Ollscoil na Gaillimhe
University of Galway

# BA Global Experience: Year Abroad

Testimonials from former participants



University of Galway.ie



# Cian, Erasmus in Vilnius (Lithuania) 25/26

I’m very much settled in here in Lithuania, and although it’s getting cold, I'm having a great time! The city is amazing and I'm never short of things to do and places to see. So far it has been an excellent experience. Additionally, I'm really enjoying my classes and the University as a whole, it’s a great institution and I'm finding everything to be very interesting.

A lot of people might not give Vilnius a chance because it's northeastern Europe and maybe a little bit ‘different’, but that's what makes it so interesting and unique. The city is also very modern, which maybe people don't realise. The Erasmus network over here is great too - from what I know there's over 800 Erasmus students and the Erasmus Student Network arrange events, nights out and trips.

I am extremely grateful to have been given the opportunity to study abroad here, So far, it has been a wonderful experience which has exceeded my expectations.”











# Lanah did Erasmus in Leiden (Netherlands), 2024/25

So far, my experience at Leiden University (studying Politics and Psychology) has been beyond ideal. The modules offered here align so well with my interests and future career ideas, and the university is an incredible and prestigious place to be. The Hague is the core of international politics, making it a thrilling place to have the privilege of studying in (it is like a mini New York to me) and Leiden is the epitome of a picturesque yet lively Dutch experience. The orientation weeks instantly set me up with the best group of friends that already feel like siblings to me. Geographically, it's perfect for visiting other Dutch cities and countries too!
I couldn't have chosen a better place for Erasmus if I was free to choose anywhere in Europe, honestly.







University Main Building

# Daniel, Erasmus in Uppsala, Sweden 25/26

Uppsala is a fantastic place to go to on Erasmus. It is a very student friendly city, with student nations being a unique feature that allow students to have their own dedicated cafes, pubs & clubs with discounted prices. The city itself is beautiful and culturally vibrant, and it's only an hour away from Stockholm too.


Linnaeus Garden,
part of Uppsala University


Uppsala Cathedral

As for studying, there are multiple libraries and campuses throughout the city, and the academic content is well organised & interesting. Overall, I highly recommend Uppsala as a destination for Erasmus.

I am really enjoying Flogsta so far, it's especially good for creating a lot of social opportunities - I have made so many friends just from living here and it makes social events such as parties, dinners, tea together, etc so much easier to attend.


Flogsta Student Residence

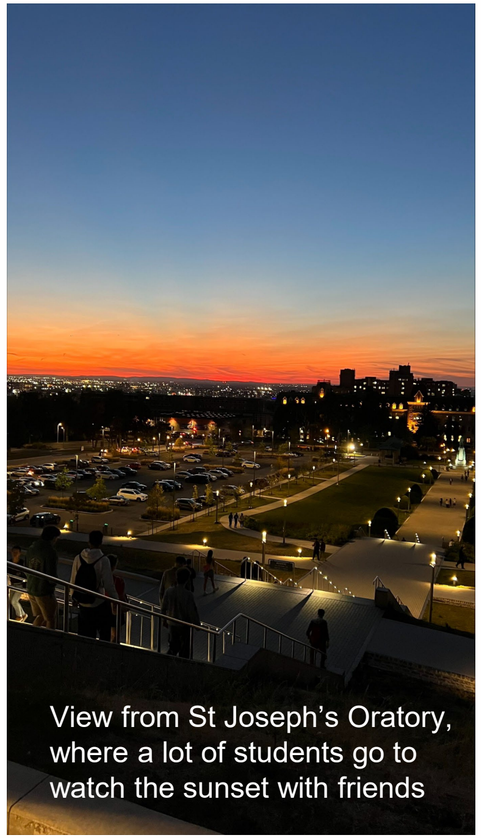

City lights at night

# Katie studied at McGill University, Montreal (Canada) 25/26

I am loving the experience. I have travelled a little, tried new foods and made loads of friends. The campus is beautiful, and my professors are lovely. Feeling really lucky to have had this opportunity.


Arts building on campus

One thing that has really stood out to me at McGill is the people. People I met from my accommodation on my second day in the country are now my close friends. Everyone is in the same boat trying to make friends so absolutely nobody has been stand - offish. For our reading week, my group of friends and I actually travelled to New York and Boston and had the best time together. Even the professors are very interactive. In my first class of the year, the professor knew every single student he spoke to by name and when I spoke to him after the class, he asked me mine and has made it a point to remember it. The same goes for the Canadian students who are here full - time. Everyone I have met in class and at parties have been so welcoming, offering suggestions of places to visit and eat and inviting my friends and I to parties. Although there are big differences to how we do university in Ireland, with everyone's help I have found it rather easy to adjust.


View from St Joseph’s Oratory, where a lot of students go to watch the sunset with friends

# One student's experience studying in America (2025/26, University of Connecticut)

Studying in America I found provided me a fantastic opportunity to experience a completely different education system while also immersing myself in a new culture. Based upon my own experience at UConn, one of the biggest advantages I found was there was always something to do. This was seen through a wide range of societies and activities that the university would put on daily and the warm welcome that American people give to exchange students.

The university also has amazing sporting facilities, with access to a large rec centre allowing you to participate in nearly any sport you wanted. American universities also have a huge sporting culture, with matches on every week in packed out stadiums. I had friends who weren't big sports fans going over, but when you're immersed in the culture, you feel as if you're part of the sporting community.

Academically, the continuous assessment through regular exams and weekly or biweekly discussion posts ensured that I stay on top of coursework throughout the semester. The classes in America were all in small classrooms with 20/30 students in each class which made it easier to make friends in class and stay engaged.

I also found

studying in America provides the opportunity to travel and explore different parts of the country which usually can only be seen on TV, with places such as New York easily accessible from Connecticut.

Most importantly though I found this experience allowed me to meet people from many different backgrounds, make lifelong friendships and experience something completely different from what I found studying at home. Overall, studying in America is an incredible opportunity to develop as a person that I couldn't recommend enough.



# Clodagh studied in Budapest, 2025/26

I am currently studying Law and Soc. & Pol. in Eotvos Lorand University Budapest.
My Erasmus+ studies in Budapest for the past months have been the most amazing experience of my life.

Budapest is a thriving city with the most amazing student life and atmosphere. Within Budapest there are so many Erasmus events held by the university as well as other Erasmus organisations across the city. This has provided me with the opportunity to meet other Erasmus students from all over the world who are now some of my closest friends.

The classes and university life itself is amazing with highly experienced professors with interactive and enjoyable learning. Overall, I would highly recommend Budapest to anyone interested in studying abroad.



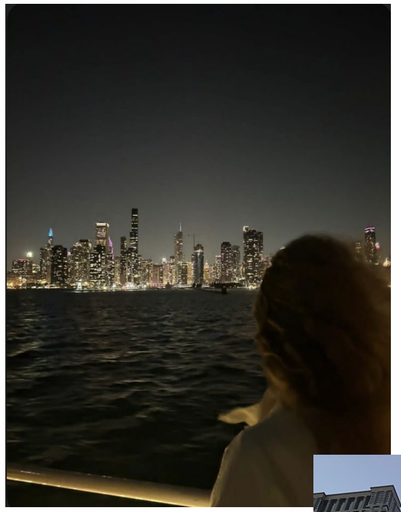




# AnneSophie studied at Indiana University, 25/26



I'm loving IU so far. The classes are very interesting and I'm falling in love with some of the modules and finding out that clinical psychology may be the career route for me!



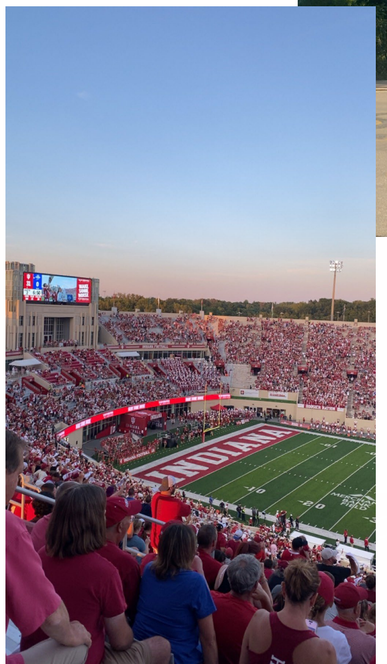
Weekend impressions of Chicago

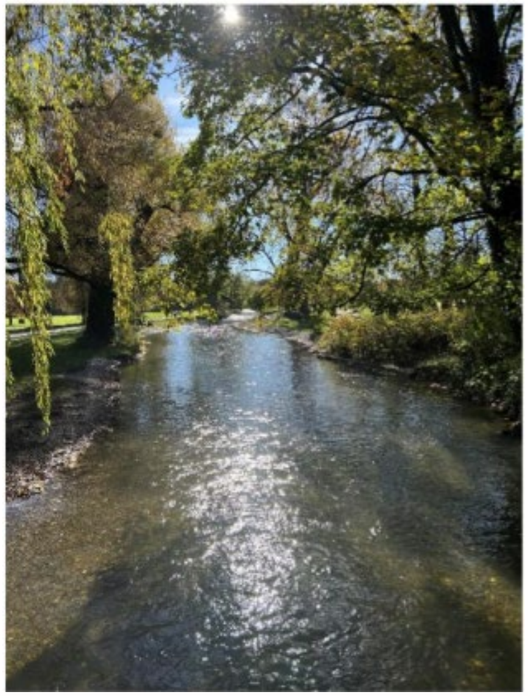
IU has an incredibly beautiful and lively yet tranquil campus and there are so many squirrels! This experience has so far been incredible and even better than I could have ever imagined it to be.




I recently travelled to Chicago from Indiana for the weekend and I thought I'd share some photos of the experience. They may inspire some other students to come to Indiana and explore the nearby states!









# Grace studied at LMU (Munich, Germany), 25/26



I’m studying English and Media at Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich. I’ve been here since September, and I have been loving my time here.

Munich is a big, beautiful city full of history but also full of life, there is always events, something to do or somewhere to go.

In late September, Oktoberfest starts, which is a big festival which happens in the city with big beer tents being set up as well as food stalls and funfair rides. People wear the traditional German clothes eg Lederhosen and Dirndl and you can buy these in second hand shops that pop up around the city.

Munich is also very central in Europe, so it is easy to travel around to different places such as Italy, Budapest or Austria.

In University class sizes are much smaller and they love to have discussions and really encourage participation even in the lectures which is different from Galway.

Overall, I’m really enjoying my time here, I love the German culture and living in Munich and also having the opportunity to improve my German.








# Paula, did Erasmus in Utrecht, 2024/25

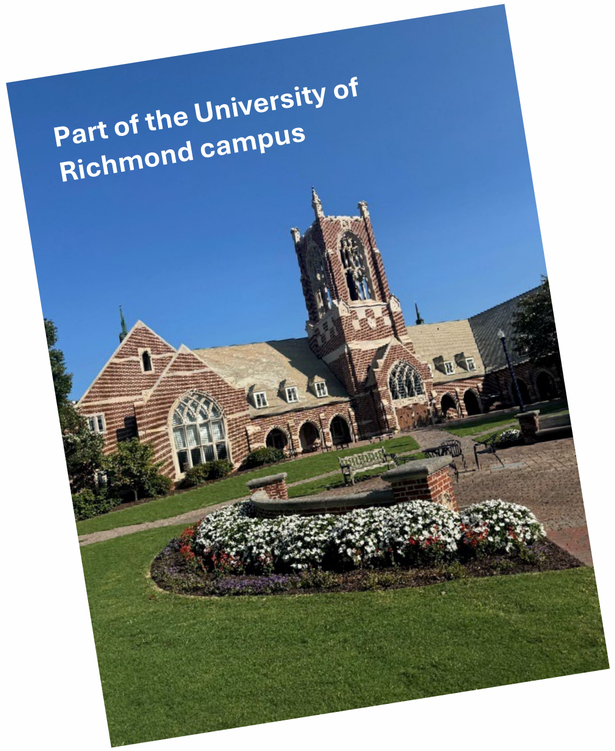
Studying at Utrecht University has been such a wonderful experience so far. Not only is the city absolutely gorgeous, but the whole vibe of the place is honestly completely unlike Galway (in a good way!). It's so easy to make friends here because there are quite a lot of students. I like how the semesters are split into blocks; it allows for more self-study and gives me time to do things by myself or my friends around the city.

Oh, and one thing to note: you will 100% need to get a bike. It makes life so much easier around the city, and on the weekends, you can cycle to nearby towns to go exploring. The sheer number of cycle lanes is something I will definitely miss when I get back to Ireland!

(Watch Paula’s VIDEO!)








# Dara studied Soc. & Pol. and History at the University of Richmond, 2024/25




The orientation programme began two weeks before my classes commenced, and this was a really great chance for me to become acquainted with the beautiful campus and make so many great friends from every corner of the world. Since classes began in September, I have been fully immersed in the interactive teaching style and multi-dimensional assessment structure. Preparing for each class (which has a maximum size of 20 students) by analyzing the assigned readings and raising questions for discussion has been quite intense, but it has paid off hugely as I have grown so much as a student from it.

Richmond also offers so many options for personal growth. Music and Intra Mural sports have been my favourites so far.



# Dara, University of Richmond
*(continued)*




Richmond also offers so many options for personal growth. Music and Intra Mural sports have been my favourites so far. The Acapella group I joined, the Richmond Octaves, has built my confidence for performing, introduced me to some of the best American friends I've made so far and taken me to so many cool places for performances, including the prestigious Duke University and the Robins Stadium to sing the National Anthem before one of our college football teams games. Intra Mural Sports is a system where you pay a certain amount to play in tournaments for various different sports. The atmosphere is lighthearted and fun, and it’s been a great way to discover new pastimes.

As for the city of Richmond, it is one of my favourite places in all of the US. As the capital of Virginia, it is full of Revolutionary and Civil War History, and its art and music scene is so diverse and unique. Getting around without a car requires some planning ahead, but all city and campus bus services are completely free and Ubers are very cheap if you travel in a group. I would heavily encourage anyone considering their options for study abroad to choose Richmond. GO SPIDERS!



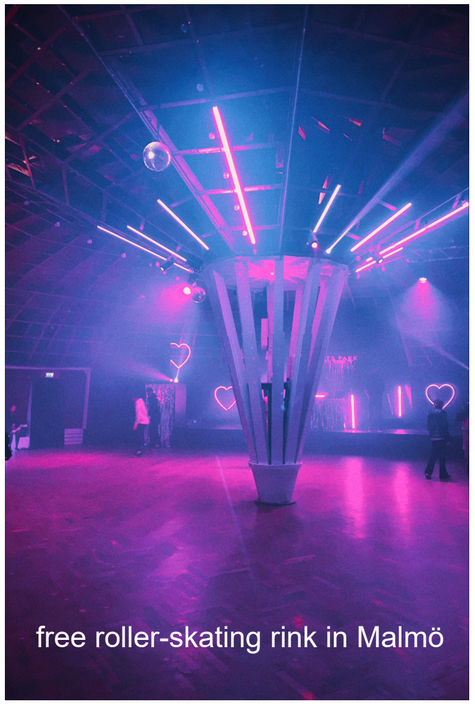







Lund University Library

# Marcia, studied in Lund (Sweden), 25/26


free roller-skating rink in Malmö

I’m currently studying in Lund University in Sweden and it has been a dream so far!
In Galway, I study English and Psychology but they have a whole range of courses available for exchange students here! For example, next semester I will be studying Swedish Literature and Introduction to Scandinavian Culture.
Everything has been so lovely especially the student life. I cannot stress enough how endless and vibrant it is!! There’s always something going on. Whether you enjoy going out or hikes or more cosy events, there's always something to do :) Just yesterday I went to a free roller skate rink in a neighbouring city!
Life in Sweden has just been so wonderful, and I cannot recommend Lund enough!!


Söderåsen nature reserve

# Jade studied at KU Leuven, Belgium, 25/26



Leuven Town Hall

I'm definitely enjoying Leuven - classes are very full on, but very interesting and we have lots of European guest lecturers who have great experience! It is very much opening my eyes to a broader European perspective on both Law and Economics. There is also a good few Irish students studying here from Galway, Limerick and Dublin, so that is definitely helping with my transition in Leuven.

- Lively student atmosphere, and Irish culture -
  - There is an Irish pub called Stapletons in the town, where I met most of my friends who are from Ireland
  - Oude Market which is a street of various pubs and restaurants which is always busy and is just outside the law campus
  - Irish GAA team which practices twice a week called the Earls of Leuven.
  - There is always student activities organised either by the University, societies or student accommodations - eg there was a 24 hour run on around Leuven, and all throughout the first week there was various international parties through the ESN
- The university is spread out around Leuven, so most people cycle everywhere, although you can get a bus pass for the year which is 30 euro. Everything is very accessible on foot however.
- The lectures are always very interesting and engaging - however they are 2 hours long, and there is an expectation that you already have prior knowledge on the topic from your undergraduate degree
  - All of the modules are very European focused - a lot of discussion on the EU
  - There is often guest lecturers who have very interesting background and experience in what they are lecturing in - for example we had a guest lecturer from NATO in last week
- There is a train station in Leuven which is 15 minutes trip to the airport, and connects to all the major cities in Belgium, so it is easy to travel around Belgium, and to surrounding countries





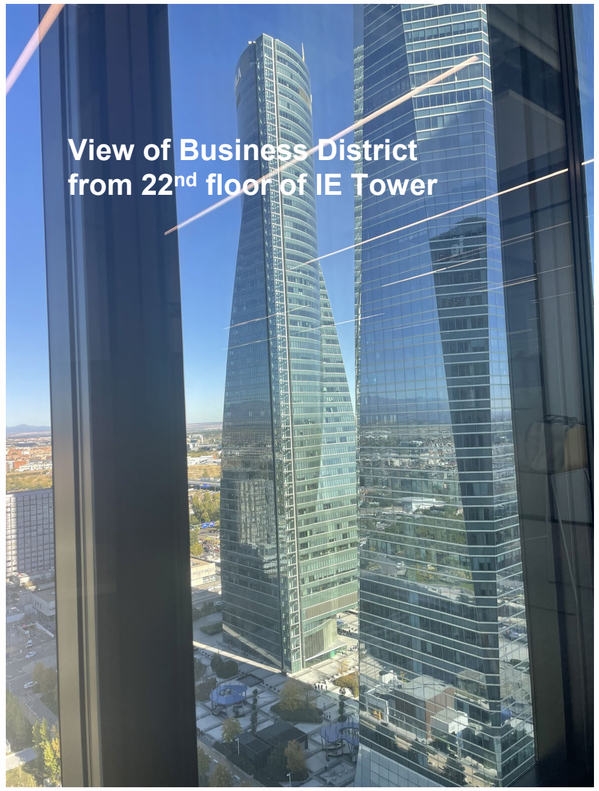




# Sophie studied in Groningen, 25/26

I am studying in Groningen in the Netherlands. It has been very exciting experience so far.
The city is full of young people from Dutch to international students.
They are really organised about making sure international students integrate well, they have lots of events and activities to do especially at the start of the year.
The biking culture takes some getting used to, but it is very efficient, and you save money that you would spend on taxis!

I recommend Groningen if you like a slow - paced city with young people and beautiful scenery!




# Julie studied at IE Madrid, 25/26

IE University is modern , with classes held in the 30 -floor tower in the business district of Madrid, which serves as the campus. Very different to Galway in that sense but very cool. As an exchange student it has been fairly easy to integrate with the students here as the student body is so international already . The classes are small usually and contain a lot of debates and presentations. I found the professors really good and engaging and the module choice is very wide and unique (they have modules that use VR and media labs etc).
The city itself I could not recommend more as there is so much to offer with great nightlife, parks , markets, food, shopping, cultural events and festivals, and very good day trips from there too. Clubs and socs at the university are not as big as in Galway I've found, but there are so many running clubs and sports clubs for exchange students organised by the ESN and other organisations. There is a very good network for exchange students in the city. The metro is great and links all areas to each other and is cheap, 10 euro a month for youth card.
And of course Madrid is a beautiful European city with amazing architecture, museums and weather! Flights from Madrid are cheap and short so also easy to visit other Spanish and European cities.

