

ErayTekin, December, 2018

## My semester in Limerick, Ireland

My semester abroad was pretty spontaneous. When one of my teachers told me that they need a student to take part of the Erasmus programme and spend a semester in Limerick, I couldn't say no.

I looked at the courses I could take at the University of Limerick and compared them to those here at Wuppertal. I noticed that there are similar courses for each of my subjects, English and Social Sciences. After I finished my Learning Agreement and got it signed by both of the coordinators, I knew that it was time to get ready! I booked the on-campus accommodation and my flights. Ireland is a beautiful and rainy country. I truly recommend rain coats or jackets. Think about your hobbies and trips and take appropriate clothes with you. Please join the buddy programme! The University of Limerick will send you an email and ask you to join it. You will get a buddy who is there for you and helps you throughout the whole semester. When you arrive at the university, you should take part of all the information events and meetings that will help you to understand the system and to get to know the university.

Besides the huge gym which is free to all students, the university has over 100 societies and I recommend joining as many as you can. I joined the football and badminton team and visited the tea society where mainly international students came together, had some tea and snacks and talked about exams, events and trips.

Talking about exams, the system in Limerick is very fair. Each of my class worth 6 credit points and every final grade was split into percentages you could earn through midterm exams, essays and attendance. If you don't do a good essay, you can still get a decent grade by doing well in the exam.

Ireland is an expensive country. I spent around 800€ every month for my accommodation, food and hobbies. You can get your groceries at Lidl or Aldi which are near to the university and save some money there. Check out all the offers and accommodations to have a good overview on your budget and your new home.

My semester in Limerick was the best time of my life. I made so many friends from all around the world which I try to visit every few months. Do not be afraid of doing it. You will have a lot of people around you who will help you from the beginning to the end. If you still have some questions text me on Facebook! My name is Eray Tekin.

Good luck and have a good time!