

COE – Dublin Ireland Study Abroad 2014

By: Robyn Connolly

I believe that everyone should be given the opportunity study abroad once in their life. I think studying abroad truly opened my eyes to what the world encompasses. It also pushed me out of my comfort zone, which is something that I am not good at doing. I believe being out of my comfort zone taught me to appreciate diversity, others' cultures, languages, educational systems, and ways of life with a deeper meaning. Studying abroad taught me how to interact with others that are different than me, which will definitely benefit me in the classroom when I'm faced with students of all backgrounds. Having the chance to view the Irish educational systems provided me ample experiences and knowledge that will better me as a future educator.

As a future educator, this experience allowed me to visit a variety of schools in Ireland. I was able to grasp a better understanding of educational overall. This program enhanced my career and better prepared me for whatever the future has in store for me. Personally, I think I have grown as an individual and became more independent. I developed a better understanding for myself, which will allow me to recognize my strengths and weaknesses. With my self-awareness in mind, I can be the best educator possible.