The challenges and rewards of (an individual) study abroad

Brighde Mulholland

College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University
Increased Knowledge of the Host Society (CSB/SJU, Minnesota and the USA)

- Assumed like American TV shows and hadn’t heard of MN beforehand
  - American Sports
  - Different school system
- Different Climate (and opportunity for Winter Sports)
  - Different Chocolate!

Recognition of Cultural Values and Culturally Appropriate Behaviours

- Benedictine Values
- Holidays like Thanksgiving
- More informal inside and outside classroom
- Minnesota Nice – so be friendly

The Challenges and Rewards of (an individual) Study Abroad
By Brighde Mulholland

Advantages of the Experience in My Future Studies and Career

- Build on American Work Ethic
- Brilliant for resume or interviews
- Business subjects have made my Math major more attractive to employers
- Helps to give you a different perspective
- Global Outlook
- Improved Communication and Problem Solving Skills

Awareness of My Own Culture and How It Has Shaped Me

- Difference in healthcare and welfare systems
- Third level education more accessible for everyone in Northern Ireland
- Appreciate what I take for granted at home
  - Want to learn Irish
  - Visit landmarks at home

Independently Seeking Out and Learning from New Intercultural Situations

- Make friends from all over the world
- Try new cuisines and learn about their culture
- Thanksgiving and Homecoming were completely new to me
- Doing anything independently is a confidence builder