

Experiential Learning and Student Mentoring Plan



Cead mile failte! Welcome to the Dublin Summer Abroad program for 2024! While each of you will pursue their own program and plan of study at University College Dublin this coming summer, as the Resident Director for the University of Hawai'i at Manoa Study Abroad Center, I have some responsibility for each of you. Although I won't be teaching a formal class in the program, I will be there to make sure your program of study at UCD proceeds smoothly, to gauge your degree of participation and involvement in the program, to mediate and advise on any problems or issues you may encounter along the way, and to act as your on the spot guide and mentor. I will also oversee and issue final grades. In addition to these duties, I have designed an experiential learning component for the summer program that will be used to fine tune the final grades reported by your host institution.

Studying in another country and another city is a unique opportunity to learn about others, and other ways of life, and to learn more about yourself and the ideas and assumptions that guide and shape your own behavior and worldview. This experiential learning component is designed to enable you to explore and extend the cultural knowledge that you will be acquiring from your classes and,

most importantly, from your period of residence in Dublin. Your tasks will be guided by the following student learning outcomes (SLOs) developed by the University of Hawai'i at Manoa Study Abroad Center will aim to:

1. Demonstrate awareness of your own cultural values and biases and how these impact your ability to work with others;
2. Demonstrate knowledge of diversity with a focus on the population or topic of interest in your Study Abroad program;
3. Communicate appropriately and effectively with diverse individuals and groups; and
4. Demonstrate an increased capacity to analyze issues with appreciation for disparate viewpoints.

During your time in Dublin, you will be asked to pay attention to the rich cultural and historical landscape in which you will live, move, work, study and play. Dublin is an ancient city of enormous historical importance, and Ireland itself has played a major role in the history of Christianity, in the history of the British Empire - it was England's first colony - and in the history of migration to the United States. Its past is a profoundly rich one, and at every turn the city offers markers to critical historical events, like the General Post Office on O'Connell Street which was the center of the Irish Uprising in 1916, as well the genius of its literary and artistic inhabitants, like the statue of Oscar Wilde in Merrion Square Park.

Ireland possesses a powerful sense of cultural and national identity and yet it remains a divided nation, indelibly marked by a history of conquest and colonialism. Over the course of your stay, you will be asked to explore the historical and cultural roots as well as the contemporary life of the city, and to record your impressions in a written journal that digs into Dublin's past and present, and uncovers the way the past reveals itself in the daily life of the city, in its pubs and restaurants, in its food ways and markets, in its cultural habits and customs, in its language, in its museums, its music, its politics, and in the physical and architectural features of the city. I will help guide your exploration of the city and its history by steering you to some of its principal historical sites: Dublin Castle, Phoenix Park, and Kilmainham Gaol for example, and by encouraging you to explore its dense and fascinating cultural life.

And I will try to focus your enquiry by asking each of you to document and discuss the issue of modern Irish nationalism, exploring how fellow students, teachers, friends, and of course the inhabitants of Dublin themselves, feel about the issue in the early twenty-first century. In this way, you can explore disparate viewpoints (SLO 4), reach out and communicate with individuals you meet and even perhaps groups you encounter (SLO 3), focus your journal around a concrete topic or subject (SLO 2) and figure out what you think and where you

stand on the issue and why? (SLO 1). Ireland is an increasingly cosmopolitan rapidly changing country, and your journal will be a chance to document the ways in which the past persists within a modern and vibrant, always changing, Irish nation.

Rubric for Student Learning Objectives

Learning Objectives	Below Expectation	Satisfactory	Exceptional
Demonstrate awareness of your own cultural values and biases and how these impact your ability to work with others.	Fails to submit regular journal entries, or to recognize the way personal values shape cultural meaning and intercultural interactions.	Submits regular journal entries that include some self-awareness about the cultural mediation of knowledge.	Journal entries show real insight into the way personal values and ideas shape cultural meaning and interaction.
Demonstrate knowledge of diversity with a focus on the population or topic of interest in your Study Abroad program.	Fails to submit regular journal entries or to recognize and distinguish cultural difference	Submits regular entries that recognize and describe local cultural difference	Submits regular entries that recognize cultural difference but also identify and explain diversity within the host culture
Communicate appropriately and effectively with diverse individuals and groups.	Poor attendance and poor engagement with formal program and host culture.	Regular attendance and participation in formal programs and engagement with host culture.	Regular attendance and ability to link classroom learning and everyday experiences in host culture.
Demonstrate an increased capacity to analyze issues with appreciation for disparate viewpoints.	Fails to participate in experiential learning work or to develop a critical understanding of issues and cultural/political differences	Participates in experiential learning and develops an awareness of major issues and political/cultural differences	Participates in experiential learning and demonstrates deep awareness of major issues, and the reasons for political/cultural differences

Final Grading

As the Resident Director I am responsible for guiding your Experiential Learning Experience and monitoring your overall academic participation and progress, and we will meet individually or collectively at least once a week either online or in person to discuss your progress in the program. I am also responsible for assigning the grade for the Experiential Learning component of the program, and this grade will be used to adjust the final grade that you earn from your host institution.