

About me

My name is Nicole Leidinger and I m studying at the “Hochschule für Musik Detmold” Germany .The reasons for my studying abroad were on the one hand to acquire more musical knowledge as well as the proof of language skills.

Why did I choose the Royal Irish Academy of Music?

Because I looked for an English- - speaking country and I was always interested in the Irish musical attitudes which are based on a long cultural Tradition. Unfortunately I could not arrange on already made experiences by my fellow students due to the fact that I was the first exchange student who went from Detmold to Dublin. Now I will proudly recommend the Irish Academy to my colleagues.

Application

One of the requests for the application was to organize a recording by myself. Fortunately my University offers the opportunity to study “Soundengineer” at the “Erich- - Thienhaus- - Institut” and I made use of this possibility. To move on from this first hurdle I managed all the documents required. After a long waiting period of time, when I almost gave up hope, I received my commitment from the Irish Academy and the assurance to be part of the Erasmus Program.

Accomodation and the Irish way of living

In average the rents and daily living costs are much higher than in my home country. Finding a flat for three months became more difficult than I expected. The problem was the short period of time of my staying in Dublin. Finally I found a single room in Clontarf, Dublin 3 close to the seafront. With the train I could reach the academy by a 10 minutes journey.

Dublin

It is the liveliest city I have ever seen.

I found out that more than half of the Dubliners are under the age of 30.

Furthermore I was really surprised and fascinated about the street musicians. I got the impression that the musicians act by enjoying the moment as if there will be no tomorrow. With this attitude as an example I will leave Dublin and be inspired to spread out the Irish way of Music.

The Royal Irish Academy of Music

The Academy is situated close to the city centre of Dublin. By a 5 minutes

walk you can reach the Grafton Street one of the most famous streets where life and shopping occur. My first surprise and difficulty appeared in calling teachers by their forename, because in Germany it is completely unusual. But for me, this established a familiar atmosphere in which creativity and skills can arise.

Teachers

Course coordinators and lecturers were very helpful. I got the impression that was caused by the small groups, they were really concerned about individual student matters.

“Masterclasses” & “Specialist Lectures”

During my time at the Academy several Master classes took place. This point is worth emphasising. Because even if you are only part of the audience you can get many impressions and suggestions apart from your proper one to one lessons. Further more “Specialist Lectures” provided insights not only in different topics and subjects, but even in several points of opinion concerning how to present a lecture how to contact with unknown people.

Conclusion

First of all my Semester at the Irish Academy passed by too fast. It was simply fascinating and brilliant. I'm inspired by many experiences and by my teachers. This semester will always be in my mind and I will benefit from all the impressions I made during my stay. Finally I have to recommend everybody to do this step. Even if the applications took me a lot of trouble it was well worth it to master this task. I really have to speak in high terms of the Irish and German staff. They made an effort to answer my every question and made this exchange possible.