LEEDS, ENGLAND

SUZANNE PHALEN

Program: University of Leeds Exchange, Fall

Suzanne’s Majors: Psychology and Neurobiology

Academic Life: The academic experience was very different at the University of Leeds. Class sizes were much smaller. It made it more hands on and provided for more interaction with other students. I took Neurobiology, Introduction to Medieval European Literature, and Applied Psychology: Critical Issues. A different lecturer came in for each new topic. The major difference was that I mostly had to write essays and do presentations. I only took two multiple choice exams. I definitely felt like my writing skills improved during my semester abroad. The final exams were after the winter break, meaning that students were expected to study over this break and then come back to take exams. I liked that it gave students more time to study, but I would have rather not had to worry about exams and papers over the holidays.

Housing: I lived in a flat that was owned by the university. The flat consisted of five bedrooms and a shared kitchen and bathroom. The flat was on one of three floors in one of multiple buildings that were part of the accommodation. I spent a lot of time with my flatmates, who were all international students, so I learned a lot about the countries they were from. We had a lot of fun together because we all were in the same boat. We explored Leeds together and went to events in the area.

Suzanne’s First Impression of England: My initial impression was that in general everyone was really nice and willing to help. It felt like a very different place from the US, but it was not an uncomfortable kind of strange.

What Studying Abroad Taught Suzanne About Herself: I learned what I want to do with my future and career. I also decided that I want travel to be a part of my life from now on. There is so much to learn about other places, and the best way to do that is not just by doing the tourist attractions.

“I now have knowledge about the world that one can’t get from a textbook or online.”