

MY SUMMER STAY AT DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY (DCU)

By ANNAH NGYESE, PLP – 94

What made me apply to the summer program in Dublin?

First because I had never been to Dublin and was longing to discover that gorgeous country full of history, then because I'm fond of history and literature that I try to insert in my lessons but **I needed new ways of teaching** these parts. Finally because I like using technology devices with my students and I wanted to have new tips to do it.

When I received a positive answer I felt really excited and lucky, I know many colleagues who applied twice and never got the chance to do it. However some weeks before D day I was really anxious about how things would go there...how would I get along with the host family I would be staying with for 2 weeks, would the program and the colleagues be boring?

Nonetheless, thanks to **Edmodo the social learning platform** used by DCU and our emails, interaction started growing between us colleagues and also with the university staff, that made it easier to bond.

I found Edmodo was easy and useful so now I use it with my students to share information, lessons, they can even send me their homework and parents can also have a look.

So, the lessons took place 5 days a week and contrary to what I believed before I came it didn't take all the day since our afternoons were free, which enabled us to visit the city or take part in afternoon programs such as Irish dancing. It was great to spend quality moment with my French colleagues who were not boring at all. I even made 4 friends whom I hung out with each evening and afternoon; we had a lot of laugh visiting Irish pubs and almost the entire country.

I was glad to be hosted by the most amazing family ever and we are still in touch 4 months after my return. Stella Treacy, her husband and their 2 grown up children were really warm and friendly, they welcomed me and treated me as if I were a family member, truly. We would sometimes spend hours together chatting and laughing and thanks to them my 4 colleagues and I got to know the trendiest pubs in Dublin, though I don't stand alcohol it was fun... cranberry and pineapple juices of the city have no secret for me anymore.

Apart from the fun moments I really liked the work of the teachers at DCU, **we were provided with quality learnings such as classroom management and dynamics, Irish English, Irish myths and legends, using films in learning and teaching, making films using our students' cell phones, using blogs.** There are things that I already used to do with my students but I needed new ways of teaching them and my expectations were fulfilled. 😊

As a conclusion, dear colleagues, I encourage you to apply for a training session abroad, wherever it may be. It's the opportunity to share with other colleagues, to learn new ways of teaching, to teach your students from your experience of a country you really know and not from what you read in books. When I teach them about some places in Dublin, the famous Molly Malone, the brave Finn Maccumhail, poverty, drugs and alcohol issues I know now what I'm talking about. **It's a great experience that every foreign language teacher should have, so go for it!** Oh by the way, did I tell you I loved being in a student's shoe for 2 weeks!!? 😊