

## Student Profile: Maria Hennessy



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

My name is Maria and I am a 4th Year BIS Student. In school I had always been interested in Business and IT but I had resigned myself to the fact that there were no courses that offered such a balance - that was until I discovered BIS. I found many great advantages to the BIS degree including the range of subjects offered, the small class size, the professional work experience and also the student facilities.

Now as a 4th Year student, I can honestly say choosing BIS and living in Galway has been the best decision of my life.

### What I like about the BIS degree:

Throughout my four years in BIS I have discovered many things that make the degree all the more worthwhile! The diversity of the subjects means you are constantly challenged, for example in just one day you could be exploring avenues of business such as marketing and economics and then learning how to build and program your own website. But, for me the internship I undertook has been one of the best things about the BIS degree. It gave me invaluable experience of the corporate world. Also the small class sizes mean that we know each other very well. This also means that our lecturers know us very well, which is very useful as they are very approachable and willing to help.

### My internship:

For my internship I had the chance to work with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) for eight months. This was a fantastic opportunity but I was also a little weary at what to expect while working there. However, PwC offered great training and orientation to help settle you into the environment as seamlessly as possible. It was great to see the knowledge we had learned in college been applied to real business situations and knowing that our lecturers were not actually wasting their breath on us!

PwC let me experience many different areas of the business in order to get a feel of what I wanted to concentrate on when I leave college. The internship is great for when you leave college as you now know what to expect in the working world, which is a great advantage to have over other graduates. Also my interpersonal and teamwork skills were enhanced as a direct result of the internship.

### Life as a BIS student:

In 4th Year we are given a Final Year Project (FYP), my group have been working on a project to evaluate the use of social networking technologies within small to medium enterprise in Ireland. This is a very interesting and topical issue at the moment. Undertaking an FYP offers a great chance for students to showcase the knowledge they have attained throughout the degree.

The last four years in Galway have been a constant adventure. Galway is a vibrant student city and there is always a captivating buzz around the campus, which incorporates education and fun as one.

### My future plans:

At the moment my main priority is to concentrate on getting a good final year result. But another great thing about a BIS degree is that it is internationally recognized, so this means I can travel the world and begin my career anywhere!