

# ASL work experience in Ireland

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## Cork, Ireland

On 9th September our group of 15 students went to Ireland for a very interesting 3 week long work experience. These students were the lucky ones out of the 56 applicants, who were able to participate in the 10.2.5B-FSEPON-to-2017-11 project organized by our school.



Cork is situated in southeast Ireland on the river Lee, and our Rosmini students stayed with local Irish families, and travelled into the town centre to work in various local businesses. Some students worked in menswear shops in the heart of Cork, others worked in offices doing clerical duties and some worked in the Cork Community Art Link where they were able to use their creativity to make papier maché figures for a festival.

The students thought it was a unique and rewarding experience, actually living and working in Ireland and as Bianca says “working in a non-profit arts association, I learned about teamwork, understanding and getting along with people from different cultures and habits. In a workplace you need respect for both the rules and others, and a full understanding of the job.”

Gaia had a very positive work experience in an accountancy firm and says “the people in my workplace were very professional, understanding and very accommodating. From this experience I have learnt a lot of things that could help me in the future and I have learnt about the different lifestyle of the Irish people”.



Moreover, the students visited places of historical significance such as the Cork Gaol, the Crawford Art Gallery, Elizabeth Fort and the Finn Barre Cathedral to name a few. One evening they went on the Historical Cork Ghost Tour and had a fascinating tour of the city, finding out a lot of interesting facts about both the Irish people and the city itself from their guide Damian. He explained that the Irish don't like to give yes and no answers, so if you ask them a question they will answer with a story!

At the weekends visits to both Dublin and the Cliffs of Moher were organized. The students enjoyed the different pace of life in Dublin and they were fascinated by the library of Trinity College university. While the trip to the west coast of Ireland to see the magnificent cliffs allowed them to see another area of Ireland which is famous for its natural beauty.



Spending 3 weeks in Cork the students had time to develop new skills as Siria who worked in The Hideout café says “I now know how to work and behave in public, my manuality has improved as I have learnt how to prepare different types of coffee and chocolate. I think I've learnt many things from this experience that have helped me become more mature and ready for my future job”.

The students also attended a 15 hour General English course at the ACET school, where they also took part in the workshop “Developing a Business Plan of New Product in English”. During this activity the students showed their creativity as they came up with 3 new products which they then publicized on a dedicated Facebook page using images and in one case a video!

So, on the whole it was an excellent opportunity for our Rosmini students who feel like Arianna when she explains “ my work experience in Cork opened my eyes to the world of work and I'm happy and satisfied with the knowledge that I gained in these 3 weeks.”