Program: UW in London, Spring

Kimberly’s Major: English-Creative Writing

Academic Life: I took five classes. British Life and Cultures was taught in a relaxed atmosphere that allowed students to ask questions freely and promoted learning in the classroom. The students in this class were from other American universities which diversified the classroom and started thought-provoking conversations. Contemporary British Theatre was taught both inside and outside the classroom, as many classes involved going to shows in various theaters throughout London. These theater visits allowed me to see London whilst appreciating a theater experience vastly different than any in the US. The other students in this class were from UW-Madison. The final three classes I took (London Writers, Observing Natures, and a Directed Study) were all taught by Susan Bernstein, a professor from UW-Madison. Her classes were small, allowing for individual attention to students, all of whom were from UW-Madison.

Most Memorable Moments: One of my most memorable experiences has to be when I visited the British Library for my Directed Study and held materials handwritten by both Virginia Woolf and Arthur Conan Doyle. I ended up reading a Sherlock Holmes story handwritten by Arthur Conan Doyle in its entirety, because I was so enveloped in the way he wrote - not just what he wrote. Reading Virginia Woolf’s handwritten suicide letter also had a massive impact. I could then bring myself into her world, empathize with her thoughts and feelings, and understand her writings better. It is something I will never forget.

Tips for Someone Considering the Program: The one tip I would advise anyone even considering studying abroad: don’t be afraid of being afraid! Whether you are lost in the city or struggling to understand a new language, these are challenges that you will overcome and conquer. Your struggle through these challenges will only make you stronger! Take advantage of the situation, because it truly is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

“At the end of the program, I had transformed into a stronger, wiser, and more confident person.”

Kimberly at the Wellington Arch near Hyde Park.