

MY COUNTRY DANCE EXPERIENCE

To have to go abroad to a country which you are not accustomed to is not easy, but living the experience is incredible.

I could live this great experience thanks to Amity Institute, through its Teacher Program. I was living in a small coastal village in the Boston area called Scituate. I was there for the whole academic school year. I was working in a Primary school teaching Spanish and in a High School too.

I lived a lot of great and unforgettable moments. But I fondly remember a day when a colleague from my school invited me to go out on a Saturday night. It was a very enjoyable, amusing and different night, full of anecdotes.

Firstly, he was going to pick me up in his nice, red convertible car. But, when we were about to go into the car we realized that it was locked with the keys inside. We could get out of this very embarrassing situation thanks to a broomstick and a hole that was on the top of the car. What an embarrassing situation!

Once we were in the car, I did not have any idea where we were going. On the other hand, I thought we would go to a disco or a pub, as we usually do in Spain. What surprised me was that we arrived at a huge place that looked like a warehouse. This place was not a warehouse but some premises where people usually meet to enjoy country dance.

At the beginning I did not know how to behave. Everything was new for me and I was astounded. It was as if I was playing a role in an Irish movie. Inside, there were a lot of people dancing. They were dressed in a very country way and looked a little scruffy. There was a stage where a group was playing a kind of Celtic music live. Every time the song finished one of the band members told people the steps of the next dance, and the people followed the orders. I did not understand anything. But my friend started to dance with me and he explained how the dance worked. I immediately picked up what to do and I always had a person to invite me to dance with them. This was amazing! It was similar to when my parents were young, I had to wait for a person to take me to dance.

I loved this night. It was a very different experience and at the same time very funny. I have never danced country again and it is something that I would love to repeat.

Rafaela Muñoz del Valle

