



UL ENGAGE

Community Briefing

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Documentary and Promotional Video on Engaged Learning

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UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

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Promoting University Community Collaboration

THE BRIEF

The UL Engage video project is a collaboration between the students of the University of Limerick, and the surrounding communities. We were able to work closely with the students and their community partners at their various placements. Meeting with our fellow classmates to discuss their placements was a great pleasure as they were able to share their experiences and grow within their community.

Our project consisted of arranging meetings with our fellow classmates and filming the process along the way. We met with and interviewed many of the community groups and their partners, which helped us build our promotional video. This video was done in the mindset that it will provide an opportunity for future international students to work with these amazing communities. This practicum provided a more well rounded experience abroad, outside the traditional university routine.

We were also able to learn many skills of our own, including communication and building interpersonal relationships. Throughout the creation of our project we were able to connect with many people and gain first hand knowledge within their field of expertise. In this way, we were able to build a network outside of the university and find a sense of community in our new home abroad.



PROJECT PARTNERS



My name is Bernie Quillinan. I am a Senior Lecturer in the University of Limerick and Civic Engagement Champion in UL Engage. As a member the UL Engage team, I currently support University/community collaborations through a variety of programmes and projects throughout Limerick city and county. I am also module leader for the UL International Practicum module which provides curriculum based accredited learning opportunities for students' who work and learn with community partners on projects which address a community identified health, environmental or social need. I am interested in community engaged learning and building community capacity to support student engaged learning. I am also interested in both formative and summative methods of assessment of work integrated learning; particularly student self-assessment and development of graduate attributes.



My name is Jessica and I am a 4th year undergraduate student from Ontario, Canada. I study Psychology and Sociology at Wilfrid Laurier University and I am planning on graduating in Autumn 2017. Travelling has been something I have always wanted to experience, so being able to study in another country was very appealing to me. I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience here at the University of Limerick, and the UL Engage program has allowed me to meet many new people. Although I was not going to the placements each week like many of my other colleagues, it was still an experience nonetheless. We were able to capture the genuine experiences and emotions of the students and community partners, which allowed us to understand this program from a new perspective. I am looking forward to bringing this new found knowledge back to Canada with me.



My name is Natalia Arnold. I am a chemical engineer student studying abroad from Iowa State University. I enjoy making videos as a way to explore more creative forms of expression. I choose to study at the University of Limerick to gain international experience at this globally involved university. The UL Engage practicum has provided a framework for personal growth and experience that I had not practiced in traditional style modules. Choosing to take a UL Engage module has allowed me to meet locals in the community and integrate into the culture during my brief time in Ireland.



My name is Kirsten Little and I'm spending the spring semester of my junior year studying at University of Limerick. At my home school, Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana, I study Strategic Communications and Recording Industry Studies. While studying in Limerick, I had the opportunity to work on the video portion of the practicum. It has been a very rewarding experience and has allowed me to work with my fellow Limerick, as well as all of the experiences it has provided.

PROJECT RATIONALE

Many programs are already in place for sending students abroad, but not as many that are dedicated to helping integrate students into their new community while away from their home. Integrating into a new culture is an important aspect of study abroad as students gain a deeper understanding and connection with their new home. As students take part in such an involved experience such as the UL Engage Practicum, they gather more skills and knowledge about themselves than they would have originally hoped. For this reason, more students should become engaged with their abroad community and the UL Engage program provides a great platform to do just that. After being introduced and given the contact details of their community partners, students begin a self driven journey towards setting and reaching common goals along side their partners. Skills such as communication, patience, persistence and drive are gained throughout the experience, sometimes unknown to the student at the time.











UL ENGAGE

THE EXPERIENCE

Introduction

The UL Engage Video aims to provide insight to future University of Limerick students with the opportunity to form a close knit community while they study at the University. This project portrays the UL Engage Experience for both international students and community partners alike. We were able to work closely with both international students in the module and their community partners to better understand their projects and the legacy they will be leaving for future students.

Our Experience

Filming the other students engaging with their community partners was a very rewarding experience. In the beginning we began to slowly build our skills and knowledge in this area. After setting the foundation for our project we set goals to accomplish. We worked closely with Bernie and Dom, who were very encouraging as our community partners. Building this project had its challenges along the way, but we were able to overcome them and develop many real world skills.

Our Mission



The aim of our project with the UL Engage experience is to showcase the practicum in its entirety. With this, it will provide a glimpse of the course to prospective international students. Our goal is to show the dedication this program has in providing an experience in addition to the traditional learning sphere at the university. As we created our story, we frequently revisited the emotions and questions we had as international students first embarking on our abroad experience. With this material, we hope many more students from around the world will be able to have such an integrating and rewarding experience as we had during our time as a UL Engage student



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