

**Me: Alright, Tom, just to make sure, is it okay if I record this interview?**

Tom: Yeah, that's fine

**Me: So, my first question is, do you have an interest in studying abroad?**

Tom: Yeah, I'm going to study abroad at some point during my years at U of I

**Me: Why do you think you want to study abroad?**

Tom: It's just a good experience and I want to learn how other cultures interact with each other

**Me: At what point in your college schedule do you want to fit in studying abroad?**

Tom: I'm going to either do it my sophomore year or my junior year, probably my junior year.

**Me: So, when do you think you are going to start planning?**

Tom: It's just in the back of my head now, but I'll seriously start to plan for it during my second semester of sophomore year

**Me: How long do you want to go for?**

Tom: Just a semester

**Me: Do you know where you want to go?**

Tom: I'm probably either going to go to Ireland or Spain, but probably Spain

**Me: What parts of Ireland are you interested in?**

Tom: The University of Limerick. I actually visited the University of Limerick this past January and I was considering going to school there. It was either going to school there or to study abroad there. I really enjoyed it.

**Me: What is it about Spain that caught your interest?**

Tom: I just want to go to Spain because I go to Ireland all the time. So, I want to try something different because I go to Ireland at least once or twice a year.

**Me: What do you expect to learn from your experience studying abroad?**

Tom: I expect to learn how different lifestyles are and different cultural aspects

**Me: So, you mentioned you might want to go to Spain, but you don't speak any other languages, do you?**

Tom: I took four years of high school Spanish but I'm not fluent

**Me: Do you think that's going to be an issue at all?**

Tom: My relatives are all carpenters and they work with Hispanic people. They told me it's easy to pick up the language as you go. And obviously I have some background so I don't think it should be too difficult to learn

**Me: Have you thought about the costs of studying abroad being a potential issue?**

Tom: No, that's kind of a problem for the future.

**Me: Have you started to save up money or anything like that?**

Tom: Yeah, I saved up some money working over the summer

**Me: Has the thought ever crossed your mind that it could possibly delay your graduation if you study abroad?**

Tom: No, that's never really crossed my mind. I think if it's a partnered school, it should be fine.

**Me: When you go abroad, obviously you have a few different options of where you can live, do you have any idea if you would want to live with a host family or do you want to live on your own or do you not really care?**

Tom: When I visited the University of Limerick, they had a housing system with 8 people in a house. It would be four kids from America and then four kids from Ireland so it would be a good mix

**Me: So, do you think that would be ideal?**

Tom: Yeah, I think something that would allow me to interact and be intertwined with different people rather than just living with another American studying abroad. Then you could make new friends and new connections

**Me: Do you expect to face any challenges when you study abroad?**

Tom: Well I've been to Ireland a good thirty times so I'm fairly familiar with Ireland and the people there. But with Spain, the only problem would probably be the language barrier when I'm trying to talk, communicate and navigate. I know that will be a challenge but I'm up for it.

**Me: Do you think the classes will be equally as difficult or even more challenging as they are in America?**

Tom: The only thing with Spain is that I will need to look into the language of the class. I think there are programs tailored for all kinds of students so I don't think that will be a problem. I think it should be relatively similar to the classes here.

**Me: Alright, well thanks a lot, Tom.**

Tom: Yeah, no problem.