

**Major:** Behavior Science & Psychology

**Children:** son, age 9

### Why did you choose Ireland ?

After taking Introduction to Peace & Conflict with Dr. Woehrle, I wanted to see firsthand how the people dealt with the Troubles in Northern Ireland.

**Academics:** I gained more than I expected. There were points when I had tears in my eyes. Talking to John who took us on the grounds of Bloody Sunday and seeing all of the murals that depict the experience of the Troubles was really a powerful experience.

*“If I had gone to Ireland by myself, it wouldn’t have been the same because the professors showed us so much and they knew who to talk to.”*

**Benefits of Study Abroad:** I gained more self-confidence from being able to leave my close-knit family, and I made a lot of friends while travelling.

**How were you transformed?** I wanted to gain insight somewhere else. We have the same troubles here with issues of race and government, but you never notice them until you get outside the box. Going to Ireland has helped me to see the United States with new eyes.

**Traveling:** I loved going down the shopping area in Glasgow. There were so many people, it reminded me of New York, but with bagpipes and confectionary stores. I liked that you could walk pretty much everywhere.

**Future Impact:** I chose to add a Certificate in Peacebuilding to show what I’ve done because I have taken so many classes that have to do with building peace. Professionally, I think understanding different people’s culture is an important skill that I have developed. Going on study abroad helped me be more accepting of other people. I learned to not pass judgment so quickly and to really listen to what people have to say and to the reasoning behind their actions.



Sarah looking out over the city of Glasgow, Scotland, from Queen's Park.