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Major: Economics | **Minor:** Business Administration

I studied abroad because...

Growing up, I always knew there was so much more the world had to offer and my desire to get abroad only intensified as I continued to grow and learn about other customs and cultures. I have always been captivated stories my friends and family members would tell me from their time abroad. I wanted to study abroad because I felt it was finally my time to have unique, life-changing experiences in an entirely new city and place.

One of my biggest challenges before studying abroad:

I struggled quite a bit with my pre-departure anxiety leading up to my flight from Orlando International Airport to Heathrow. I was moving to a foreign city with over fifty complete strangers and would have to adjust to living and working in a huge metropolitan area for three long months and, quite frankly, I was absolutely petrified. In hindsight, I see now that the fears I was experiencing are absolutely normal! The process of facing my anxieties and fears of what could possibly go wrong during my time abroad presented me with the opportunity for personal growth that can be applied to various aspects of my life.

A typical meal I had while studying abroad:

I had the opportunity to live in a flat with ten other UF students. This allowed us to cook meals together almost daily in order to cut down on the cost of living. For breakfast, I would usually scramble up my own eggs and make a cup of coffee before heading to class or my internship. Lunches consisted of sandwiches from Pret A Manger/Tesco Meal Deals if I was on the run. The majority of my dinners, my roommates and I would cook meals together that consisted of pasta, chicken dishes, pizza, etc.

My favorite spot in my host city:

Borough Market in London was one of my absolute favorite places to visit on the weekends or after my morning classes to grab a bite to eat! They have the most delectable foods ranging from gourmet mac-and-cheese that was famous on the internet, authentic Indian cuisine, and the most delicious sweets.

One cool event I got to experience while abroad:

I was able to spend my summer in London during a World Cup year. Amazingly, England made a quite unpredicted run in the tournament and the atmosphere during England's World Cup matches was electric! Iconically, their victory in penalty kicks against Colombia, which sent them into the Semifinals, was nothing like I had ever seen before. It was if everyone in the city of over 8 million people all ran into the streets at the same time, and it is something I will not soon forget.

The most memorable experience for me while abroad:

I had the opportunity to travel on the weekends during my time in London and on one particular trip I visited Lucerne, Switzerland. I was lucky enough to go paragliding after taking a cable car to the top of Pilatus. The views were absolutely breathtaking, and I was able to see roaming cows and other animals as I strapped into my paragliding harness.

A habit I picked up while abroad:

I learned to be a cleaner roommate out of respects for the ten other people who I lived with this summer. Furthermore, I learned how to cook as we had "family dinners" every week. Also, I now am a huge fan of soccer after seeing what a large role it plays in English culture.

What I found most challenging while abroad:

I think I struggled most with missing my friends and family during the program. I was gone for three months, and as other students on the program had their friends and family visit them in London, it really made me wish that my loved ones could come across the pond as well. Although, it did make me grow into a more independent individual, as I was able to adapt to living in London with strangers who quickly became my study abroad family and support system.

What surprised me most about study abroad was...

I did not expect to make such meaningful relationships with the people I met abroad. I made great friends who attend various universities in London who I truly care about and who I still keep in contact with today. Even at my internship placement, my co-workers were so genuine and I feel truly lucky to have met and worked with the individuals I did.

My last bit of advice:

Take the leap of faith! Have the experiences of your lifetime! Things will most definitely go wrong at some point, but that is part of the experience. Completely emerge yourself into the experience and stay on top of application/visa deadlines so you can get where you want to go and truly live!