



**Erin Moellenhoff**  
**Spirit of Life Scholarship**  
**Post- Harlaxton Reflection**

My time at Harlaxton and my study abroad experiences were truly lifechanging. Personally, I believe that Harlaxton may be the most rewarding programs in which I have had the opportunity to take part. The Spirit of Life Scholarship helped to give me that opportunity. I was able to visit places that I thought I would only ever see in pictures. I was a part of experiences that I had dreamed of since I was a little girl. This scholarship helped me turn those dreams into reality by allowing me to take part in a program that I can sincerely say changed my life.

I have wanted to study abroad since I was a junior in high school visiting the University of Evansville where I heard about Harlaxton for the first time. Admittedly, I was drawn in by the breathtaking pictures of the manor where I immediately wanted to live. After talking to previous Harlaxton students and doing more research, I realized that Harlaxton really is an incredible program. While you get to stay in a manor house that makes you feel like royalty, Harlaxton itself is so much more than that. It is a program that puts the world at your fingertips while providing

you a welcoming home away from home while staying overseas. When you stay at the manor, you are a part of a community that is bigger than yourself. You become a part of a rich history of so many others who have had the privilege of calling that incredible manor home. As a student you have the privilege of learning from top professors with very diverse backgrounds.

I am an Exercise Science major with admittance into a Doctor of Physical Therapy Program. As such, I have a background that mostly consists of life science and sciences of movements. While I love my major and Physical Therapy, I wanted my Study Abroad experience to challenge me in ways I have never been. As a result, I took an Intro to Theatre Class in the hopes of making me a more well-rounded individual. The professor, Mr. Eric Renschler, is not only the head of the Theatre Department at the University of Evansville, but he is also a former Broadway set designer. As a result of taking the class, I was able to see productions all over England, from the Central West End of London to regional theatre in Stamford. We saw modern comedies and new productions, as well as timeless classics like Shakespeare's Twelfth Night and Taming of the Shrew. I learned about the art of Theatre and what goes into each production. As a result, I have gained so much more of an appreciation for theatre as a whole and a desire to see and learn more of it. I feel like I now have a better understanding for drama and art production, as well as the people who are involved in it. This means that I can connect with people better. I have a new frame of reference because I have been able to learn about a world that was previously undiscovered for me. Personally, I feel that this was the best class for my overall development.

Travelling to other places allowed me to grow as an individual in similar ways my theatre class did. When I travelled, I was exposed to ways of life that were completely new to me. I tried new foods, tried to learn new languages, and experienced different cultures. I had conversations with people who had never been to the United States, and whose first language was not English. I

was able to catch a glimpse into the daily lives of these people living in cities thousands of miles from home. I found a new appreciation for all of these different and unique places and their cultures. That appreciation was one of the big reasons I wanted to study abroad in the first place. However, I was surprised to see how many similarities those people and cultures had with my home and the people I know. I was able to talk about shared interests and hobbies with people that had lived their whole lives on a separate continent than me, and with some people who spoke English as a second language. Traveling abroad has made me feel less isolated and as a result I feel that I am better able to connect with the people around me, both strangers and those that I have known my whole life. That is something that will benefit me in all areas of my life both now and in the future.

The logistics of planning travel was another major aspect of my time abroad that helped my personal development. The act of traveling itself helped make me a more independent person and has strengthened my own confidence. I flew on an airplane by myself for the first time. I had to plan my days and my trips and prioritize what I was able to see and do in the time that I had. These are all skills that I personally will benefit me in my personal life and well as my professional life. As a Physical Therapist, I will be responsible for my patients' treatment plans and their rehabilitation. I feel more prepared for those responsibilities and decisions because of that gained confidence.

Harlaxton and my time spent abroad was truly a life changing experience. I learned so much both academically as well as experientially. This experience has blessed me with countless intangible benefits that will help me personally and professionally for the rest of my life. All things that would not have been possible if not for the Spirit of Life Scholarship. The scholarship allowed

me to take part in the opportunity of a lifetime. I cannot wait to use everything that I have learned to make me a better, more well-rounded individual and future physical therapist.

