LEEDS, ENGLAND

CHIA VĂNG

Program: University of Leeds, Spring

Chia’s Major: Human Development and Family Studies, Education and Educational Services Certificate

Academic Life: The classroom experience at Leeds University is quite similar to UW-Madison. I took classes with British students and with other international students from different countries. The classes that I enrolled in were from all kinds of departments: some in design, education, environmental sciences and psychology. The courses I took were well-organized and taught by professors from the United Kingdom. Classroom expectations were a bit different than at UW-Madison. In most classes, final grades were based solely on one single exam, which can be pretty nerve wracking.

Living in Leeds: Leeds is a really student friendly city. It’s bigger than Madison in population size but the city was pretty compact and easy to navigate. There are many student housing options. I chose Oxley Residences which was pretty far from the university campus. A bus pass or personal bike was needed to travel to campus. Even though it was far away Oxley was definitely a great place to live. It was farther from the city and closer to nature. In the spring students would have BBQs and picnics. Along with the events, it had its own gym and laundry facilities. It definitely became a second home to me.

Advice for Someone Considering Your Program: Of course there are many things to consider when studying abroad but experiences are what really matters at the end of the day. Leeds is an incredible city. Leeds University is one of the best in England and boasts a great student atmosphere. England in general is a wonderful place full of rich history and culture. It’s also a great base to travel to other parts of Europe.

Leeds as a Second Home: Studying abroad can be intimidating but the moment that I didn’t hesitate to do things on my own and realized that I wasn’t lost getting to the city center was when I really knew that Leeds had become my new home.

“I learned a whole new side to myself that I never thought existed.”