

johnpeterson

Dublin, Ireland

JOHN'S MAJOR(S): political science and history

YEAR/TERM ABROAD: spring 2004

REASON YOU CHOSE THIS PROGRAM: When I was in high school, I played rugby for four years, and still continue to enjoy playing and watching it. Ireland is known for great rugby. The fact that I would not stand out in Ireland was another reason. I wanted to go somewhere where I could just sink into the scenery and the culture and be part of it. Another reason why I chose Ireland was my two majors. As a double major in both politics and history, I wanted a place/country/culture with a long and complex history. Finally, I chose Ireland just for the fact that Ireland is Ireland.

FAVORITE CLASSES: Ireland and the European Union

DESCRIBE THE HOUSING SITUATION: I had the time of my life living in a flat with three roommates; Mary Beth, Dianna, and Matt, three people who I seemed to spend every waking minute around. Those three strangers ended up becoming my closest friends. I still remember times where all three of us would go out and have a pint on a Thursday night at a local pub called the Ginger Man, or us watching fireworks on St. Patti's Day over the River Liffey.

BEST MEMORY: One of my favorite memories was an IES sponsored field trip to Northern Ireland for four days. Thirty students went on this extended class outing to view both the main scenes of the "Troubles" in the North and to view the beautiful countryside of Ulster.

GOING ABROAD VS. STAYING ON CAMPUS, DISCUSS: I wanted to work in politics while I was studying abroad, both to broaden my studies and to immerse myself in the other culture. Within the first week of classes, my advisor/professor Eamon Jordan had found me an internship with the Labour Party, the third largest political group in Ireland. I was ecstatic. I was working for a large political party, studying classes that you would never find in America, and learning something new every day.

"I felt curiosity at first and then privileged to be experiencing the Irish warmth ... all you had to do was say hi and *the Irish exuberance for conversation would take over and make you smile.*"

ADVICE TO FUTURE STUDY ABROAD PARTICIPANTS: I will cherish the time I spent in Ireland for the rest of my life. And if I ever could go abroad again, I would do it in a moment's notice.



John Peterson takes a break from exploring the Giants Causeway in County Antrim, Northern Ireland. Peterson claimed that the internship with the Labour Party was one of his most valuable experiences in Ireland. As an intern, he got to meet the Irish Prime Minister, Bertie Ahern, and was able to work directly for the senior Labour party senator, Pat Rabbit.