Katelyn Ramos, Dublin Internship 2016
Major: Communication
Minor: American Studies, concentration in Journalism

Briefly explain where you interned this summer and what you did.

I was at Aviva Stadium, which hosts football (soccer) and rugby games. The experience was a good baseline to see if this is something that I’m interested in. I wanted to do large-scale event planning, so it was great experience to test a field that I thought I was into and I really loved it. I gained specific career skills, and I have great contacts who can definitely help me to get stadium jobs in the future. So for next summer, I’m looking at Madison Square Garden and Staples Stadium.

What was a typical day like for you?

I would get to work around 9 every day. The Irish are more relaxed during their work day. I would read PowerPoints about the upcoming rugby games and then my direct boss would take me around the stadium almost every day. When you think about event management, you think about the big concerts, but you don’t really think about the day-to-day, so we would check the stadium. It was good for me to be present in the corporate office, because just being there, I learned about the roles that everyone plays and how people behave in a corporate setting. On a regular event day, I would report at a certain time for a general information meeting. At the meeting the staff would go over the event and have an exact time for everything: they had it timed to the second. Then we would go to a bigger meeting with the security and police officers. I would go home around 4 or 5 every day.

What was the biggest thing you learned?

The day-to-day stuff. I came in with no expectations about what that would be like, so I learned a lot about the little steps that go into planning an event and making sure it comes together.

Why did you choose to intern abroad instead of domestically?

This was an easy way for me to get work experience and go somewhere. It was also the draw to Ireland; I’ve always wanted to go there. I thought I wanted to do large-scale event planning and in the United States, I have no connections or experience working in a stadium, and I thought it would be way harder for me to get an internship here in this industry. I lucked out and got something that I honestly never would have anticipated when I applied.

What advice do you have for students that considering internship abroad?
I would say do it for sure if anyone is wavering. You learn so much about yourself when you go abroad and especially about America. It gives you a different perspective on how the rest of the world sees us, which makes you more aware of the way you behave and the way you want to impact the world in the future.

*Was there a memorable experience that wasn’t a part of your day to day internship?*

I had to go to a lot of business lunches, which is different setting than being in an office. I watched the CEO and my boss at business lunches and how they behave. So it was the social experience, but because you’re still at work, it was something very different and memorable.