Program: University of Westminster, Summer

Ryan's Majors: Finance; Physics

Academic Life: I enrolled in two 3-week modules (classes) at the University of Westminster Regent Street campus, about 25 minutes by tube from the residence hall. I took Financial Markets (small class – 12 people) and Institutions and International Business (larger class – 30 people). The course topics were interesting and relevant to my business education. Classes had lecture and discussion time. Coursework ranged from in-class presentations and reports, to essays, and a cumulative exam. Depending on the class, classmates were either mostly American students, or local and international students.

Housing: I lived in Alexander Fleming Residence Hall. Most of my dorm-mates were American, but a few were international or local. Some of the noteworthy differences between this hall and an American residence hall were the tiny showers, the confusing oven and stove (or “hob”), and the lack of air conditioning.

Benefits of Study Abroad: Spending time abroad gives you more self-confidence in coping in a new environment. I always considered myself “bad with directions,” but mastering the London tube and bus system disproved that. Little things such as figuring out how to work my phone, order coffee, and buy groceries abroad helped me realize that I’m not totally hopeless in new environments.

Advantages for the Future: Studying in London gave me new perspectives on global issues in politics and business. Being in London during “Brexit,” getting to know the popular London companies and brands, and learning about the government economic systems such as Bank of England will give me background information for my business classes and when entering the business environment after college.