LEEDS, ENGLAND

MAGDELYN MUELLER

Program: University of Leeds Exchange, Spring

Magdelyn’s Major: Biology

Academic Life: The academic experience at Leeds shared many similarities with UW-Madison. My science classes had the same lecture format that we are used to here, with a professor at the head of a lecture hall of roughly 50-100 students. In general, class sizes were smaller than at UW and this allowed for more professor-student interaction. I had no teacher’s assistants as my primary educators. My classmates were a mix of international and local students.

Housing: I lived in an on-campus dorm called Central Village. It was suite-style with 6 single rooms, each equipped with a bathroom, and a large common room/kitchen where my flatmates and I socialized. All my flatmates were international students like me: two from Canada, one from Australia, one from the U.S., and one from China.

Benefits of Study Abroad: Study abroad equipped me with a sense of autonomy that can only be learned through finding yourself in a brand new place. I learned to take charge of my every day activities and plans for the future because I had to face the fact that I couldn’t just stick to routine, since everything around me was different from my usual environment.

Advice for Someone Considering Leeds: The program at Leeds is so well organized and developed. The opportunities to become comfortable and meet people begin as soon as you arrive. I am such a homebody, so I was completely shocked when homesickness didn’t set in. The study abroad office at Leeds does a fantastic job connecting you with other international students who are in the same position as you.

Tip for Future Students: Go to the cheesy ice breakers set up in the beginning! Everyone there will become your second family and it’s totally worth stepping out of your comfort zone for!

“I have a huge appreciation for the vast and varying lifestyles and cultures that exist between and across borders.”

Magdelyn (right) with friends on a trip to Prague.