



Ewa Gillan was our first Rian J-1 Exchange Visitors applicant when the U.S travel ban lifted, and she was the first to land in the States in 2022. Ewa, a Dublin City University student, is completing a 6 month placement to support her degree in Global Business. Her student placement as a Sales and Marketing intern at Marcus & Millichap is allowing her to do just that.

When Ewa found out that she had been offered an internship in Tampa, she quickly got connected with the Rian Immigrant Center. Ewa shared that “the visa application process with Rian was really easy and accommodating the whole way.” With Rian’s support she got her visa in time to make it to start her Internship in early January 2022.

Since then Ewa has settled in Tampa quite well, especially thanks to her internship supervisor’s support in finding temporary accommodations upon her arrival, making sure she felt welcome in her role and focusing on relationship and team building during her first few weeks on the job. Ewa shared that since her very first day, she instantly felt “a family like atmosphere with the team” and she is quickly learning and getting to know the systems.

She has found community, and housemates, in Tampa University students. During the interview, Ewa was fresh off a trip to the beach in Clearwater, FL, where she said she had “never seen a beach like that, with sand so white and sea is lovely temperature year round, not like in Ireland!”

One of her favorite parts of her experience thus far has been exploring Tampa, a city, she shared, that is revitalizing old industrial areas on the water with new restaurants, artisan markets and community events, all for free! Ewa said she frequents these spots for an ice cream or an evening out for dinner!

Ewa is excited she has until July to work towards her goals and have the chance to experience many different pieces of American culture. She is eager to attend a sports game, travel to Miami, and have the chance to lean into the marketing aspect of her internship, hoping to reach a milestone of sending a national flier out to the entire Marcus & Millichap community across the U.S. in the next few months (something her supervisor is confident she will achieve!)

But she shared, she has seen a change in herself already, in just a short month, that she definitely wants to hold on to when she returns to Ireland... her comfort trying things on her own. She shared "I came here all on my own, not knowing anyone, and it has shown me I can meet new people, and has given me the energy to go for things, and avail of any opportunity that comes my way."

