

THE BEAVER AND I – MY YEAR AT LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

There is so much to say about my year of studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). Not only was (and is) it a fantastic opportunity to spend a year in one of the world's most vibrant and stimulating cities that blends modernism with well-established English traditions (I really enjoyed, for instance, the lively pub culture.); London also boasts several renowned universities and a respective environment filled with students from across the globe. This is particularly true of the LSE and its heraldic animal, the beaver (industrial, but with social habits), who warmly welcomed me in September 2016 as a student of the Masters of Law programme (LL.M.).

At LSE, I found what I was looking for as an already qualified German lawyer: the opportunity to approach legal studies from a perspective that is radically different to any in Germany. Given that the German legal education emphasises the technical aspects of how, in fact, to apply the law, I was hoping that the LSE would take a different approach. After only a few weeks I found that this hope would be more than fulfilled. I chose a broad spectrum of courses, ranging from Philosophy and Dispute Resolution to EU classes, with the latter being even more important given the post-Brexit referendum era. We, in fact, did "law" in all these courses – but, frankly, nothing about its actual application. Instead, we studied the law's implications for both social and political interaction, and the precursors shaping and influencing our legal system. While I was there, the LSE also hosted several first-class speakers and discussion panels on all kinds of hot topics, whether in the fields of law, politics, economics, literature or the arts.

It was, of course, a lot more than a purely academic experience. The LSE, like other UK universities as well, accommodates a huge variety of interests. This was, at least for me, most engaging in the case of the LSE Football Club, which has no less than seven teams competing in various university leagues across London and South East England. Being a member of the 1st team not only opened avenues for an again fundamentally different perspective on my fellow students, it allowed me to explore areas in and around London that I might not otherwise have encountered.

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