

It's hard to believe that I left for Dublin almost five months ago. Over the course of those months I have had the opportunity to see the difference Rotarians and Rotary scholars are making all over the world. My host Rotary club in Dublin, Rotary Club of Dublin-Fingal, was a wonderful resource as I prepared to move to Dublin and it has been great to get to know them in person throughout the past semester. Living in Dublin is an exciting and rewarding experience. The Equality Studies program at the University College Dublin offers courses in human rights law, peace and conflict, the economics of equality, and social justice policy. I am enjoying the opportunity to take a variety of classes and discuss issues with people from a wide range of backgrounds. Due to the relatively small size of the program, all of us in the Equality Studies program have become quite close and regularly get together, whether for day trips around the Dublin area or coffee before class.

Within a few weeks of arriving in Dublin I attended a Rotary Global Grant Scholars weekend in Coventry, England. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet fellow scholars from all over the world who had also just arrived in the U.K. and Ireland to study. I was filled with excitement for the coming year as I talked with the other scholars, sharing where we came from and our plans for the year. My host family for the weekend went out of their way to make me feel welcome, from taking me on a tour of the surrounding area to teaching me how to make several different kinds of British desserts. We stayed in touch after the Scholars weekend and in November I joined them on a visit to the Rotary Peace Centre in Bradford, England to listen to the current class of Rotary Peace Scholars present their research and field experiences. It was amazing to hear about the Peace Scholars' work around the world and inspiring to hear what they are planning to do in the next stage of their lives.



Rotary Global Grant Scholars and Rotarians at the Scholars Weekend

I am very grateful to Rotary International and specifically the Rotary Club of Topeka Downtown and Rotary Club of Dublin-Fingal for being my sponsor and host clubs respectively. The experience to live and study abroad, meeting Rotarians and Rotary scholars from around the world who are united by a desire to create change, has been truly life-changing. I am forever grateful for Rotary's support and kindness.



View of the River Liffey and the Ha'penny Bridge