The research focused on photocatalysis, a relatively new field of science I had little knowledge of before starting. It was very interesting to learn about this field and the applications of it in wastewater treatment and biofuels. Most of the work involved setting up reactions powered by LED light sources.
• In the lab, I was working with other Master’s students and PhD students from Northern Ireland, which always made it a fun place to work. I was able to learn about the research they were doing, and also received recommendations for things to do around Northern Ireland. They were all accommodating if I had questions about a procedure or how to use particular instrument or equipment.
Day-to-Day

• It was a short walk from our housing to the Queen’s University lab. A typical work day started around 9, and at this point, I set up one of the reactors and checked in with my supervisor. I would usually take samples throughout the day and test them on UV spectroscopy or prepare them for analysis on the HPLC. (High pressure liquid chromatography
How My Work Impacted the Organization

• My supervisor, a research fellow, said that the lab experiments I completed for him were a tremendous help as he may have not had the time to run them otherwise. As a fellow, he is responsible for producing papers that will introduce novel ideas to the academic community, but he doesn’t have time to write if he is always in the lab completing experiments. Therefore, it was a win-win for me to get the lab experience and learn from someone with a vast knowledge and passion for the research.
How my experience Impacted Career Plans

- It was definitely important for me to get lab research in chemical engineering itself, since my previous lab research was in analytical chemistry. I definitely enjoyed chemical engineering research more than chemistry, but it was still not enough to convince me that I wanted to get a PhD in it.

Most of the reactions were small-scale and simple but had important implications!
Cultural Experience

• The people of Northern Ireland were SO friendly. It is simply the default attitude of a stranger to be kind and go out of their way to help you.

• Their accents are hard to understand at times and they use a lot of their own phrases. I was not expecting to face such difficulty communicating in the lab in a country where I spoke the language! Of course, they don’t mind repeating themselves or explaining their expressions at all.

On a sunny day, everyone sat outside to socialize and eat lunch and dinner.
Exploring Belfast

• Learning about the history of this country was very interesting. The problems they faced in the 1990’s still affects life to the present day and while it is miraculous to see the ways in which they recovered so quickly, there is evidence that Belfast still has work to do.

• There is so much history within Belfast that anyone visiting must visit and learn more.
I am so glad I decided to study abroad, and I think it’s a valuable experience for all Princeton students. It gives you the idea of what it’s like to work in a new place. You can cook, make new friends, travel, and essentially build a life for yourself as a working adult. This level of independence is empowering and can inform important choices about what your life will look like after Princeton.