

## **Exchange experience National University of Ireland, Galway, Fall 2018**

Start date: 3.9.2018 end date: 21.12.2018

Period of classes: 3.9. until 7.12.

Examination period: 10.12. until 21.12

Courses completed at host university:

1. Medial law
2. Irish legal system
3. Environmental law
4. International Protection of Human Rights
5. Applied legal theory
6. Banking law

### **Courses**

Overall, I enjoyed all my courses and found the courses to be easier since the teachers give a good overview on what knowledge is required for the exam. Three of my courses (Environmental law, Applied legal theory and Banking law) were all assessed by coursework. I would highly recommend to not only choose courses that are exam based since it will make life much easier during exam weeks and I found the essay-based courses interesting since I ended up doing a lot of research into the material and was able to engage with the material. Since the courses are all based on Irish law (common law) it is recommended to take Irish legal system for an introduction to Irish law however this is not necessary and you can definitely do well in your courses even without taking Irish legal system. All courses were worth 5 ECTS and therefore I took 6 different courses which was do-able and I would also recommend all the courses that I took.

### **Extra-curricular**

The university offered lots of societies, extra-curricular sports, events, on-campus gym, on-campus bar, great canteens, pharmacy, etc. so everything was basically on campus which was very convenient. During the first week there was an opportunity to get to know and join the societies and clubs. I would highly recommend joining the Mountaineering club at least once or twice on their Sunday hikes as it is the perfect opportunity to hike in beautiful landscapes/mountains around Galway. There were lots of events for Erasmus students and it was easy to get to know people and make friends. However, I must admit that I mainly made friends with fellow exchange students and not many Irish students which was due to the fact lots of events are specifically targeted at exchange students.

### **Travel**

I was able to travel a lot around Ireland and make use of weekends for day-trips or weekend-trips. The Cliffs of Moher, Connemara National Park and the Aran Islands are conveniently located close to Galway and can be visited as day-trips. The International Student Society also arranged trips to these locations. I also visited Northern Ireland (Giants Causeway) and Belfast with Next Adventures which offered various weekend trips at an affordable price. I would also highly recommend Cork and the Ring of Kerry which can also be visited during a weekend. Dublin can be easily reached with various bus companies.

Galway itself is a small but nice city which feels very cozy and medieval. There is lots of pubs and great nightlife.

### **Housing**

There is a housing crisis so accommodation might be a struggle. I know a lot of people who stayed in a hostel for the first week (or two) and then found accommodation. I heard that the university was also very helpful in trying to accommodate exchange students. I was able to find a room in Cuirt Na Coiribe which is a student accommodation (privately owned, Corrib Village is the "official" student accommodation on campus). My accommodation claimed to be "Luxury student accommodation" however that definitely did not reflect in the quality of the rooms. If I would have known the value that I would get for my money, I would probably not have gotten it. However, since there is such a housing shortage I was not left with much choice. It is however conveniently located next to Dunnes, Aldi and Lidl and is only 15min by foot to the centre and Uni.

I really enjoyed my time in Galway and would recommend it to anyone thinking about it! Just be prepared for a lot of rain and wind but I guess we're already used to it with the Dutch weather.