

## Abstract

Upon arriving in Ireland, I was unnerved by the long distance from home and my lack of experience traveling in general. I had only had the privilege of leaving the country once before for a short trip to Costa Rica, so moving across the ocean for a summer seemed daunting. After landing in the city of Dublin with my classmates, however, I was immediately excited by the prospects of the eight-week trip. I can confidently say after completing the 'Bucknell in Dublin' that I am a changed, matured individual who is excited by adventure and travel, rather than frightened by it. This great leap out of my comfort zone broadened my horizons in terms of working abroad immersing myself in a new culture. I'm certain that these past eight weeks in Ireland taught me valuable lessons about myself and made me excited by opportunities abroad in the future!

## Coursework

In Professor Aikey's class, 'Judging Justice (ACFM 315)', I enjoyed delving into new political topics each week and discovering the similarities and differences between the government and policies of Ireland and the United States. We discussed interesting topics, most of which were controversial or newly emerging, making the class very enriching. My classmates and I enjoyed breaking these topics and cases down during class, and Professor Aikey's course provided an open forum for us to share our opinions. I learned a lot about both legal frameworks and was exposed to concepts that I am typically not as a MIDE major.



Additionally, in Dean Kepner's course, 'Management in a Global, Societal and Cultural Context (MGMT 290)', we were enabled to immerse ourselves in Irish culture by visiting some of the most popular and authentic destinations across Ireland and Northern Ireland. Our trips covered scenery, like the Cliffs of Moher, history, like the EPIC Museum, and culture, like in the Irish House Party. Another large portion of the course was linked to our internships, which we utilized to develop our professional skills and working profiles on LinkedIn. This course gave us practical experience living, working, and traveling abroad.

## Internship

In my internship, I was able to receive hands-on experience working in the Sales & Marketing department for a worldwide, B2B Travel Agency called the Abbey Group. The company had an immersive program for marketing interns, and I learned an incredible amount about brand identity, client publications, and the various coinciding programs to develop them. Abbey Group gave me many new skills and even worked with me to utilize my own skills in the job. Knowing of my knack for art and creating, they also set me up on a team with the company's graphic designer to learn Adobe Illustrator and help him create the graphical elements that help with brand recognition. Overall, this internship gave me more experience than I ever could have asked for and left me with an extremely valuable skill set.



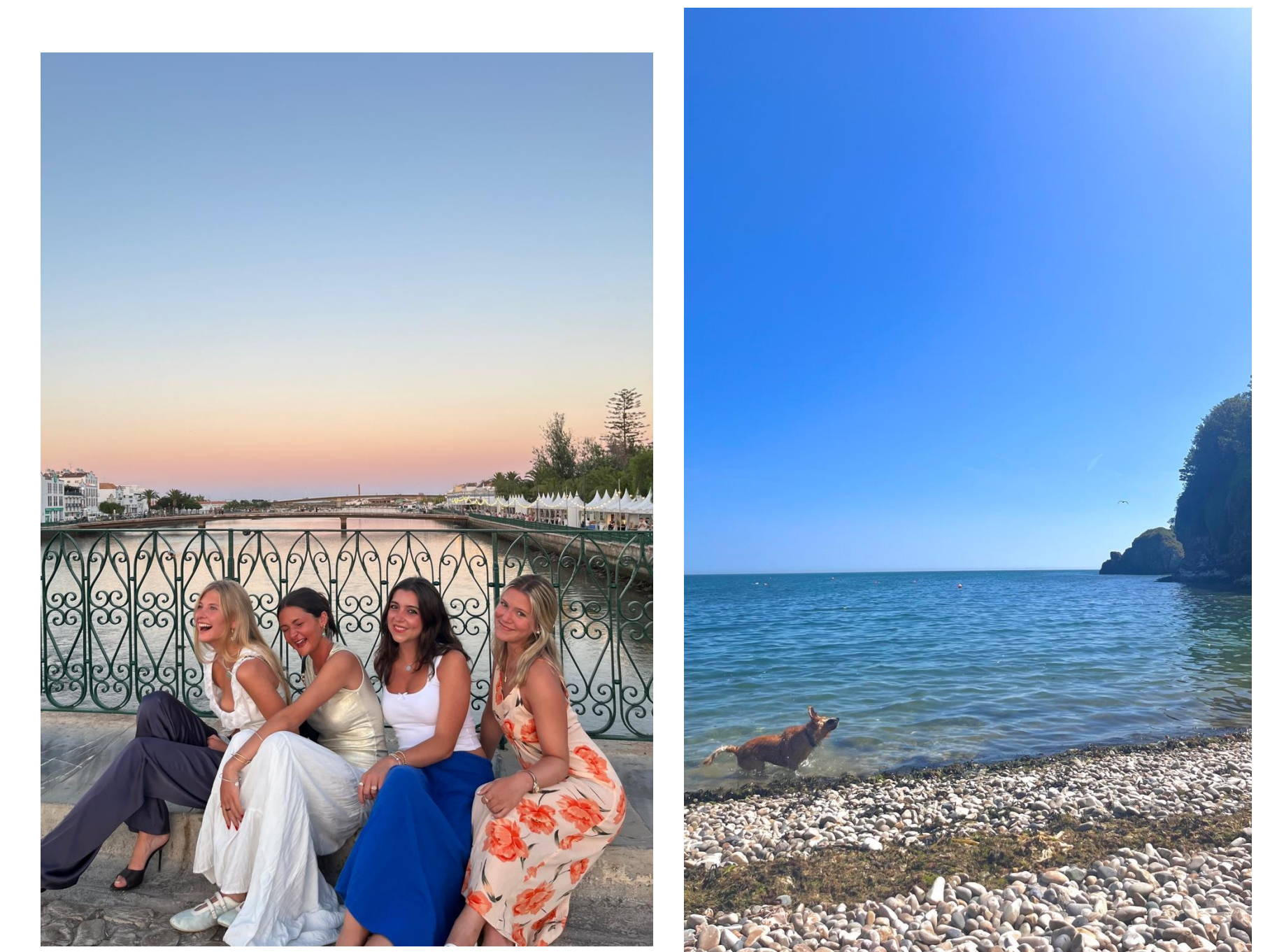
## Cultural Events

Within the trips we took throughout Dean Kepner's MGMT290 course, many were meant to expose us to traditional culture in Ireland. We heard folklore about fairies and leprechauns, saw traditional Irish dance, learned how to play traditional Irish sports like Gaelic football and hurling, and visited a farm in Northern Ireland for sheepdog herding demonstration, and even got to experience the Guinness Storehouse. These events allowed us to relate to local individuals and Irish history better. More generally, I learned that immersing myself in a country's culture will only broaden my knowledge and allow me to enjoy my trip more. I look forward to similar experiences where I can first-hand see cultures different than my own.



## Making the Most of Time!

It's hard to believe that between coursework, weekend trips, and an internship all packed into eight weeks, we had any free time at all! The most important lesson I learned on this trip is to fill up every moment with experiences. In Dublin throughout the weeks, I made a point to use my nights exploring the city, whether ending the day with a drink at a traditional pub or attending a concert! Even on our few free weekend days, my friends and I broke out of Dublin to experience more of Ireland, once traveling to the Howth beaches on a rare 80-degree day.



Luckily, we also had a free exploring weekend built into the itinerary, where I was lucky enough to travel to Portugal. Though just a short plane ride away, Portugal was a different world than Dublin, equipped with vast, beautiful beaches, caves, and quaint coastal towns. I hope this lesson to make the embrace every moment abroad sticks with me and encourages me to try new things and travel in the future!