



**Kate Earley**  
**Emmanuel College**  
*Experiencing Europe*

**Tell us a little bit about yourself**

I'm from Norfolk, Massachusetts and I am currently a senior at Emmanuel College majoring in History and Secondary Education and my hobbies include travel and photography. I first decided to attend Emmanuel College because I wanted to go to school in the city of Boston, but also have that small college community and atmosphere. I studied abroad for the academic year of 2013-2014 at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. I'd say that my biggest challenge while studying abroad was making the decision to go for an entire year as opposed to your average one semester. I wanted to study abroad for the full year in order to fully immerse myself in the culture of Ireland as well as to gain familiarity with the city of Dublin and be able to travel extensively throughout Europe.

**What was most challenging about studying abroad? What did you learn about yourself?**

Making this decision was difficult for me for several reasons. I'd never left the United States before, so I knew there would be a strong element of unfamiliarity in stepping outside my comfort zone. Also, I'd never been away from my family and friends for so long, and not having that support system nearby to be able to fall back on was an intimidating thought. Regardless of these apprehensions, I still made the decision to leave for a year, a decision which I have been extremely thankful for every day since. Studying abroad was one of the best experiences I've ever had the opportunity to enjoy. I was able to create a new home for myself in the city of Dublin, as well as a love for a country that has transpired with my upcoming relocation back there post-graduation. If I had never looked past the obstacles and fears that stood in my way to study abroad I would never have the future that is now possible in front of me.

As a COF student studying abroad, it has helped me to become more involved on campus as an advocate for studying abroad. I am currently working with my host program, API (Academic

Programs International) as well as the Emmanuel Study Abroad Office, to encourage students from all backgrounds and facing all obstacles to work towards studying abroad.

### **Do you have any advice for COF students considering study abroad?**

If I could give advice to any student interested in doing so I would have to say that being persistent and passionate about what you're doing is important. You are going to face a lot of obstacles and naysayers in your attempts to go abroad but, essentially, going abroad is entirely for yourself; it is to help you grow as an individual and create a new sense of independence within you. You will experience a new realm of emotions and accomplishments that you may have never believed yourself capable of and you will mature into a better, more understanding and developed person. Studying abroad may be intimidating, but it will be an unforgettable and unimaginable experience that you will most likely be thankful about for the rest of your life.