

Final Report

I was in Dublin, Ireland, for four month between the 3rd of September and the 21st of December. I had my accommodation in the south of the city in an area called Killarney. It is a quite and residential area with stunning walks close by. Since the Campus of the University College Dublin (UCD) is also located in the south of the city my daily commute was comparably short (approx.. 45 mins).

In the beginning of my stay abroad we had a meeting with our coordinator William Mulligan, who helped us a lot with the selection of our courses. From the website, it was a bit difficult to figure out which courses we could actually subscribe for and which ones were only for undergraduate students. The selection of courses in general was smaller than the one by our sending university but combined with classes from other disciplines such as politics or sociology it allowed us to come up with an interesting timetable. All the courses were taught in English, which was no problem for me since I had a high level of the language already. However, studying and living in Dublin definitely helped me to improve my English skills, especially regarding essay writing and fast reading of academic texts.

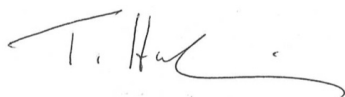
UCD has a nice Campus. The classrooms and lecture halls differ significantly though. In the oldest building, the Paul Newman building, classrooms are rather rundown and not that accommodating. The main library is also in this complex, which lacked sufficient amounts of plugs for laptops and was often very crowded. In the newly constructed facilities the lecture halls and study rooms are very modern though. Additionally, the campus provided good facilities and an outstanding offer of sport activities. The food, was rather expensive and quite unhealthy. Meals often consisted of chips and meat. Especially for vegetarians the offer was rather disappointing. The prices were also about double of what I was used to from the cafeterias at the HU. However, if you prepare meals from home and don't mind in winter to sometimes leave your jumper on in class, the UCD provides very good services.

Accommodation and transport on the other side are rather catastrophic in Dublin. Due to a housing crisis, prices extend those of London. Within the city centre it is difficult to find a single room for less than 600 € a month which forces the majority of students to live further away from the actual city centre. This makes the bad public transport even more annoying since you depend on it quite heavily. Dublin has only one train and several tram lines. The majority of public transport works through buses. As a student you pay 80€ a month for this service. A rather high price for a very unreliable and slow service. A bike might be a good alternative, even though Irish weather often makes that a rather unpleasant experience too. Saying this, waiting in the rain for 30 min on your bus is not necessarily much better.

Fortunately, Irish people in general have a very positive and chatty attitude which can turn annoying situations in pleasant encounters. In general I was very positively impressed with the Irish, who helped you whenever you had a question and often went out of their way to make your time in Dublin worth remembering. The city has a verity of interesting museums and exhibitions and the pubs often keep what known stereotypes about Irish drinking culture promises.

I spent about 1100€ per month. This is mainly due to high rents and high prices for any leisure time activities. I cooked meals for myself almost everyday and only occasionally went out for drinks or food. Otherwise I would have spent significantly more.

I agree to the publication of my report on Humboldt's online platform and the Moodle group for the European History Master



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