oh, and don't even think about getting a room in the student residences on campus. You won't be able to afford it.

9.KULTUR UND FREIZEIT/Culture and Leisure Time

Going to the city centre is a trip if you don't happen to belong to the lucky 1 percent who actually live there. And most likely you don't, especially when you study at UCD. Which is a 30-minute bus drive from the centre. Most students I got to know lived south of UCD, which is even farther away from where all the craic happens. But if you pack your things and embark on the journey, you will be rewarded with the famous Black Stuff while you sweat in the loud crowd of a pub, in whose corner three Irish lads hammer on their instruments to create the sounds commonly referred to as trad music. Just be careful that you have enough money on your credit card. And don't miss the last bus home.

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10. AUSLANDSFINANZIERUNG/Financial Situation

Dublin is very expensive. Consider the Erasmus money as a bonus. It doesn't come close to cover the whole costs. I probably spent something between 1.000 and 1.500 Euro per month, depending on how often I was too lazy to make my own food and instead resorted to the overpriced options in the cafeteria.

UNTERSCHRIFT/Signature

- **I agree to the publication of my report on Humboldt's Online platform and the Moodle group for the European History Master (which is accessible to the European History students and coordinators)**

Berlin, 06 February, Jasper Riemann

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jasper Riemann". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.