



Spirit of Life Foundation Report

Name: Angela Jansen, University of Evansville

Program: Study abroad at Harlaxton Manor

Location: Grantham, England

Time: Fall semester of 2019

Summary: This scholarship enabled me to spend my most recent semester abroad in England. It was an incredible, nuanced, experience. I visited numerous sites throughout both England and Europe (Amsterdam, Edinburgh and Iceland were highlights): sites of cultural importance, those of historical importance, and numerous galleries and museums. All these travels allowed me to gather a great deal of new knowledge, and I had a wonderful time doing so.

Learning: The primary course of study at Harlaxton Manor is a six-credit British history course. This rigorous class taught me about the culture and history of England and its neighbors. I had little knowledge of these things prior to the course but ended with an A- and a new understanding of British identity. Outside of classwork, notable visits included Woolsthorpe Manor (where Isaac Newton was born), The Kilns (C.S. Lewis' house), Scottish Parliament, and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Strengths: The primary benefit of this course was the many incredible learning opportunities it afforded. In addition to the cultural immersion of living in a different country (and continent) for three months, I was able to live and learn with students from different colleges, which brought me outside the UE experience. This program also contained opportunities to travel both with the college and independently.

Weaknesses: Unfortunately, Harlaxton Manor had a limited number of courses as a consequence of having a limited pool of professors. I found my classes enlightening but was unable to put any credits toward my major, software engineering. Additionally, the students were all from US universities, and we had limited day-to-day contact with people from different cultures.

Impact: I have gained a new understanding of numerous cultures and European history. I have also made new friends, as well as a renewed sense of self-sufficiency. It has given me

knowledge beyond the average college experience, and I feel overwhelmed by the amount of new ideas I was exposed to. As such, this program has advanced both myself and my education (and by extension, career). I cannot recommend it enough. Thank you for helping to make this possible for me.

