Program: University of Bristol Exchange, Spring

Noah’s Majors: Economics; Political Science

Academic Life: I took three classes - Social Policy and the Environment; Social Policy and the Welfare State; and Youth Justice. The classes were very focused on paper/exams, and there was no homework or quizzes in any of my classes; however, the final exams are worth a large percent of your grade, in some cases over half. The classroom experience was very small. All of my classes were with British students.

First Impression: My initial thought was that the university is not mapped out like most U.S. universities are. Since Bristol is a very old city, the Uni had to expand in accordance with it. Land is very limited so the Uni had to re-purpose old houses as classrooms. It was very interesting and showed me just how far back the history of the country goes.

Advice for Someone Considering Bristol: The United Kingdom has a very similar culture to the U.S. partially due to the same language. It was very easy to get acquainted with the new customs and slang. That was one of the reasons that I chose this particular program.

Housing: I lived in a university sponsored apartment building. My flat had 4 other flatmates in it. They were all from London or the surrounding cities. It was a very typical flat with each of us having our own room and a shared kitchen/common area.

New Perspectives: I know that it sounds cliché, but just hearing about other parts of the world really doesn’t give you an understanding of it. You can read about Stonehenge or the Eiffel Tower, but it really doesn’t click until you see them in person. I grew as a person so much over the term and I can attribute that almost entirely to seeing the world from new perspectives.

“Study abroad helped me understand how others can come to different opinions.”