Program: University of Westminster, Spring

Ashley’s Major: Economics

Academic Life: The courses at the University of Westminster were comprised of lectures as well as seminars. Each course was a variety of students from Americans, local students, or other international students. One main difference between the education system in America and England was that the students only study one subject throughout their entire university career and do not take any other courses outside of that subject.

Flat-Life: I lived in a residence hall called Alexander Fleming Hall in the east London area of Shoreditch. This residence hall was comprised of international students. The building was made up of flats of six bedrooms, two bathrooms, and one communal kitchen and everyone in the flat had his or her own bedroom. These halls were very safe and secure and also had a reception team on duty 24 hours a day.

Home Away from Home: I realized that I felt completely at home and comfortable when the local coffee shop workers right outside my residence hall would recognize me after about a month of being a regular. This moment made me feel like a part of the community and it was a very satisfying experience. After getting into a routine and finding my favorite places in London it was so easy to feel at home and a sense of belonging.

Advice for Someone Considering London: There is always something going on in London and anyone can find their niche in a city filled with several cultures and lifestyles. It is one of the largest cities in the world so if you are not a “city person,” it may be a more difficult adjustment. You are surrounded by people and different cultures all of the time and each and every day is a chance to learn something new. If you ever wanted to get away from the city for a day, you can hop on the train and go to the countryside.

“Self-discovery is just one more advantage to studying abroad and it can be very rewarding.”

ASHELY HANSON

Ashley in an iconic London phone booth with Big Ben in the background.