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Galway Living

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Danielle Steinman

Galway, Ireland

April 7th, 2018

Galway Living

On April 7th, I interviewed my roommate, Ray Conlin, who is from Tipperary, Ireland. He is a third-year, same as me, and is studying computer science. During their third year in University, Ray has informed me that it is common for Irish students to intern for the academic year. That is what Ray is doing this year, as he only has one online class but is involved in an internship related to his major.

One thing that I have come to notice while living and talking with Ray is how polite he always is. I say 'please' and 'thank you,' but as I have seen through Ray and other Irish people I have met, they make sure to be polite in conversation, even when it almost seems unnecessary. I talked with Ray about this characteristic, and he mentioned that it is just how he was raised. Another interesting lifestyle difference between Ray and myself is how he and many of his friends go home for the weekends. Ray is not like the other students who go home every weekend, but when we were talking about this subject, he said that it is very common for most students to spend the weekends at home.

I have noticed some very obvious cultural difference between Ray and us Americans, one of the main ones being the consumption of tea! Tea is a huge cultural characteristic here in Ireland. Ray told me that tea is just the normal thing to have for every occasion. Just how we, in the States, would ask a visitor if they want a glass of beer or wine, the Irish would ask if they want a cup of tea. Another hugely noticeable and completely opposite to the American style difference between the Irish students and students from

Linfield is that the Irish students go out on weekdays. As previously mentioned, the Irish students can go home on the weekends, so they tend to use the weekdays as their party days. Although this is a difference, the way in which people go out and have a good time is very similar to how it's done in the States. There aren't really any specific differences between how people go out at night here compared to back at home.

This interview with Ray really made me realize how relaxed the Irish are. The students are able to travel home on the weekends, they spend the weekday nights out on the town, and they love to relax and drink tea! (and Guinness). While being here I have also been able to see the United States in the view of the 'other countries' that are being affected by political decisions and actions. Ray has mentioned the topic of politics to me a few times, and I always receive questions from Irish students about the politics in the States. After talking more in depth about the interest in American politics with Ray, I've really realized why I've gotten so many questions about it. American politics have a large effect on other countries, which I knew before, but not until now have I ever been in the situation of the 'other country' that is being affected. Ireland has been a great country to stay in, and I've learned so much already. There are many things that are different between the people of Ireland and the United States, but for the most part I have not experienced a large culture shock.