

# IAP Parent Profile



## Galway, Ireland

Jerry and Joy's daughter Lindzey studied abroad at the National University of Ireland in Galway for one semester.

### How did you feel when your daughter first mentioned studying abroad?

Excited! We had always encouraged her to take a semester to study abroad. It was in the plan. As college graduates, the one thing both of us have regretted through the years is that we did not do a study abroad during our college days. Looking back, the undergraduate college years are the most appropriate time to be able to take the extended leave to travel abroad and submerge yourself in another culture.

### Did you have concerns about your daughter studying abroad? How did you overcome these concerns?

Safety was our biggest concern. We wanted to know Lindzey would be safe on campus and in her travels while abroad. Once she was able to develop a communication process that was reliable, this eased the concerns. Also, knowing she had support from other UW-Madison students studying there was comforting. NUI Galway also did an orientation once she arrived regarding safety measures, student visa requirements and other valuable information which was helpful to her.

### What are the benefits of study abroad?

Exposure to new culture and opportunity to show independence and self-management in a totally new environment. We could visibly see the increased self-confidence and organizational skills grow in our daughter through this experience. On your own, doing financial management and travel planning in a foreign country is a wonderful life lesson coach!

### How did your daughter change after studying abroad?

Lindzey is more confident in her abilities and her leadership skills have grown considerably. This has allowed her to pursue other opportunities she may have bypassed before this experience. She has a new found love for travel and cultural experiences that will undoubtedly help to mold her future career goals.



Jerry and Joy in Ireland



Lindzey and her father, Jerry

**"In our globally connected world of today, these are skills and experiences that will benefit students for the rest of their lives. Study abroad will surely be one of our daughter's most memorable experiences."**

