

Internship in Guildford / Great Britain 2017

Rain, bad food and cars driving on the wrong side of the road ... that's how I imagined my three-week stay in England. My anticipation was accordingly limited, when my alarm clock rang on the 23rd of September at 5 o'clock in the morning and things got serious.

The meeting point of our group of 20 people was Basel airport, where our journey started. With some delay we finally arrived at our destination -Guildford- in the early afternoon. I was picked up by a lovely elderly couple - Mr. and Mrs. Brooks - and it turned out I shared my new home with three other girls. We also shared a private floor with a bathroom and got a deliciously dinner every night. In retrospect the concerns about bad food were completely unfounded.



The next morning we started with our first program point and went to London with the whole group. We went on a city tour with the famous red double-decker bus, did some sightseeing, painted the town red and visited "The Shard". This skyscraper has a very cool observation deck at almost 245m height, so we were able to look over the whole city of London, making it to my personal highlight.

On Mondays we had classes in college. We were taught in English by Helen and Patrick and spoke e.g. on clichés, do's & don'ts, online marketing and held presentations in groups. The lessons were really exciting as some topics have actually been discussed before at the German vocational school. So we were able to contribute to the lessons.

The rest of the week we spent in the company and supported our new colleagues in their daily activities. I was working with three others for the AppleSeed Bookshop at the University of Surrey. That's a small shop where students can buy their study material and office supplies. We helped to fill the shelves, were available for students having questions and printed hoodies and t-shirts with the university logo. After I finally got out of the box with the British Pounds, even working at the till was fun. The team was really great, everyone was very open minded and friendly and always ready for a little joke.



The university campus is huge and there are mostly students from Asia. They all spoke different dialects and had partly very low English skills, which made me realize that my English was not as terrible as I always thought. At some point I also began to think predominantly in English so I was afraid to forget my mother tongue. It was very funny and all my initial concerns about communication were not necessary at all.

On the weekends we usually went out together in small groups. With so many people the interests simply split up. One weekend we went to the coast by bus to visit Portsmouth and Brighton with their famous harbors and peers. We also visited a "beer" festival (nothing comes close to our German beer :-)) and ended up in an indoor jumping arena with lots of trampolines on the floor and at the wall.



From time to time we managed to go to the pub "Wetherspoon" which turned out to be the favorite hangout for some participants.

I spent three really nice weeks in England with many new impressions as well as new friendships and I found myself suppressing a little tear when the farewell approached. The internship was really worth it and I would highly recommend to anyone interested in spending some time abroad.

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