

Beyond the Books: Experiencing Irish Music and Culture on a Faculty-Led Program

Published 9 days ago by [Jijin Justin](#)

Follow Ana Makharashvili on her adventure to Ireland in Summer 2024 to explore the Celtic rhythms and traditions.

This [Faculty-Led Program Abroad \(FLPA\) – the first ever to Ireland](#) – introduces students to the rich musical heritage of Ireland! Students learn about song and dance while visiting musical sites of the region.

Ana participated in summer 2024 to earn a GNED credit to her program and is now back to share her experience with us!

Impact on personal, professional, and academic goals

This experience has had a huge impact on my personal, professional, and academic goals. It has broadened my horizons and deepened my appreciation for diverse cultures. Engaging with Irish music, dance, and the local community has enriched my understanding of cultural heritage and fostered a sense of global citizenship. Additionally, it helped me see my own culture differently and appreciate it more.

Professionally, even though the experience was not directly related to my field as a graphic designer, it significantly expanded my creative vision. Immersing myself in a different culture has inspired new ideas and perspectives, which are crucial for creativity in design. Learning from passionate and knowledgeable professors has further motivated me to pursue excellence in my career and be as passionate. The cultural insights and connections I gained will be invaluable in my future work, particularly in contexts that require cultural sensitivity and creative innovation.

Academically, through this experience, I saw the importance of experiential learning. Stepping outside the traditional classroom setting can significantly enhance understanding and retention of knowledge. In the future, this will encourage me to seek out more opportunities for practical, hands-on learning. Overall, this experience has been the most impactful decision I've made regarding my academic and personal development so far.

The unforgettable moments

There were so many amazing moments. One of the most memorable experiences from this Global Learning Abroad opportunity was the joy of knowing that, after attending lectures about Irish music and dance and talking/reading about sessions during the day, I could attend those sessions each evening at Irish bars. I was feeling like a part of something important.



Message to other fellow students

To anyone who is still undecided about taking the opportunity, I'd say: Think no more, it will exceed your expectations and be an experience you won't forget.



This Faculty-Led Program Abroad is now back for Summer 2025!

Visit our [website](#) for more information and follow our Instagram [@seneca.gle](#) to learn more about an upcoming info session!