

From Dublin to the Irish west coast

What objections could there be to spending a semester abroad in the Republic of Ireland? – Absolutely none. Such was the opinion of WiSo students who participated in a one-week excursion to Ireland with English lecturer Carol Hogg and Professor Henrik Zöller in February, visiting the capital city of Dublin as well as the west coast location of Galway.

Dublin

The Irish capital, with its 550 thousand inhabitants is not exactly a huge conurbation but it is certainly a young and thriving city, and Ireland's international hub and business metropolis. The city's key role and rapid development in the Celtic tiger years mean that state-of-the-art architecture and original narrow mediaeval streets are intricately entwined here as in no other place in Ireland.



A bend of modern and traditional on Smithfield Square in Dublin

A visit to *Dublin Business School* provided the group with information about study possibilities there as well as the possibility to have further discussions with Christina Pons of the DBS International Office. A big thank you should also be expressed to the Irish students who took time to show the Osnabrück guests around the university campus as well as part of Dublin city.

Anyone interested in further academic pursuits also had the opportunity to look around the historic campus of *Trinity College* and go inside its awe-inspiring Long Room Library which extends over a length of 60 metres.



Historical Long Room Library of Trinity College, Dublin

Have you ever tried a Guinness? A visit to Dublin would not be complete without a professional guided tour of the largest and most famous Irish brewery. In addition to historical, social and

economic facts, the informative guide explains how Guinness acquires its specific taste and colour. Afterwards a sample of this unique dark brew, "straight from source", is also part of the deal.

The visit to Dublin's historical *Kilmainham Gaol* was a rather cold and spooky experience. Although it has been a protected historic monument and converted to a museum for some years now, in the past, in addition to common criminals, famous rebels and freedom fighters of the 1916 Easter Rising and Irish War of Independence were held imprisoned within its thick, damp walls. One of them was Éamon de Valera who later became President of Ireland.

Much more cosy, by contrast, was the cultural evening in the *Merry Ploughboy*, a traditional pub formerly frequented by sheep farmers, where guests can now enjoy dinner followed by Irish folk music and dancing.

Galway/West Coast

Galway is a small but pulsating provincial town on the Atlantic coast, on a completely different scale to Dublin but nevertheless well worth a visit, not least because of the numerous locations where authentic Irish music can be heard live – virtually every evening, completely free of charge.

A guided tour of Galway's *National University of Ireland (NUI)* as well as a visit to the start-up centre *PorterShed* made clear that there are interesting opportunities for foreign students here too. John Breslin, who is highly involved both in the university and in the startup centre, expressed considerable interest in maintaining contact with our university.

A day trip along Ireland's beautiful and dramatic west coast with its impressive cliffs provided the opportunity to appreciate many different facets of unspoiled nature. You just have to make sure you don't blow away!



A happy group despite strong Atlantic winds at the Cliffs of Moher