

# MY GIP EXPERIENCE

## *Global Affairs in Dublin*



## MICAELA ARAGON

**Major: Labor Studies**

**Term Abroad: Summer 2023**

**Internship Company: Friends of the Elderly**

### **What were your primary responsibilities as an intern?**

My primary responsibilities were to assist in the day-to-day activities at Friends of the Elderly. The organization is a charity that works to combat elderly isolation via connection. This means that we provide food, resources, and most importantly, social connection for elderly members of the Dublin community. I was responsible for helping facilitate our weekly events as well as gathering information about our members' needs.

### **What was your biggest accomplishment at your internship?**

My biggest accomplishment during my time with Friends of the Elderly was developing my leadership and communication skills beyond what I arrived with. Through our weekly events, I was able to grow not just as a leader but as a team member as well.

### **What was the most challenging yet rewarding experience you encountered?**

Growing accustomed to life in a new city and creating a new daily routine for myself was perhaps the most difficult but rewarding part of the program for me. Although it was daunting when I first arrived, by the time that I left I was very proud of myself for having developed the independence to create a routine and establish relationships for myself in a brand-new place!

### **What was your favorite part about living in your host city?**

My favorite part of living in Dublin was how central it was within Ireland and how many things there were to explore nearby. The city is busy and flourishing while also being surrounded by nature. Dublin is along a river and next to the ocean, giving it a very unique location that I loved exploring!

### **What was the most memorable aspect of your internship experience?**

The most memorable aspect of my internship experience certainly revolves around the connections that I had the privilege to make. The organization's premise is to facilitate the building of intergenerational bonds, and this internship certainly did that. Over the weeks I was there, I had the opportunity to build close ties with folks more than three times my age from a completely different background! Additionally, the tightknit team at the organization became a home away from home as I navigated life in Ireland for the first time.

**Vico Baths, a beautiful swimming spot in Dublin!**

