

## Abstract

During the Bucknell in Dublin study abroad program, I balanced academic coursework, a professional internship, and extensive cultural exploration. Academically, I completed ACFM 315: Judging Justice, where I compared Irish and U.S. Supreme Court rulings and deepened my understanding of the differences between the two legal systems, as well as MGMT 290: Management in a Global, Societal, and Cultural Context, which emphasized experiential learning through internships and cultural engagement rather than traditional classroom lectures. Professionally, I interned at TASC – Think-tank for Action on Social Change as a Research Support Intern, where I developed critical skills in policy research, legal and economic analysis, and report proofreading while contributing to projects on Irish pension schemes and Actual Individual Consumption studies. Beyond academics and professional work, I immersed myself in Irish culture through excursions to sites throughout Ireland, while also taking advantage of opportunities to travel internationally to Austria and Portugal. These experiences enriched my understanding of global perspectives, strengthened my adaptability and independence, and left me with lifelong memories of academic growth, professional development, and cultural exploration.

## Course Work

Over the course of the summer, I took two courses: Management in a Global, Societal, and Cultural Context taught by Dean Kepner and Judging Justice taught by Professor Aikey.

### MGMT 290: Management in a Global, Societal, and Cultural Context

The management class ran differently than a traditional lecture class. We never actually met in an in-person classroom; instead, our learning came through active engagement in our internships, weekend excursions around Ireland, and occasional assignments such as completing LinkedIn Learning courses and writing a weekly blog. The class structure allowed me to immerse myself fully in Irish society and explore how cultural and societal differences influence management practices.

### ACFM 315: Judging Justice- A Comparative Study of Irish and U.S. Supreme Court Rulings

The Judging Justice class met once a week on Mondays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in a classroom at University College Dublin. Throughout the course, I studied landmark legal cases from both Ireland and the United States, gaining a deeper understanding of how the two countries' legal frameworks differ. Following our morning lectures, we went on day trips to various historical and cultural sites around Dublin that connected to the themes of justice and law. Some of my favorite Monday excursions included visiting the Guinness Storehouse and the Kilmainham Gaol Prison. I learned a great deal in this class about landmark Supreme Court cases in Ireland and the United States and how to compare the two legal systems.



## Internship

### TASC- Think-tank for Action on Social Change

This summer, I was given the opportunity to work as a Research Support Intern under the Senior Economist at TASC, a Dublin-based think-tank that studies Irish economic and social policy. I was matched with the internship by Connect-123, which made the recruitment process very seamless. During my internship, I contributed to a variety of projects including:

- Proof reading and promoting the TASC Inequality Report 2025
- Writing an overview of the TASC Inequality Report launch, which was posted on the company's website
- Researching Irish public sector pension schemes and analyzing their impact on female secondary teachers'
- Exploring applications of Actual Individual Consumption in economic and social research studies

Throughout my time at TASC, I strengthened my skills in policy and economic research, data interpretation, professional writing, and report editing. I had a wonderful experience working at TASC this summer, and I learned many skills that I can carry with me in my future academic and professional work.



## Cultural Events

During my time in Dublin, I had the opportunity to participate in a variety of cultural events and excursions that enriched my understanding of Irish history, society, and traditions. Some of the highlights included:

- **Wicklow Mountains Day Trip:** The first weekend, we took a day trip to the Wicklow Mountains where we visited Kilkenny Castle, explored the town of Kilkenny, and walked through the Glendalough Monastic City.
- **West Coast of Ireland:** One weekend we traveled to the west coast of Ireland and spent two nights in a hostel in Galway. The trip included a visit to the Cliffs of Moher, biking around the Aran Islands, and a walk through the beautiful Kylemore Abbey.
- **Blarney Castle Day Trip:** One Saturday, we headed to the Rock of Cashel and the Blarney Castle. I opted out of kissing the Blarney Stone and instead spent my time exploring the castle's beautiful grounds.
- **Northern Ireland:** We also visited Northern Ireland where we spent one night in Belfast and one in Derry. We visited the Titanic Museum, Carrick-a-Rope Bridge, Giant's Causeway, and Glenshane Sheep Farm where we got to hold baby sheep—easily my favorite part of the entire trip. We also went on a Black Taxi political tour and took a guided walking tour through Derry that ended at the Museum of Free Derry. It was fascinating to see the differences between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland and to learn about their histories.

I had an amazing time at every single one of our cultural events. Exploring the different parts of Ireland and spending the days bonding with the Bucknell in Dublin group made the experience truly unforgettable.



## Free Time

Despite my busy schedule filled with coursework, my internship, and cultural event visits, I still made time to explore Dublin and even visit two other countries.

- **Dublin:** On our free Sundays, and sometimes after our internships, my friends and I loved exploring the city. We would head downtown and shop, try new restaurants, and explore the pub scene. Occasionally, I even ventured out on my own, strolling through the city streets and parks. Dublin felt very safe, and I never once felt uneasy walking alone.
- **Austria:** One weekend, I had the special opportunity to visit my dad and brother in Austria. We spent one night in Vienna where we went on a walking tour of the city, stopping at St. Stephen's Cathedral and Hofburg Palace. The next day, we took a train ride to Salzburg where we hiked to a viewpoint overlooking the city. On our last day, we went on a *Sound of Music* tour. I grew up watching the film, so it felt very special to see the iconic locations in person.
- **Portugal:** We had one fully free weekend throughout the entire trip, so my friends and I took a quick getaway to Tavira, Portugal. We spent the days basking in the sun at the beach, and the nights exploring the town and trying new foods. It was nice to get out of Dublin for the weekend and have some much-needed beach time.

These adventures, both in Dublin and beyond, gave me the chance to immerse myself in new cultures, create memories, and return home with a deeper appreciation for traveling.

