

where did you start your studies and when?

**Clíona Murphy:** I am in my 4th year of studies in Trinity College, Dublin. There, we do two years of general engineering, after which I chose to specialize in Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering. Student in my university have the choice to do their 4th year abroad, after which we will return to Trinity to do our Masters (5th) year. I have been here in Darmstadt since September and will finish up at the end of the Sommersemester.

what made you decide to come here?

**Clíona Murphy:** I learned German in secondary school for 6 years, and always knew that I wanted to have the experience of living abroad for the year. It made sense, therefore, to do my Erasmus in Germany! The TU Darmstadt is one of the few institutions here that my university has a Learning Agreement with, and it also has an excellent reputation as a great place to study technical subjects.

what would you say is best concerning studying here?

**Clíona Murphy:** I find it really great how much freedom students have in picking their modules. In Ireland, we are simply given our timetable and have no choice over what subjects we study within our discipline. It was good to be able to decide what subjects I wanted to do myself here in TU Darmstadt. The facilities here are also very nice, I was impressed by the libraries and also the running track and swimming pool. I was also pleasantly surprised by how cheap the food in the Mensa is!

any advice for those who want to go abroad?

**Clíona Murphy:** I would advise people going abroad to be prepared with all your documentation and know in advance what modules you will register for (if you are going to be studying there). Don't be too proud to ask questions, because in a new place you can't be expected to know everything straight away! And get involved in extra-curricular activities, because it's a good way to meet new people.

your favourite place in darmstadt?

**Clíona Murphy:** I really like Martinsviertel; it's very pleasant to walk around, and there is a lovely little cafe shop where the cups of coffee are huge and last for ages! The Christmas market is also a highlight for me. In Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering. Student in my university have the choice to do their 4th year abroad, after which we will return to Trinity to do our Masters (5th) year. I have been here in Darmstadt since September and will finish up at the end of the Sommersemester.

what was the most interesting project you worked on so far?

**Clíona Murphy:** I am working on a research project comparing shared bicycle usage in Darmstadt and Cork (in Ireland). It is a great chance for me to get research experience, and the topic is very interesting. I am carrying it out by myself, with the support of the Geodetics department and my own lecturer in Trinity.

what did you miss most?

**Clíona Murphy:** The thing I have missed the most is, of course, my family and friends back home. But the good thing is, Ryanair flights between Dublin and Frankfurt are super cheap, so I can sometimes go home for the weekend. I have lots of visitors from Ireland too - they all want to experience Darmstadt!