

## **Study report Trinity College Dublin, Ireland**

- study period in 1st semester
- start date study abroad: 1.09.2018 end date: 17/12/2018
- period of classes: from 01/09/2017 until 20/12/2018
- examination period: N/A all examinations were essays with optional choice of taking exams
- did you follow a language course: no

Courses completed at the host university:

1. Jurisprudence
2. Legal and Economic Aspects of Competition Policy
3. Collective labour law

My exchange destination was Trinity College Dublin, University of Dublin. The exchange period run from early September until the very end of December depending on the modules undertaken. I have been part of the School of Law, as a law student, taking three courses, namely: jurisprudence, legal and economic aspects of competition policy and collective labour law.

The correspondence with the international office in Dublin was somehow smooth, at least regarding my course options and completing the paperwork. Personally, I preferred to arrange the matters at an early stage since I did not want to stress myself during the last block spend in Groningen. Therefore, I emailed the School of Law in Dublin accordingly in order to prepare my learning agreement. The curriculum offered by Trinity College was indeed appealing, since I tried to combine areas of law in such a way as to give me a taste of economics, philosophy and Irish law. I also wanted to include diversity from what I had in Groningen.

The courses are taught entirely in English. The best part in the very first two weeks or so, was the fact that in the introductory lecture some Irish slang is explained. Since teachers although very professional while giving insights of the modules, may be at times quite sophisticated in language, thus these explanations are quite useful. I do recommend future exchange students to participate in the introductory week, since it is a great opportunity to explore the campus and meet new students, perhaps make some friends.

Compared to last year, the academic year was split into two semesters which means that by the end of December exams are held. As an Exchange student, I had the liberty to choose whether to write assignments which consisted in an essay per subject, between 3,000 up to 5,000 or to take an exam (specifically for Legal and Economic Aspects of Competition Policy).

For me writing the essays was challenging however very enjoyable. It was an exercise of writing a thesis, focusing on the subject and doing research.

The academic life overall could be characterised as very libertine. Teachers do have expectations from their students mainly on points of logic and legal argument, however I felt like there is a lack of information regarding technicalities of essays, exams and organisation in general. I did understand, however, that it is the Irish method of teaching, in so far there is no pressure on students. In turn, students really do put effort during exam period, being awarded accordingly. There is lots of debate during lectures, and the teachers are really open to questions.

Dublin as a city is just amazing. Personally, I felt like home. There are stunning views over bridges and around the bay. It is a vibrant city, with something going on daily. As a student who would enjoy nights out, you will never get bored. However, the costs are very high. Everything is more expensive than the Netherlands, however it is worth it. The city is surrounded by lots of history and many places where you can grasp it for free, such as museums, galleries, theatres and so on.

The housing crisis is the down part of the story, since finding accommodation is something that you should worry about. Because of that, I ended up living with an Irish family, which eventually was not bad at all. The rents are very expensive so do not expect to find a place in the city centre. Bare in mind that Dublin is the capital and as such it is quite big. Public transport is around €20 per week, unless you decide to bike which is also an option.

All in all, I learned about Irish culture and got the taste of Ireland in the most original way. Irish people are just amazingly friendly, and they would cheer you up whenever you would feel lonely and far away from home.

In conclusion, I could say that Ireland was one of the best experiences I had so far, with ups and downs indeed. The key fact is to understand the differences within the academic environment and within the culture. After that hop on board and enjoy the ride.