

# Experience Report

Three-Week Trip to Dublin with Erasmus+

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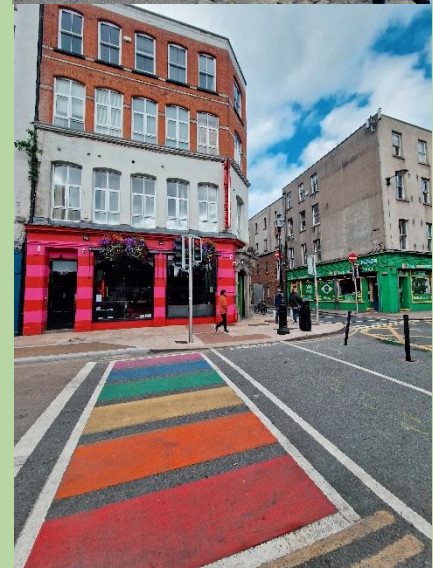
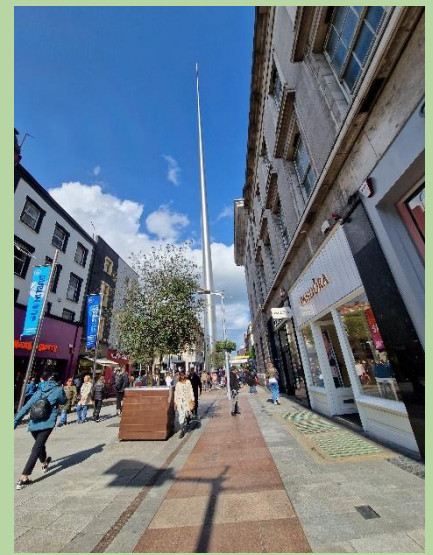


From June 9th, 2024, to June 29th, 2024, I had the unique opportunity to embark on a three-week trip to Dublin with my school. This journey was an exciting mix of a language course and an internship while living with a warm host family. Overall, this experience was incredibly enriching, and the group dynamic within our school group was excellent.

The first week was entirely dedicated to the language course, which took place at a renowned language school in Dublin. Every day, we gathered there for intensive English lessons. Our teacher was not only very competent but also extremely friendly and patient. The classes were interactive and practical, giving us plenty of opportunities to practice our English in conversation. I particularly appreciated that the language course prepared us well for the subsequent internship. Our teacher also gave us some tips for the professional world in Dublin, which gave me a sense of security. After this week of language classes, I felt much more confident in speaking.

During the following two weeks, I completed an internship with the hostel company Leevin. This experience was extremely valuable and educational. I was trained in various areas, from reception to room management to guest services. It was especially interesting to get a behind-the-scenes look at how a hostel operates and to see how the business functions in detail. The internship also gave me the opportunity to further improve my English skills, as I had to communicate daily with international guests and colleagues. The work atmosphere was very pleasant, and the employees always took the time to explain everything to me and support me. Additionally, it was fascinating to learn about the Irish work culture. In Ireland, work is much more relaxed, and everyone works at their own pace.

Throughout my stay, I lived with an Irish woman. She was incredibly warm and hospitable. During our shared dinners, we exchanged stories about our cultures and experiences. Living with a host family also allowed me to experience the Irish way of life and traditions up close, which made my stay even more authentic. I got along exceptionally well with the student I stayed with in the host family, even though we didn't know each other before. A really nice bond developed between us. We were able to support each other and help each other navigate Dublin.



A key aspect of the trip was the group dynamics within our school group. We had a great time together and supported each other, whether in the language course, during the internship, or during our leisure activities. This close-knit community significantly contributed to my feeling comfortable and safe throughout the entire trip. We made new friendships and strengthened existing relationships, making the trip an unforgettable experience.

In the afternoons, we often had free time, which we used to explore Dublin. We visited landmarks such as Trinity College, Dublin Castle, and the Guinness Storehouse. These outings were not only interesting but also a great opportunity to get to know the city and its history better. Since the European Football Championship was taking place at the same time, our entire group met up for every Germany match to watch it together in a pub. I found these evenings particularly enjoyable, and they brought the group even closer together. On the weekends, we took larger excursions and got to see the Cliffs of Moher, Kilkenny, Galway, Howth, and the Wicklow Mountains National Park. The nature of Ireland captivated me, and this certainly won't be my last trip to Ireland. However, the bus rides in Ireland were quite an adventure, something I will never forget. Twice, we had to get off because the bus broke down. Also, buses often didn't run or simply didn't show up, which made the trips to work or language school much more adventurous.

## Conclusion

Overall, the three-week trip to Dublin was one of the best experiences of my life. I was not only able to improve my English skills and gain valuable professional experience, but I also got to know a new culture and meet many wonderful people. The combination of a language course, internship, and living with a host family was perfect, and I am very grateful for this opportunity. The positive group dynamics within our school group rounded off the experience and made the trip something truly special. I got to know myself better and grow beyond my limits. Above all, I plan to take with me the friendliness and calmness of the Irish and incorporate it into my life, so I'll always have a piece of Ireland with me.

