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## INSIDE/OUT

A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

GALWEGIANS HAVE EARNED THE RIGHT  
TO BE PROUD AND PASSIONATE

In the latest of our articles looking at life from other people's perspectives, a Danish student who recently visited Galway for the first time shares her views on Irish culture, traditions and people

As a foreigner, when you stroll down the streets of Galway, listen to the traditional music or even get a view of the national sports, you cannot help but notice one very definite thing that separates the Irish people from most other cultures: they have an unmistakable passion for approximately everything they do.

The number of musicians on the streets speaks for itself. Sure, there are a lot of street musicians on the streets of Copenhagen as well, but I dare say that I have never seen anyone here in the land of the Vikings whose passion matches that of the local performers of Galway, and most of them were way too talented to be performing without an ensured pay check!

Then again, it would probably be difficult to contain oneself if you were performing the very passion promoting tunes of the traditional Irish folk music.

What I found to be very appealing about the town of Galway was that, in combination with their passion, the people are very proud of who they are and what their nation represents. I think that when you, as a people, have had to endure a long fight for peace and independence, it leaves its mark.

The physical education teacher who showed us the native sports when we visited St Mary's College showed a refreshing pride in his origins and traditions, something that is often frowned upon in Denmark. I was

even surprised by how I did not myself find it to be inappropriate to display patriotism in public, which is something I definitely would have in Denmark. I think it is because there is no hatred or bitterness found in the Irish people, or at the very least not those I encountered.

I have never been met with a friendlier attitude in my entire life and when you manage to be so incredibly sweet towards the people you meet, I suppose you ought to be proud of who you are. The people of Galway have in my opinion definitely earned the right to be proud and passionate about themselves and their culture.

If you have any comments on this article or anything else you have read in this paper, please email [editor@galwayindependent.com](mailto:editor@galwayindependent.com)

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