

Final traineeship report **[C1]** ERASMUS traineeship – Academic Year 2024 / 2025

Version: February 2020

Please fill this form out on a computer, not by hand, and send it as an email attachment to the EU-ServicePoint: eu-servicepoint@international.uni-mainz.de

Your report will be made available to other students looking for traineeships. Therefore, please make sure to provide important websites and other helpful information!

GENERAL INFORMATION

Host country:	Ireland
Program of study:	Master of Education
Home university:	Johannes Gutenberg Universität Mainz
Professional field of traineeship:	Education
Language of work:	German/English
Duration of traineeship:	from 01.10.2024 (dd / mm / yyyy) to 31.03.2025 (dd / mm / yyyy)

ORGANISATION/ENTERPRISE OF THE TRAINEESHIP

Name of receiving organization/enterprise	Loreto College Mullingar
Street/P.O. Box:	Harbour Street
Postal code and city:	NP91PX98 Mullingar
Country:	Ireland
Website:	https://loretocollegemullingar.com/
Email:	info@loretomullingar.com

BEFORE – Information about preparing for the traineeship abroad

Please fill the following fields in in a detailed manner and give exact information about your search and preparation (websites, tips, contacts, etc.) for the traineeship.

Search for traineeship:	I found the traineeship opportunity through my university at an information event, detailing ways to fulfil the mandatory stay abroad for my English degree.
Application (process, unsolicited application, interview, etc.):	The applications were handled by a third-party organization (PAD) and went as follows: Fill in online application, send in relevant paper-work (CV, motivation to go to chosen country, letter of

	recommendation, proof of enrolment, Transcript of Records). People were invited to an interview based on those documents. The interview was in person and mostly tested your knowledge on the field (in my case education), knowledge of the chosen country and knowledge of the country's language, by conducting most of the interview in said language. A couple of weeks later you would either get approval for the internship or a rejection.
Search for accommodation:	Search for accommodation was a challenge, seeing as Ireland essentially has a housing crisis. The school I worked at also could not help me very much and instead just directed me to the basic websites everyone uses. In the end, I ended up sharing a house with a woman around my age, having my own bathroom and all bills included for 625€/month, which was very lucky. In general, it depends a lot where exactly one is located in Ireland. I was in Mullingar, not quite the countryside but also not quite a big city. Others that had to find accommodation in Dublin were unable to find anything under 800€.
Insurances:	Combined health, accident and liability insurance (through DAAD), were mandatory. Cost for 6 months was 266€. Important to note: you still have to be insured in your home country, for me that meant an additional 150€ per month.
Telephone/Internet access in the host country:	Were all included in my accommodation. For mobile data, I was able to simply continue using my home country's phone plan, as both Germany and Ireland are part of the EU. In case you are unsure, simply calling your provider will be best as they will be able to tell you if you can use your phone plan as normal.
Bank/opening an account:	I did not have to open an Irish bank account, if you do, you will need an official document stating your Irish address, which can be tricky!
Helpful websites / Other things:	Housing: daft.ie, rent.ie (specifically the "share" category) Facebook Market place for almost everything and anything

INFORMATION ABOUT THE TRAINEESHIP

Please fill the following fields in a detailed manner and give exact information about the traineeship as such (websites, tips, contacts, etc.).

Type of traineeship:	I worked as a German assistant teacher in an all-girls secondary school.
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Tasks within the traineeship: Could you apply learned skills and knowledge? Were the tasks too much / not enough? etc.	My tasks consisted of team teaching with the schools two German teachers, but I was also expected to conduct lessons of my own on topics where it made sense (e.g. pronunciation, culture, etc.). I would also regularly substitute for the two German teachers, should they not be in for that day for whatever reason. I also took on some of the work correcting class tests and the students writing in general. I was also expected to conduct mock oral exams with the 5th and 6th year students (the oldest ones) to help them with anything that needed work. Lastly, it was also tradition for the German assistants to lead a lunch time German club, so that is what I did as well. I never felt overwhelmed by my tasks and have always been given adequate time to prepare. I have taught my own classes before this though, so I was prepared anyway. I was able to apply my skills all throughout the traineeship and had to develop new skills while teaching, as the Irish school system is quite different from the German one. There being no oral grades and the nature of an all-girls school, meant that it was very hard to get the students to talk to me at first, so I had to find other ways of motivating them. All in all, I feel that the traineeship has made me a lot more confident in my teaching.
Supervision (introductory/concluding conversation, weekly/monthly feedback, etc.)	Months before I even arrived in Ireland, the organising institution sent me the contact of my mentor. She would be responsible for me throughout my traineeship and was very valuable to me. She would help me with any problem I could have. Additionally, there was an induction event held by the PAD to introduce us to what we could expect of the traineeship, but also to give us some useful material to use in classes. I had a weekly talk with my mentor, talking through what we did that week, what worked and what didn't, and what we'd do in the next week. I will get a final report by my mentor but as of writing this, I am still waiting on it.
Social contacts during the traineeship:	I had two other assistants living in my town, so I spent most of my time with them, grabbing coffee and going out to eat during the week. On the weekends, we mostly went on trips. My other social contacts were my landlord, who was only slightly older than me and coincidentally also a teacher, so we got along quite well. My breaks in school I mostly spent with the student teachers, as they were in a similar situation as I, also being quite new at the school.

	Finally, since I spent most of time in class with my mentor, she also became an important social contact, regularly giving me travel tips and insight into Irish (school-)culture.
Language skills (benefits, improvements, etc.):	While in class I was supposed to mostly speak German, obviously everywhere else I had to use English. This traineeship helped me become more confident while speaking English and expanded my vocabulary knowledge.
Short overall evaluation of your stay abroad: Private / professional benefit? What were your expectations? Were these fulfilled? What was particularly good / not so good?	I did not have any particular expectations going into my stay abroad but have to say that it was an incredible experience. I feel that I have benefitted quite a lot professionally, as it gave me the chance to not only gain further experience working in a school context, but also broadened my horizon by having to engage with a much different school system than I am used to. I also feel that I am now able to deliver my own future students a more authentic "English experience" in class. I also found a lot of new friends from all over Europe, who in the 6 months have become quite important to me, and we already made plans to visit each other in the future. I can't think of anything that was particularly good/bad, as I just completely loved every aspect of this stay abroad and traineeship!
Duration of the traineeship: Too short, just right, too long? Recommendations for an optimal length of time?	I had the option to stay for either 6 or 8 months. I chose to stay for 6 months, as to not fall 2 semesters behind in university. Having finished now, I would definitely recommend staying the full 8 months!
Average monthly expenses abroad in €; Additional costs in contrast to expenses in Germany:	Around 1000-1300€ depending on how much you travel/eat out. Cost of living in general is higher than Germany, however some things are in turn much cheaper. Hygiene articles (creams, gels, deodorant, etc.) are exceptionally expensive, while groceries can be very cheap if you know what to buy/buy in bulk (eggs, potatoes, beef, special offers).
What should one absolutely know / keep in mind?	If you have the option to bring a car, absolutely do so. The public transport is very sparse. I was very lucky to have a direct train connection from Mullingar to Sligo and Dublin, many other were not that fortunate. Keep in mind that if you choose to do this traineeship through the PAD, you will NOT get to choose which school you will work at!

Are you of the opinion that the traineeship will benefit you in your future professional career? If yes, how? If not, why?	As stated above, I feel that I have benefitted quite a lot professionally, as it gave me the chance to not only gain further experience working in a school context, but also broadened my horizon by having to engage with a much different school system than I am used to. I also feel that I am now able to deliver my own future students a more authentic "English experience" in class. I also think the fact that I spent my stay abroad teaching, and not just at university, will help me stand out in the future.
Can you recommend this traineeship? (Please be sure to elaborate) If yes, would the organization/enterprise accept trainees in the future?	I would 100% recommend this traineeship and the PAD does offer this traineeship every year for many different countries, not just Ireland!
Helpful websites / Other things:	/

Do you agree with the anonymous publication of your report on the www.eu-servicepoint.de website?
 Yes ☒ No ☐