



UCC study abroad student experiences in the US and Canada 2021/2022

Here is what they had to say!

Baylor University, USA

Incredible opportunity to interact with different cultures and environments that cannot be replicated in any other way. An immersive experience into the education and background of a nation.

Boston College, USA

Studying abroad is an invaluable experience I could not recommend highly enough. Not only does it enable you to meet new people, learn new cultures, and broaden your academic knowledge, it also helps to boost your confidence and independence. Studying in America for 4 months was something greatly out of my comfort zone, I was so nervous the months leading up to my departure, I was even contemplating pulling out at one point. But I am so glad I didn't! I learned so much both academically and about myself. These opportunities are truly once in a lifetime and if you do not take advantage of them they will slip through your fingers. Boston College was an amazing college, with a beautiful campus, friendly faculty and an array of amenities on campus. After spending a year doing college online it was so nice to be make on campus in person, even though it was widely different in the states. The class sizes were much smaller than UCC, with my largest class having around 30 pupils. Participation is worth 10-25% of your grade in some cases, and so it is encouraged you raise your hand and contribute to the class where possible. This is where I saw my confidence and social skills improve immensely. The assessment is also much different to UCC, as you have homework and readings due every week - possibly not an ideal scenario for crammers. The lecturers are so helpful and know all of their students personally. Before I went home for Christmas one of my lecturers insisted I went to his office hours to say goodbye - I ended up there for an hour and a half making conversation. I could not commend this college and their brilliant lecturers enough. One of my classes even chipped in and bought me Boston College jumper during my last week of classes. I cannot fault Boston College, it was such a wonderful experience and I am so jealous of whoever gets to go this September, you'll have a ball!

Babson College, USA

So so many, hard to name them all

- Patriots match
- New York city
- Boston red sox
- Aladdin on Broadway
- Frat parties
- Themed nights on campus eg: pub night, Lobster night, Pancakes & PJs
- college football games & tailgating
- lots of shopping in the city
- amazing nightlife
- met industry leaders/ top business people as guest speakers during classes
- etc

Butler University, USA

Went to Nashville in Tennessee for 3 days. Very good nightlife. Went to San Francisco for a week to visit family and got to see lots of different tourist attractions such as Alcatraz, Golden Gate Bridge, twin peaks, etc. Got to experience frat parties. Got to experience a new way of teaching which was much more continuous assessment which I liked. The business school had some very good lecturers such as venture capital firm

owners. Went on a trip to the Subaru manufacturing plant. The college basketball and American football matches were great to experience.

Drexel University, USA

Best experience ever

North Carolina State University, USA

I would highly recommend studying abroad. Not only does it give you a break from the monotony of UCC but it's almost a chance to start college again with fresh faces.

North Carolina State University, USA

Great American college experience. Perfect for any students with an interest in sport too. Made tonnes of friends for life.

Saint Mary's University, Nova Scotia, Canada

Studying abroad was one of the best times in my life. I've made lifelong friends from every corner of the world, experienced the way of living in another country, and furthered my education - all at the same time! A once in a lifetime opportunity that I could not recommend more.

Saint Mary's University, Nova Scotia, Canada

In studying abroad I got to experience a different culture and also met people from all over the world. Saint Mary's international community was very big and we got to know them very quickly. That being said, I have also made some lifelong friends from Canada too!

Suffolk University Boston, USA

College is very different from UCC. It is quite intense from the start, you might have assignments due as early as your second week. But because it is so focused on continuous assessment, the end of term exams at Christmas are not as heavily weighted as UCC exams, which allows you to relax a bit, get in the Christmas spirit, and enjoy seeing Boston for your last few weeks. Class sizes are smaller and much more interactive and engaging, and the professors are all very helpful when you are settling in and throughout the semester. Apart from college, I would definitely advise booking adventures! Try to save and set aside money for trips away and activities that you can't do at home. I was lucky enough to go skydiving, visit New York City twice, see Washington, as well as loads of other smaller activities within Boston, like seeing all the American sports games (Baseball, Football, Ice Hockey, etc). It doesn't have to be famous teams or important matches, it could be a college or high school game. Go for the fun and atmosphere if not for the actual sport. Find things to do for cheap around Boston for the rest of your time. Go see Harvard, go to North End. Visit a pumpkin patch or Salem Town in October. The Subway system makes it so affordable to travel around there. I lived off campus in an apartment with other Irish students, and I really enjoyed having the freedom to cook my own meals and having my own personal space.

Suffolk University Boston, USA

Suffolk University was the best thing that happened to me. I was apprehensive before going as it looked like a smaller city school with no big campus environment. I was so pleasantly surprised by the university. The location of Suffolk is in the heart of the city centre they say Boston is the campus and they are not wrong. The community is so welcoming and they love international students. I found the academics great and the professors are so helpful and interested to get to know you. The dorms on campus was great. It is the best way to immerse yourself into college life and make friends. I have lifelong friends from studying at Suffolk who I am still in contact with! Another great thing about study abroad was making friends in my course in UCC I now know so many more people and some are my best friends. Suffolk has great opportunities and events to take part in even discounted tickets to Red Sox games, Celtics and many more. Boston is an amazing city with many different universities so it's a great place for students with so much to do. It is definitely a great University to study abroad, I would highly recommend Suffolk.

Suffolk University Boston, USA

Deciding to study abroad in Boston is one of the best decisions I've made. Suffolk University has an amazing location in the middle of the city and offers so many academic/non-academic opportunities to students. College life is a lot different over there so it did take time to adapt, but professors were extremely understanding and willing to help. Academically, the work load was very manageable - grading is mostly made up by continuous assessment, class participation and presentations. I was worried about the focus on class participation and presentations at the start, but the small class sizes make this so much easier. It was a great opportunity to make friends from all around the world and also get to know more people from commerce itself - I think all four of us who went to Suffolk last semester made lifelong friends. I'd definitely recommend living in student accommodation as it's so close to college, easier to organise and makes it a lot easier to get to know people. Boston is a great city and an ideal location as it's easy enough to travel to other states on the east coast - we went to New York, Washington DC and Vermont. Overall I'd definitely recommend studying abroad even though it may be daunting at the beginning you'll learn so much about both yourself and the course you're studying. You'll also gain experience and independence living away from home in a big city. If I could go over and study abroad again I definitely would!

State University New York (SUNY Cortland), USA

Best decision I have ever made, made lifelong friends.

State University New York (SUNY Cortland), USA

I've really enjoyed my time in Cortland. Everyone was so helpful, the international office do so much and make you feel so comfortable. It can obviously take time to adjust but everyone around the college makes you feel so welcome. It is also an amazing opportunity to travel around nearby areas and especially in my case travel around the US. The college itself has many activities and events on so you are never bored. All in all it's a fantastic opportunity and would highly recommend to anyone!!

Temple University, USA

I have had an absolutely amazing time studying in Philadelphia. Between going to American football/basketball/ ice hockey games, traveling to other states and making new friends I have had the best year. I will say, when I first arrived in August it was very daunting and I found it difficult to settle in even though I had been to America numerous times before. Philadelphia is very different than any other state I have visited. I do think it is important that students coming to Philadelphia are informed about how dangerous it can be (not to sound scary or anything but just a few words of advice regarding what parts not to go to etc I think would be very beneficial and necessary). However, the American people are so lovely and are extremely welcoming. Philadelphia is a great state to study in as you can travel easily to other states, and Philadelphia itself is full of culture. Temple university has such a beautiful campus and the lecturers are all very helpful and understanding. I would really recommend studying abroad to anyone who has the opportunity. Not only have I learned so much more about the American culture but I feel it has seriously benefitted me as a person.

Temple University, USA

I have had an excellent experience at Temple University so far, I have really enjoyed the method of teaching here and the independence of being in a different county. All the lectures are so friendly and helpful and I have made so many New friends that I would have never made if I hadn't come to Temple. It's really made me consider practicing law in America and I couldn't recommend it enough.

Temple University, USA

Studying over here has been such an amazing experience, as a law student, studying in the US is quite a surreal experience as I am in classes with all post-graduate students in the law school so it has definitely changed my view of studying law for the better. Moving from Cork to such a big city was definitely a strange experience for me, but it is so amazing to go be able to explore Philadelphia and meet new people here, it is also a great city

for traveling, you can get from Philadelphia to NYC or Washington D.C. in less than 2 hours which makes for perfect day trips to those cities. It also isn't far from the Jersey Shore as well as Atlantic City so in the warmer months you can have amazing beach days here!

University of California, Berkeley, USA

I've made the best friends here, been exposed to a lot of different academic opportunities, travelling, meet people from all over the world and learn about different cultures, and you learn a lot about yourself!

University of Montana, USA

Montana is a fantastic place! Amazing for anyone doing environmental science! Amazing for anyone who loves to do outdoor activities: Hiking, floating down rivers, cliff jumping! Lots of Winter sports as well, like ice skating, skiing and snowboarding. Missoula is quite a spread out town, with a lovely community. The campus regularly hosts amazing events like movies in the oval (their quadrangle), an ice rink on the oval, gaming events and many campus club events! I have never met an unwelcoming or unfriendly Montanan! Although some classes are quite challenging, all faculty are super helpful and the Teaching Assistants are amazing! Living in dorms is definitely an unusual thing so be sure to think about where you'd like to live during your time in Montana!

University of San Diego, USA

There's so much to say I honestly don't think I could fit it all into one paragraph. All I will say is that it's easily one of the best years of my life so far, I'm loving every second of it. California especially is unbelievable. Beautiful weather, beaches, really friendly people and it's a once in a life time kind of place to live.