

LONDON, ENGLAND

CATHERINE RITTER

Program: UW in London, Spring

Catherine's Majors: Political Science; History

Academic Life: In addition to taking electives, instructed by British professors at FIE, I took a class taught by a UW professor. There is a heavy emphasis on experiential learning, which brings the course material into a modern London context. Through my classes I was able to visit a range of sites around London, from the British Museum, to the Houses of Parliament, Kew Gardens, and Shakespeare's Globe.

Internship Abroad: I worked in the office of Emily Thornberry, Member of Parliament for the Labour Party. While initially my work was mainly administrative (filing, scanning, etc), I gradually became more involved in their operations. This was my first internship directly in politics, and it was an incredibly useful first experience. Gaining experience in so many different areas helped me learn more about my own strengths, and informed my future career goals in politics. While studying abroad already puts you in a unique category of student, completing an internship abroad is even more rare. Your internship will be an incredible addition to your existing work experience, and will give you an edge to future employers.

Memorable Moments: London is a city of many different, conflicting identities. Most notably, London manages to be extremely modern despite being one of the oldest cities in the world. I loved exploring London's historic past as much as I loved spotting Banksy street art and eating at London's famed markets.

Experience for the Future: While feeling like a fish out of water is certainly not comfortable at first, it is necessary for growth. Study abroad participants have a sense of independence, adaptability, and confidence that comes with learning to navigate a completely new environment. Ultimately, these skills cannot be taught in the classroom, but give individuals an important edge in any future career endeavors.



Catherine with The Shard (of Glass) in the background, U.K.'s tallest building.

“Studying abroad is completely an individual experience - you are in charge of your own time.”

