

TY School Magazine

My Experience in CTYI

This Summer, I went to an educational programme for secondary school students called CTYI, which stands for the Centre of Talented Youth Ireland. It took place in DCU St. Patrick's Campus for two weeks and I enjoyed it exponentially. There were many different courses available for students to partake in, as well as options available to stay for two or three weeks. The course I took was Genetics and Cell Biology, and it was very interesting and educational. However, the course contained a lot more than just classes, as I will explain now.

The course I took had options to commute or stay in housing units on the campus, and provided activities to both groups. I was a commuter student, staying in my grandparents' house and taking the bus everyday to Drumcondra.

Commuters came into campus at 10 am and had the option to stay in campus for as long as 10 pm. My classes were from 10am to 3:30 pm, with a half an hour break for lunch at 12:30. My classes were very informative and interesting, taught the same way college courses would be, going in depth in every topic. We also had lab classes, in which we would go to the main DCU campus in Glasnevin, and use their highly prestigious labs. It was a great learning experience

and we got to use certain equipment I've never had the chance to use before, like petri dishes.

After classes, we had the option to sign out if we wanted, but I usually chose to stay to do activities. These activities were always my favourite part of the day, as they were always very fun and gave me a chance to make new friends. CTYI offered a whole range of activities with 5 different options every day. They held everything from improv acting, to tag rugby, to photography, to dungeons and dragons, to just dance. Activities ran until 5:30, and then I was the option to sign out, but I usually stayed for dinner.

Sometimes though, I'd stay for RA meetings and study. In RA meetings, which stand for Residential Assistant meeting, where commuter and residential students alike were assigned an RA and they would let us know of upcoming events and activities happening.

From 6:30-8:30 we had study with our class, where we would do any homework assigned and sometimes play games. We were supervised by two very friendly teaching assistants during study who helped us learn more about science and make it more fun by including games.

After study, there was another option to sign out, or you could stay for free social time until. Unfortunately, I never stayed for social time, but on weekends I did get free time

to hang out with my friends on the optional trips we went on. I ended up going to the Botanic Gardens, but there were also other trip options, like the bowling alley or the beach.

On my last day of CTYI, they held a disco to say goodbye, and it was a great way to end such a wonderful course. I am hoping to go back next year, and reunite with all the amazing friends I had the pleasure of making. I would recommend this course wholeheartedly as it was one of the most fun, interesting experiences I've ever had.