

## Student Profile: Ailish Kelly



### About me and why I chose BIS at NUI Galway:

My name is Ailish and I am a 4th year BIS student. Previous to my enrollment at NUI Galway I attended another university but discovered the course was not for me. I moved on to employment in a financial institution and realised that I had a keen interest in business and I decided to pursue a business career. I wanted a business degree that also involved IT so I researched the degree offerings of many universities. BIS at NUI Galway emerged as the most suitable course and coming here has proven to be the best decision I have ever made.

### What I like about the BIS degree:

The BIS degree offers a range of subjects such as marketing, accounting, and management as well as information systems and programming. As a BIS student I have gained knowledge of many business subjects and developed expertise in a diverse set of technologies. I believe this blend of technology and business is what makes BIS graduates so attractive to prospective employers. Since I started BIS, I have completed many individual and group assignments. As a result, my teamwork, communications, productivity and time management skills have vastly improved. These soft skills will really stand to me when I enter the corporate world as a BIS graduate.

All of these skills and experiences would not have been possible without the help of my close knit community of lectures and fellow students. Being part of such a small class means we are very close and know our lecturers on a personal level. This has been a huge advantage to me as I have taken my lectures up on their open door policy many times over the last few years when I needed help.

### My internship:

BIS offers work placement, which is part of the PEP (Professional Experience Programme) for semester 2 of 3rd year. The placement office are more than helpful in organising interviews and putting us in contact with different companies. I was employed by SAP Galway for my internship. This was a great experience for me as I was able to apply the knowledge I had learned and also improve on my inter-personal, teamwork and communications skills. I experienced corporate life at a multinational organisation and have made many useful contacts as a result.

### Life as a BIS student:

I am currently in the process of completing my final year project. This is a group project that we began in September. We are creating a tool set that small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) can use. It will help SMEs with the implementation of open-source collaborative tools and technologies.

Life as BIS student in Galway has been a life changing experience for me. Moving to Galway from Offaly was life changing by itself, as you can imagine, but I couldn't have chosen a better city. I have made many good friends in college and build up an extensive network of contacts.

### My future plans:

I am currently concentrating on getting a good final year result. My next step will be to either apply for a postgraduate course or look for employment. Either option is well within my reach as I will have a well recognised business and technology degree under my belt.