

University of Evansville  
Spirit of Life Scholarship Student Report

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Harlaxton College Fall 2021

Grantham, England

August 25, 2021- December 12, 2021

**Summary of experience:**

My study abroad experience at Harlaxton College was one I will always remember. As someone who has always lived at home and even on the same street, being away from home was a great opportunity to grow in my independence. I traveled to Scotland, Italy, Greece, Chania, Rome, Spain, Iceland, Liverpool, Manchester, London, Chatsworth, Lincoln, South well Workhouse, and many other cities! I even got to cross a few things off my bucket list! Our clinical experiences brought us to Lincoln, Plague Village, and many other little towns in England. With having school Monday through Wednesday and Tuesday as my clinical day, I was able to be immersed in other cultures.

With only 45 students in this semester, I feel that we grew closer with each other compared to other classes. I participated in many of the Harlaxton associated culture trips such as to Lincoln. These trips immersed us in culture yet gave us the independence to experience it on our own with some direction. The nursing class also hosted the McMillan tea fundraiser and raised over 500 dollars for local patients with cancer in the Grantham and Lincolnshire areas. Alongside this event, we also hosted a health fair where we educated on pertinent health topics. I oversaw taking blood pressures and educating on cardiovascular health. These were both such great experiences to bond with the community members.

**Learning Achievements:**

In the beginning of the semester, I was selected as the Harlaxton College Senior Class Representative, for this position I would attend faculty meetings, serve as an advocate for the nursing students, and be a contact person for faculty. I believe this was one of my biggest achievements and I feel that immersing in different cultures helped me achieve this goal. Through differing clinical experiences at hospice houses and the plague village, I feel that it has helped me obtain a more well-rounded education to provide more culturally competent care in my practice. We also completed a research paper on comparing US and English health care systems. This was prior to our clinical work to understand the culture in which we would provide care.

**Program Strengths:**

A major program strength I experienced was such great immersion into the culture. Not only by having a host family, but also allowing students to access culture trips to differing cities at free cost. Many cities I wanted to visit were included in these culture trips and I found these trips to be very impactful. I think students really took advantage of them this semester as well as also us growing closer on these trips. I believe that in conjunction with these trips we received a briefing prior to departure for recommendations on historical sites to visit throughout the day. I think this was beneficial to have an idea of what places I wanted to visit.

I believe another program strength was the opportunity to have a host family. This was one of my favorite experiences. I absolutely loved my host family and was invited over for Sunday dinners and much more. I was able to meet with my host parents' daughter who is a nurse in the United Kingdom. It was fantastic to learn firsthand what it is like to be a nurse in the United Kingdom. She had also been a nurse in the United States when she was a newer nurse and explained the process of transferring her license.

**Program Shortcomings:**

I think there were so many positives this semester that made the shortcomings almost nonexistent. I think one shortcoming I recognized was the last-minute notice on things. I know this is hard to avoid sometimes, however, I felt that it was recurrent on multiple occasions.

**Impact:**

Through differing clinical experiences at Dove Hospice, Rainbow Hospice, Plague Village, and many others, I found myself growing in curiosity of Hospice Nursing. As this has been a previous passion of mine, I feel this has greatly accentuated the feeling. Rainbow Hospice for example was a children's hospice house that was funded strictly by sponsors and not the government. This gave the company the power to do things how they want. Therefore, Rainbow Hospice made their services free of charge for the family and the children that were needing to utilize resources. These clinical experiences opened my eyes to new possibilities. I believe these powerful experiences were strengths of the program. I believe they challenged us in new ways we did not know were possible and really pushed us to learn.

One of the other clinicals that left the largest impacts was the South well Workhouse. This culture trip was not what I expected and was a very eye-opening experience. Understanding this history that plays such a crucial role in history and societal impacts. These experiences will stay with me forever as I go into practice.

