

George Mitchell Peace Scholarship Essay

According to UNICEF, 80% of children with disabilities in developing countries do not receive an education. As a Special Education major and an advocate for children with disabilities, this concerns me. I do not feel a child's education should depend on where they live and socioeconomic status. It is because of this statistic that I am going to do something to change this.

Studying at the University College Cork would benefit me personally because it would give me a chance to completely immerse myself into another culture. Studying abroad has been a passion of mine because of my innate curiosity of this world that we live in. Getting the chance to live in another culture would give me the opportunity to expand my personality and embrace everything that culture has to offer.

I am in the process of declaring a double major with International and Global Studies. Studying abroad will fulfill a requirement for this major, while taking classes abroad will also fulfill required credits. The classes I would be interested in taking are "Threshold French," "Introduction to Modern Irish," and "Law, Rights and Equal Opportunities." Taking the French and Irish classes will fulfill the language requirement for the International and Global Studies major. The Law class would give me an introduction into equal rights law, which is something I would like to make a career out of. With my degree in Special Education and International and Global Studies, I would like to attend Law School after I graduate. I would like to focus my career on working with government officials in developing countries to implement laws that would protect children with disabilities to ensure they get an education.

I feel that I am prepared to live in another culture purely because of my curiosity. My parents always taught me to have an open mind, especially when I came across something that was different than what I was used to. During my senior year of high school when I visited Costa Rica with my Spanish class, I got a small taste of the wanderlust I now have. If I were to live in Ireland, I would embrace everything living in another culture would give me, from trying new foods to meeting new people.

This year, I was given the opportunity to be an admission ambassador for my university. I am responsible for giving prospective students a tour of UMF and to encourage them to attend. The admission counselors want us to promote the study abroad opportunities at UMF. Studying in Ireland under this scholarship will allow me to tell my story of what it is like to study abroad, and to encourage prospective students to do the same. I feel that this will benefit others because I could share my experiences and encourage them to work hard so studying abroad would be possible for them. I feel this would make me a good role model to the students visiting UMF.