



REASON #2

Create an international network



St. John's Halls had an entertainment committee made up of and voted for by student residents, and the last responsibility of the outgoing one was to organize the orientation program for incoming freshers¹. There were ice-breaking games, challenges, quizzes, "speed-friending," and a five-a-side football game. A barbeque was laid on for lunch. We were all given stickers to write our names and courses on, and encouraged to wander around striking up conversations with anyone and everyone we could.

Normally, this would've been the kind of thing that would've made me want to curl up² in a corner in a ball of dread and shame. I considered myself sociable, but I wasn't exactly the stranger whisperer. Liz usually paved a path for me. But there was a leveling aspect to this day that somehow made things easier. After all, we were *all* new. We were *all* first-years. [...]

We started collecting people. We met Lauren, who had never met Claire but it turned out they shared a mutual friend they could bond over. She was studying art history and lived in the apartment next to Liz. We met Ray, an American who'd turned down the chance to go to Harvard to come to Dublin (we all thought he was bonkers³, and told him so) and whose smooth, TV accent we couldn't get enough of. We met Daisy, a fellow English literature student. She introduced herself by saying she did PR⁴ for Essence, which I think we were supposed to know was a club in town, and that she could get us on the guest list for tonight if we wanted.

Someone said, "Let's go," and one by one, the rest of us fell in. I felt like I was being swept away on a wave, but I wasn't entirely unhappy about it.

Catherine RYAN HOWARD, *The Liar's Girl*, 2018



▲ Trinity College in Dublin

1. first-year students
2. *se recroqueviller*
3. crazy
4. Public Relations

- a. Read the text and find information about the situation (place, moment of the year, people).
- b. Explain how a sense of community is created.
- c. Focus on the third paragraph: what image of St. John's is given?
- d. React: Would you like to study in this university? Why?



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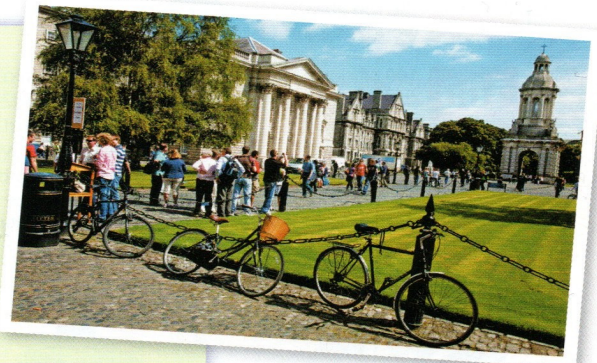
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