

ERASMUS-Erfahrungsbericht

Persönliche Angaben			
Name:		Vorname:	
E-Mail-Adresse			
Gastland		Nordirland	
Gasthochschule		University of Ulster	
Aufenthalt von:		21.09.15	bis:

Ich bin mit der Veröffentlichung meines Berichtes auf der Homepage des IUZ einverstanden:	ja nein ¹⁴ / ₇ anonym
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Bericht (mind. 1 Seite):

My study abroad experience at the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland.

First of all, it was great! The University itself is unbelievable welcoming and friendly. Everybody, no matter if professor or student, is willing to help.

The first two weeks after the arrival at the airport were introduction weeks, where the ERASMUS students and the ERASMUS department of the University got to know each other and could ask every question they got in mind. Together we organised our daily schedule with modules and seminars, we enrolled online and we got our student ID, which is quite important as otherwise you are not able to enter university buildings or lecture theatres. Within this group we could participate in film nights, coffee&chat, sport events or trips. We made a day long trip to the Causeway Coastal Route including the Giant's Causeway and its folklore, the rope bridge Carrick-a-Rede and an overwhelming feeling while standing on a small island in the middle of the sea.

Another trip we participated in was Londonderry at Halloween. The small city is beautiful, but unfortunately we discovered that most of the daily activities they promoted were for children or families only and therefore not open to us. But instead we walked through this beautiful town and discovered art markets and nice Cafés. At the end of the day we visited the great costume parade, but we couldn't stay too long as the last train back to Coleraine left at half eight.

Unfortunately other trips, such as the Game of Thrones tour or trips to Belfast and Edinburgh were organised by the University and therefore only students living in the student accommodation belonging to the university were able to sign up for those tours.

As a student not living in student accommodation but with a landlord, I can only say that it is much, much better! I shared a house with a friend of mine and two french girls in Portstewart and it was great. The student accommodations of the university seem to be quite new, and a friend who lived the semester abroad in one of the houses, said that there are a few things that make it hard to actually feel comfortable there without plates, pots, or cutlery.

It is important to know that there are no student tickets. The only way to save some money is the YLink Card, which saves you 1/3 of the price on single fares but you always have to have cash with you as you can only buy your ticket from the bus driver. You can use the YLink Card on either bus or train and it is even valid if you want to go to Dublin.

With your modules and seminars scheduled it is a great opportunity to spend the rest of your week discovering the surrounding area and their sights, such as the Bushmills Distillery or Belfast. Belfast is a really nice city, and after you spent some time in small cities such as Coleraine and Portstewart, it is nice to walk through a lively pedestrian area. Especially from

november till december, Belfast is very christmassy. The whole city is decorated with fairy lights and christmas greetings, and although the christmas market itself is more of a food market, mostly represented by the german Bratwurst, we enjoyed a cup of original nürnberg moled wine there.

Trips to Dublin or Edinburgh should be planned a few weeks ahead as either flights (Edinburgh) or hostels (Dublin&Edinburgh) are cheaper. The weekend I spent in Dublin with my friend was great! We did one of those hop-on-hop-off bus tours and had great luck with the weather. The bus stopped at the big shopping street, so we took the chance to stroll around Dublin's city centre and buy some christmas presents.

If you are more of the stay-at-home-and-party student instead of the discover-the-country student, don't worry. The ERASMUS students are throwing a few parties e.g. birthdays, and if you live in a private accommodation your neighbours are going to invite you over, especially at the beginning of the semester and shortly before the exam period begins. And if that is still not enough party for you, every monday and tuesday the Anchor, the pub in Portstewart, has theme or karaoke parties, and every wednesdays Kelly's in Portrush is open to you. And if you hurry, you can get a wristband for free transportation to Kelly's from either University of Portstewart.

Summarising my stay at Ulster I would definitely recommend it to everyone. I met the most friendly people there, I had a lot of fun, I discovered a culture that is torn between being Irish or being British, I made a lot of friends and I had a great time. But remember to bring at least two umbrellas (very windy) and water proof clothes. It's still the UK.