



# BODS ABROAD

Special Edition, Washburn's International Accent

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## Internship in London with a Member of Parliament

Bethanee Boeh

This past summer I was fortunate to receive a summer internship working for a Member of Parliament in the House of Commons. I received the internship through Dr. Bob Beatty, a Political Science professor at Washburn, who had interviewed Paul Flynn (the Member of Parliament that I worked for) for a documentary that he was doing. Being a Political Science major, I jumped at the opportunity to go. I worked for Parliament for two months and really expanded my knowledge of the Parliamentary system of government.



Bethanee Boeh with MP Paul Flynn Photo by Boeh

By working for Parliament, I recognized differences between their government system and our own and received the opportunity to work on very interesting legislation. I researched on different bills that my Member of Parliament (Mr. Flynn) assigned me to do and wrote reports concerning amendments that had been changed as the bills passed through the House of Lords and the House of Commons. I also went through the mail every day and addressed questions that people living in Mr. Flynn's constituency needed information about. Also, I tabled questions to the Prime Minister as well as ministers of other departments addressing questions that Mr. Flynn needed answered.



Big Ben

Photo by Boeh

Working for Parliament was a great experience and the House of Commons was a beautiful place to work. I think that by traveling to London, I really learned a lot about how their government system is set up and how it operates. Also, I think that by traveling abroad, I not only became enlightened by their culture, but I came home a wiser and more worldly person because of it.

## Mysteries and Misconceptions of Cuba

Andrea VanBecelaere

The mysteries and misconceptions that surround our neighboring country of Cuba made my trip this summer even more incredible.

I saw some of the benefits of extreme socialism, such as free health care and education, but also saw the limitations and lack of freedoms and food.

Although nowhere near fluent in Spanish, I was able to communicate basic phrases. Each time the Cuban that I was speaking with understood what I was trying to say, it increased my confidence in the language and pushed me to become more fluent.

One of the most memorable experiences was visiting the catacombs monument of Cuban hero

and guerilla warrior, Che Guevera. There was such deep respect and extreme precautions that inside the tomb, you were not allowed to talk, take pictures, or carry bags. It gave us all a moment of reflection on Cuban history and the lives of those killed in the revolution.

I now have a broad base of knowledge and understanding of Cuban history and Cuban-US relations because I went to Cuba. I am glad that I did not let fear or misconceptions of Cuba stop me from studying abroad. I came away from Cuba with the understanding that it is not a country to be afraid of and with regret that most Americans are barred from traveling to this fascinating country that is so rich in history but so poor in pesos.

## **A Summer Like None Other: Art in Italy**

Susan Jobe

The beginning of the summer started like none I had ever experienced. Shortly after my graduation ceremony at Washburn University, I was allowed the opportunity to travel to Italy to study Italian works of art. With the guidance of Professor Edward Navone I was able to explore an entirely new world, full of new people and new culture.

From this trip I was able to take in a wide variety of art work, experience a new and exciting place on my own, and most importantly meet new friends. I feel that I was very fortunate to be a student on this trip. From this experience I believe I have become a more well-rounded individual and more open to new things.

Although it is hard to pinpoint only one highlight of the trip, the visit to see the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican was something that I will never forget. I had looked forward to seeing this astounding piece of art and when the opportunity came, I did not want to leave the room. Its beauty and rich color (especially after recent restoration) was indescribable.

From this trip, I urge other students to take the opportunity to travel before finishing college. Not only will you learn new things about different parts of the world, but you will learn new things about

yourself. Before I took the trip to Italy, I had only dreams of what it would be like, after returning home I have some of the best memories of my life and still I have dreams of going back.

## **Sights and Sounds in London**

Amanda Bayens



*Amanda Bayens with her father in London. Photo by Bayens*

My trip to London was extremely educational and beneficial to me. Not only did I enjoy the sights, sounds and tastes (some of them, anyway!) of London, but I also feel that going there really gave me a true idea of the way the British feel about Americans in general and what their reactions have been to the war in Iraq and America's foreign policy.

I do not have one specific memory or experience that was the highlight of my trip because I enjoyed everything equally, and I think that everything I did was educational. My favorite aspect of London was viewing all the architecture. The buildings and layout of the city were gorgeous and you just don't see buildings that are that old here in the US because we just aren't as old as Britain. I really like how the city has really made an effort to preserve the original feeling of some buildings and neighborhoods. One night I went to the "Old Mitre Tavern", a tavern that had been established in the 1600s and is still a popular place to get a British beer and sandwich today.



Street scene in London

Photo by Bayens

## Spain: Living Cultural Museum

Albert Glassburn

Spain is a living cultural museum, and houses as varied and rich a heritage as the oldest of civilizations. As much of its ancient history continues to be unearthed, the Spanish have not forgotten the greatest lesson in life—to live fruitfully. Pamplona’s Feria of San Fermin, better known for the running of the bulls, may be one of the greatest worldwide events of celebration, but to miss the relaxed, sandy beaches of Mallorca or the never-ending Ibiza MTV clubland, the Gardens of Granada and flamenco dances in Sevilla scarcely captures an ephemeral breath of the immensity of distractions.

Sure it was brilliant to have attended a dozen bullfights, even meeting mythic toreros at the capital of arenas, which later would host musical performances by Oreja de Van Gogh. But the greatest accomplishment of the last year involved the forging of friendships... Never did I expect to have met such astonishing, beautiful, intellectual, and open-minded people. They are the summation of a lifetime of experiences in one year spent abroad. These are the people with whom I lived the Spanish experience: Erasmus students (Europeans, Middle-Easterners, Africans, and North/South Americans), businessmen, artists, chefs, and international sports athletes from every social class. They challenged and supported the foundations of my human identity, and inspired a global awareness and concern that our solipsistic American culture sometimes forgets. We all have something to learn from one another.

## Banking in Bucharest

Ty Walrod

It was a great privilege to spend six weeks at Raiffeisen Bank this summer. I learned a great many things in my time there, and there’ll always be more to learn—whether by the books, the people, or the culture. I consider it an honor that few of my colleagues from Kansas will ever get to experience, and I know that was positively affected by the changing business culture of Bucharest and Romania.

## International Politics in Cambridge, England

Jacquelyn Pingleton

This summer I attended Cambridge University in Cambridge, England. It was definitely one of the most incredible experiences of my life. I met amazing people from all over the world, saw shows and all the sights in London on the weekends, and learned so much in my classes.

*(Continued on next page)*



Me and the girls before our last dinner at Selwyn



Julia and I at the Eagle (our favorite pub)



Photo by Pingleton

I loved going to pubs, eating fish and chips, punting on the Cam, seeing people on bicycles wearing very English hats, the British Museums...seeing Degas, Van Gogh, Renoir, Vermeer, Monet, and Rembrandt up close, going to Much Ado About Nothing at Shakespeare’s Globe, all of the castle-like buildings, the accents (of course!), and all of the friends I made. I took International Politics,

which was fascinating because most of the people weren't from America, so I definitely got some new perspectives on global issues. I have a much stronger grasp on International Relations and feel like I have a unique advantage due to my opportunity to learn about it at Cambridge, in an international setting.

The really great thing about this trip (and ones like it), is that you have such a complete experience. It's not just a vacation, although you see the sights. It's not just school, although you go to class. It's not just meeting new people, although you walk away with lifelong friendships. You really grow...you have been exposed to beauty, culture, architecture, art, music, diverse people, knowledge, ideas, and a whole lot of fun...you can't help coming back with broadened horizons and being a better person. I had the time of my life, and I highly recommend it to anyone who can go.

## **Highlights from a Study Trip to Cuba**

Matthew Johns

A highlight for me was going on the walking tour our first day. We saw the Cathedral of Havana, the Plaza of Arms, Havana Harbor, the biggest fortress in Cuba, the U.S.S. Maine memorial, U.S. Interest Group (Embassy). We also saw the Plaza of Revolution and the Museum of Revolution in which we saw the Gramma, a boat that Castro used during the Revolution. But, in my opinion the main highlight for me was seeing the Bay of Pigs and the Museum. I have never seen a beach so shallow and clear in my life. I felt like I was in Paradise. I also had fun in Trinidad and Santa Clara, Cuba as well. Our group visited the Cuban National Capitol which is based off of the United States Capitol. I learned a lot from going to Cuba like how the government works and about the economy. I also learned that the healthcare and education are free.

This experience has impacted me a lot. I have always liked to travel, but now I want to travel more around the world and see different cultures. I think that everyone should have this opportunity as I did to see a different culture. I think that other people will learn a lot and have a great story when

they get back to the States. I have been to Canada and Mexico before, but this was my first time leaving the continent of North America.

## **Study Abroad Fair**

**11:00 to 1:00, Thursday, November 18  
Lobby of the Union across from the Corner  
Store**

**Learn about Your Options  
\$ Scholarships Available \$**