

LONDON, ENGLAND

SOPHIA DRAMM

Program: UW in London, Spring

Sophia's Majors: Journalism; Mass Communication

Academic Life: I took classes in London taught by professors from FIE. I took British Life and Cultures, Media in Britain, and Treasure Troves: Art Archives, as well as participated in an internship for half of the semester. Treasure Troves was taught by Prof. Tom Loeser, of the UW Art Department. That class was with all UW students. My other classmates were American students from other universities in FIE. It was comforting to be with American students who were all going through the same experiences as me.

Internship Abroad: I interned at an interior design company in London. I ended up doing a lot of administrative work around the office, like running errands and managing budgets. I was disappointed that I was not able to do work related to my major, but no matter what work I did, I have the unique experience of international work that I believe future employers will find appealing.

Self-Exploration: The biggest lesson I learned about myself was what kind of person I am. I went on my program knowing no one prior, with no friends. Being out of my comfort zone, with no people to pre-identify myself/personality/values, allowed me to figure out who I really am. No one knew me from my life before, so I could be the best person I wanted to be.

Advice to Someone Considering this Program: Consider who you want to be surrounded by. I lived, studied and socialized with all Americans from my program, because I was surrounded by them. I wish I could have gotten a cultural experience by interacting more with British people.

Finding Home: I was so scared before I got settled in London. I treated my fear by exploring London. I was distracted from feeling homesick, and soon, I felt at home in London.



Sophia with the Tower Bridge in the background.

“My experience helped me develop cross-cultural communication skills.”

