

On-Site Career Exercise: Beyond “It Was Great!”

It is a challenge to articulate what you have learned on your program. Friends, family, professors, and work colleagues will ask: “How was your study abroad?” This is your opportunity to share a little about Ireland and what you have learned during your time here.

1) Identify and write down **THREE** specific points or things that you found particularly interesting, surprising, or learned from on the program.

Examples:

- *Dublin was much more diverse than I expected it to be.*
- *The arts, music, and film scene is incredible for such a small country.*
- *The economy has really struggled after the failure of the Celtic Tiger and the global economic crisis.*

All students share responses. Next:

2) Here is the list of the top ten skills Minnesota employers are looking for.

1. Function as a team member
2. Effective interpersonal communication
3. Learn new ideas quickly
4. Identify, define, and solve problems
5. Appreciate and interact with individuals different than yourself
6. Critical and analytical thinking
7. Creative/innovative thinking
8. Locate/evaluate information
9. Competency in a field of study
10. Writing skills

Repeat the previous exercise, but prepare the response for a job or graduate/professional program interview.

Examples:

- *During my time in Ireland, I learned the importance of considering the history of a place and culture, and how it might effect approaches to business.*
- *By living and travelling with 23 people I had never met before, I learned a lot about teamwork.*
- *While abroad, I found that I was good at, and often took the lead, when organizing meals or excursions for students within the group.*
- *The group was very diverse, and I studied and worked with students with very different backgrounds and interests than mine.*

All students share responses.ⁱ

ⁱ Created by Martha Johnson, University of Minnesota