

Student Name & Contact information: Brady Gogel: bg152@evansville.edu

Program Title: Harlaxton College Study Abroad Program

Program location: Grantham, United Kingdom

Program time table: August 26 - December 12, 2021

Summary of experience:

The Harlaxton study abroad program was one of the best experiences of my life. After arrival to Harlaxton Manor, the first week was spent settling into life abroad in England without my comforts of home. It took the whole week to get accustomed to the time change and the weather England is known for. Before classes start, the manor faculty had activities and meetings planned to get students involved and interact with faculty, peers, and clubs and activities. The program consisted of 45 students total with students from Baker University, University of Evansville, Texas Lutheran University, and Florida Southern College. A total of 14 UE nursing students attended the Harlaxton study abroad program. The program lasted for 4 months.

Some activities I participated in were volunteering with the local scouts, helping with manor open houses, and sewing club. All students were divided up into four houses like Harry Potter. These houses helped students meet other peers from different universities and to participate in house competitions. House competitions are activities where all four houses compete to win points and eventually earn a prize at the end of the semester. Throughout the semester I participated in many house competitions and they have helped me connect with my peers and develop close friendships. The program also offered a meet a family experience where you can develop a close relationship with a local family. With UE nursing, we held many social events ranging from a McMillan tea fundraiser for cancer research, a community health fair for students and faculty, and a sexual health seminar for students.

Most of my course work was condensed into Monday-Wednesday and my weekends were designated to travel and learn. Throughout the semester I traveled with the school on school trips and then I also traveled independently. Some of the independent trips I went on were, fall break in Athens, Greece, Paris, France, and Prague, Czech Republic. Some school trips I attended were Sir Isaac Newton's House, North Wales, Eyam, London, Lake District, Chatsworth, Southwell Workhouse, and the University of Lincoln. Traveling to all these cities and countries I loved seeing the different architecture and trying all of the different local foods.

Learning achievements:

I was so impressed by England and all the countries I had the chance to experience. I absolutely loved learning about the culture and foods of the countries I traveled to. I also loved learning about the architecture and history of the cities I visited in England. But most of all I loved learning about the difference in health care between England and the U.S. One thing that I learned that impacted me greatly was the children's hospice houses. In the U.S. hospices house are geared more towards an older population and I realize we tend to forget about the families of terminally ill children. We also forget that a hospice house is not a death house it can be a place of peace, a place where patients and families don't have to worry about medications and treatments and can just be present with their loved ones. I was also shocked about the amount of

charity, and upcycling the country of England does, compared to the U.S. coming back to the U.S. I will carry these new experiences with me and grow into a better person and nurse.

Program strengths:

The Harlaxton study abroad program had many strengths that made it a one-of-a-lifetime experience. The faculty and staff were friendly and very welcoming. I also loved the food and the kitchen staff. They made delicious British dishes and were more than happy to take feedback on meals, suggestions on new meal options, and cater to your dietary needs. I also loved the school activities and trips they offered. Many activities and school trips were offered each week. The student engagement staff was excellent in making the semester experience fun and exciting for everyone. They also were excellent in helping you plan and organize your independent travel to other countries. Overall the program was an excellent experience and I highly recommend other students to study abroad.

Program shortcomings:

For me, there were very few and minor shortcomings for this program however, there is one I would like to bring to attention. One would be 'access to counseling. With traveling and living away from friends and family your mental health can take a great toll. The program had a counselor later in the semester however, they were available for a limited time and with a large number of students' access was limited what I suggest would be to add a counseling team. Adding at least one more counselor with more availability would greatly help the mental health of students who attend. My term at Harlaxton was one of the smallest due to COVID rules however, later terms are predicted to return to full capacity, so a counseling team would be beneficial for the number of students that will attend in the future.

Impact:

My time at Harlaxton will stay with me for the rest of my life. I am glad I got to experience different cultures and learn more about England's healthcare. I was surprised to learn about the difference in healthcare and hospice organizations between the British health care system and the American healthcare system. It has taught me that charity-funded organizations can be just effective as privately owned health care organizations. Not, only did I learn a lot that I can relate to my future career as a health professional, but I also learned a lot about myself as a person. I learned more effective ways to communicate professionally and I have acknowledged my own barriers when it comes to communication. I've also learned better ways to cope with my mental health in a healthy way and how to grow as a better person by acknowledging my faults. Overall it was an amazing 15-week experience.

Below I have included a few pictures of my time abroad. If you have any questions or would like to know more about my experience feel free to contact me.



Exploring ...Castle in North Wales.



Taking goofy photos at Harlaxton after a day of nursing clinical.



Celebrating the 50th anniversary of Harlaxton.



Experiencing London transportation and night life.

Trying boba tea for the first time at a pit stop on our way to the Lake District.



Hiking in Athens Greece.



Exploring the town of Grantham.



Meeting my meet-a-family with another fellow student.



Visiting the Eiffel tower in Paris, France

