Hi there, my name is David. I’m a Law and Business student and got to spend my Study Abroad year at Loyola University Chicago. I suppose if I was to give a quick answer on why I chose to study abroad it would be for ‘opportunity and experience.’ Now, I know that probably sounds like the most cliché response ever- you hear these words being harped around the whole time by the international office and everyone else but ultimately that’s what it is- I saw it is as opportunity to experience something new; but its more nuanced than that. I saw it as chance to set myself ahead of other potential employees handing in CV’s for a future job; and that goes beyond the fancy little ‘International’ at the start of my Batchelor title: these are genuine, real life, diverse experiences that I saw as opportunities to hopefully extend my understanding of the world beyond what I could achieve in Maynooth, or in Ireland. Again, I know that probably sounds cliché but put simply- you’re forced to grow up pretty quickly and gain a new perspective when you’re over 3500 miles away from home. And that’s another part of the reason I chose to study abroad- I wanted that challenge; that opportunity to test myself and see how I’d cope with some independence.

Building on what I was hoping to get from the Study Abroad Program, opportunity, experience and everything that came in-between, there was no better place that I saw as a possibility for all that than the USA. Obviously, yes- the financial hurdle of getting across the pond and sorted with accommodation is a significant. But if studying in the US is a possibility, I would urge you to turn your attention towards Loyola University Chicago. Chicago is a beautiful city- Google the city and you’ll see what I mean. Its Downtown is without doubt a ‘proper’ US city but somehow it doesn’t give off the feel being too big or crowded. And obviously there’s Lake Michigan beside us as well so overall its simply amazing. Loyola itself is an incredible campus: situated about 20 minutes on the tram North of Downtown it has dedicated academic resources, excellent sports facilities, it really is a top-notch university. Like home, there just about every club/ society you can think of here so mixing with new people I found super interesting. Plus, like we’re Irish- I figured that wouldn’t be difficult anyway. For anyone interested on the law side of things there’s very competitive Mock Trial and Moot Court programs here which again you can stick on the CV. There’s honestly so much you can do here in LUC, to anyone thinking about studying abroad and especially if you’re looking at the US- I would 10/10 recommend Loyola University Chicago.