

**MEG'S MAJOR(S):** German, criminal justice, international studies

**YEAR/TERM ABROAD:** summer 2003

meg walsh

**REASON YOU CHOSE THIS PROGRAM:** My father's parents both emigrated from Ireland, and I was glad that a summer program was available because it didn't hurt me academically.

Dublin, Ireland

**FAVORITE CLASSES:** Neolithic to New Age—study of Irish art

**DESCRIBE THE HOUSING SITUATION:** I lived in an apartment that had four double rooms with seven others. I thought it was great. There were four boys and four girls; one other person from IU and the rest from Oregon, Washington and Illinois. They did a really good job of placing us; it was like a family situation.

**BEST MEMORY:** One of the days we were there was a royal holiday (June 16) for Ulysses by James Joyce. Down the coast where the book took place, they re-enact the story. It was such a local event, and it was neat to be a part of that.

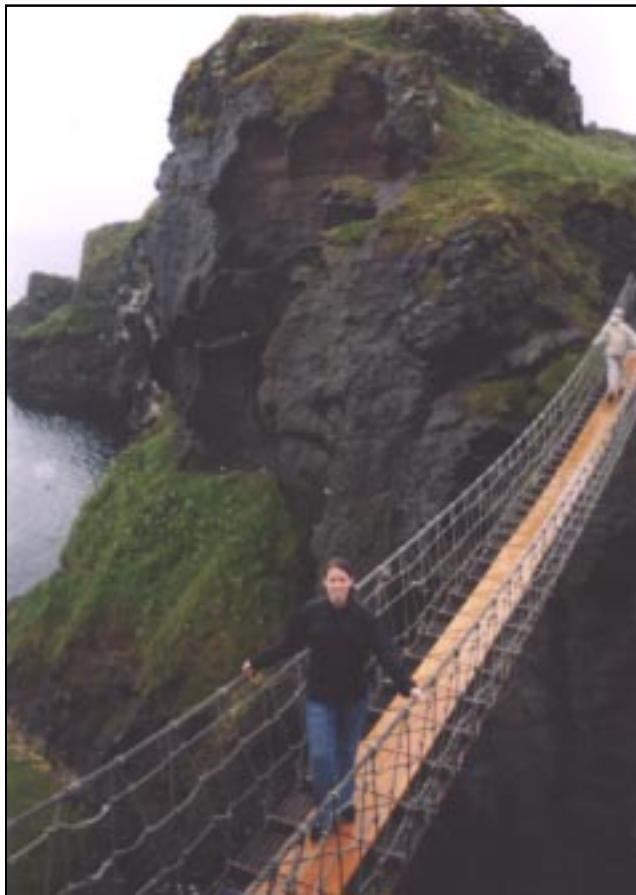
**GREATEST CHALLENGE:** To leave my American roommates and go out and truly have an Irish experience. You want to hang out with your friends, but it was important to go out and explore on your own.

**WHAT I WISH I KNEW BEFORE I LEFT:** I wish I had plotted my travel better. I ended up touring Dublin twice, so I didn't see as much of the countryside or the British Isles as I would have liked.

**COMPLETE THIS SENTENCE: IF I COULD DO IT OVER, I WOULD ...** stay longer, travel more and be more serious about exploring the culture.

**WHAT YOU KNOW NOW THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW BEFORE GOING ABROAD:** I know a lot more about myself as an independent person. I went there not knowing anyone, and I made friends. I had never traveled by myself

before going abroad—it is a very empowering thing. If you can do that, you feel like you can do anything.



On the coast of Northern Ireland, Meg Walsh walks along the Carrick-A-Rede bridge. Walsh thought the biggest surprise of her experience was how comfortable she felt in Ireland.

“Definitely study abroad—no question. You might miss out on things on campus like Homecoming and Little 500, but *it really doesn't compare to what you learn and experience abroad.*”

**ADVICE TO FUTURE STUDY ABROAD PARTICIPANTS:** Go out and explore Dublin on your own. Talk to the locals - don't just stay with your comfortable group of friends. And go to the hole-in-the-wall places; the places that are non-touristy are the best.