

STUDY ABROAD

STUDENT REFLECTIONS

SUMMER 2023



MY NAME IS DANISH NAEEM RAO, AND MY EUROPEAN STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM WAS AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE. It was a great opportunity for me to travel alone and explore myself, new places, and new cultures. I am a junior Computer Science major with an emphasis in Mathematics at Albany State University. Although I am an international student from Pakistan, I have always wanted to study abroad. My study abroad program was organized by ASU English professor, Dr. Nneka Nora Osakwe, who also worked with me in my Intercultural Communication & Diversity course that was integrated into my study abroad trip.

Our first stop was in London, one of the world's oldest cities. Those in search of a transformative study abroad experience will find a warm welcome in London, a thriving metropolis that blends together history, culture, and innovation. London is one of the world's most dynamic and diverse capitals, and it offered me the chance to experience a compelling fusion of academic rigor, cultural legacies, and international connectivity. We visited Buckingham Palace and the Windsor Castle, two stunningly magnificent yet ancient structures. Being a Muslim who has never visited a Christian church, it was exciting to tour Windsor Castle and see the inside of a worship center for the first time in my life. I learned the value of diversity and treating everyone with dignity, in addition to valuing and respecting those differences.

My study abroad program also taught me how to function more effectively in multi-cultural settings, whether it's in a workplace or university environment. Touring Scotland was no exception. We went for dinner at Akbar's Restaurant, which is a famous Pakistani restaurant in Glasgow. Glasgow had many different varieties of food and the food tasted so delicious—it reminded me of home. The city of Glasgow is the largest city in Scotland and the third-largest city in the United Kingdom. Known for its rich history, vibrant culture, and friendly locals, Glasgow taught me how to be more open to persons of many faiths and ethnic backgrounds and to accept people the way they are. I learned to be more patient and the importance of collaboration with people from many walks of life as a result of this study abroad experience.

