



INTERNATIONAL STUDIES IN A COSMOPOLITAN CITY

A few months ago, I started my M.A. in International Relations at King's College London. I can honestly say that I am enjoying every single day of my studies. I get to meet incredibly interesting people, am able to study fascinating modules under the guidance of extremely well-qualified and able lecturers, and get to discover a vibrant and beautiful city that never gets boring.

Having previously studied in a fairly small Bavarian city, the difference between my undergraduate and graduate courses could not be greater. While I did thoroughly enjoy my bachelor's degree, there is something much more cosmopolitan about London. Here, my fellow students come from all over the world, so that I get to hear all sorts of different opinions on world events during our seminar discussions, or even when we just go for a coffee. Particularly since I study international relations, I always try to avoid an excessively Eurocentric view of the world; debating with friends and acquaintances from India, Botswana or Saudi Arabia really helps to broaden my perspective.

The course itself is also highly interesting. In addition to my core module in international relations theory, I was able to choose two optional modules. I ended up with a module on authoritarianism, for which I am currently writing a paper on Egypt's relapse into authoritarianism after a short-lived democratic spell, and a module in strategic communications, in which we cover topics including the communication strategies of Russia or the so-called Islamic State, and of course Donald Trump's mind-boggling election campaign. I also have countless opportunities to attend panel talks and lectures at King's College London by some of the world's leading academics, politicians and philosophers. Needless to say, there are also endless possibilities to spend evenings in a more relaxed manner by visiting one of London's countless theatres, concert venues, restaurants, bars etc. I have also joined the university orchestra, in which I play the violin. In addition to the musical challenge and the element of fun, this has also enabled me to make friends with many students on other university courses, both under- and post-graduate.

Despite being one of the best cities to live in as a student in all other respects, London is notoriously expensive – which is why I am so incredibly grateful to the BCCG and British Airways for supporting me and giving me the opportunity to make the most of my year in England.

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