



# Life Across the Pond: A Tale of Two Strangers

by Jen Roslon

My life posing as a Brit for five months was an experience that would be impossible to ever forget. Studying abroad through Salisbury University's exchange program at Brunel University in London brought about unexpected friends near and far, and memories that will undoubtedly last a lifetime. Studying abroad exposed me to cultures and traditions that completely contradicted my own American habits. It opened my eyes to new experiences and imposed a new perspective on the important aspects of life. I used to get excited about earning an excellent mark on a test, but while studying abroad I started feeling accomplished in other areas besides the classroom. The sense of achievement of conquering a new form of public transportation, successfully communicating with foreigners,

and learning to maneuver my way through a new city by far tops a good test score.

My journey would have been completely altered however if I had not met Sophie Krull. Sophie is a junior here at Salisbury University. If not for blindly choosing the same program, the two of us were unlikely to ever meet even though we both attend Salisbury University. In the beginning of our time in London for spring term 2015, we were strangers. I knew that I would make many friends from all over the world, but I had not counted on making a new best friend across the Pond who I had unknowingly been in the company of for two previous years.

Now having traveled Europe together, we fondly reminisce back on our time as exchange students.

**JEN:** What were your initial thoughts about studying abroad? I know that I was so excited to have a change of pace but was terrified that I wouldn't make any friends."



**SOPHIE:** "I was nervous because we barely knew each other and that was the first time I was going to be completely on my own. I came in at night and didn't even know how to get a taxi! It was really exciting to finally be independent though and out of the country for the first time."

**JEN:** "We definitely lucked out having each other. Have you always wanted to study abroad? I had been dreaming of this experience since I knew programs like this existed."



**SOPHIE:** “Same with me. My older sister studied abroad in London as well, and from everything she told me about it I just wanted to experience it too.”

**JEN:** “I think one of my favorite memories was going to Dublin, Ireland for St. Patrick’s Day as a big group with all our new friends. Not to mention all the parks, markets, tube rides, and of course food.”

**SOPHIE:** “That’s one of my favorite trips too! Being able to travel all around Europe so easily in general was great. I remember our first trip together was Barcelona and that was definitely one of my favorites too. I just liked having a lot of free time to wander around because there was always something new to do.”

**JEN:** “Exactly. There was never a reason to be bored while we were abroad. A new adventure was around every corner. What is



something you would want to tell prospective study abroad students?”

**SOPHIE:** “I would tell them that they would learn a lot about themselves and the world. Also pay attention to all the different people you would encounter and the stories they have to tell. Indulge every moment and don’t take it for granted.”

Now being back at Salisbury University, Sophie and I can agree that we wouldn’t trade this experience for anything and are so happy this adventure brought us together. The amount of markets that we ate our weights through, neighborhoods we got lost in, and people we met are immeasurable.

Studying abroad will force you to make friends near and far and will test the limits of your comfort zone. Sophie and I started out as strangers but now we share some of our most beloved memories and experiences together that we will always cherish. Take advantage of the programs that SU offers and make the most of your college experience!



Contact Salisbury University’s Center for International Education for more information on studying abroad!

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