



Foundation for International Education

Newsletter Fall 2006

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Program Highlights

Madrid Study Program Offers Immersion for Upper-Level Language Students



FIE's unique partnership with the Universidad Europea de Madrid (UEM) in Spain now offers students at upper-intermediate and advanced Spanish language levels complete immersion in the Spanish language and culture. In addition to enrolling directly in UEM classes with Spanish students, FIE students will take a language course,

study Hispanic culture and engage in UEM's Tandem program, which matches Spanish and international students for conversational language study. A comprehensive on-site orientation, site visits, field work and other co-curricular activities complement in-class work to create a well-balanced immersion program.

UEM is located just 20 kilometers southwest of central Madrid near the town of Villaviciosa de Odón. This location affords students both proximity to a major European city, Madrid, and the atmosphere of an authentic Spanish village. Villaviciosa is home to open-air sculpture and botanical

gardens, architectural landmarks and a variety of weekly markets. Serving as home to almost half of the 8,000 UEM student population, Villaviciosa is comfortable and easily navigable for college students.

FIE's newly appointed resident director, Susan Parada, provides individual academic, cultural and logistical advice to assist students with their integration into Spanish culture. Learn more about Susan on Page 4 of this newsletter.

For more information on these program developments, please contact FIE in London or the U.S.

Calendar

Events

Welcome Receptions:
Sept. 13 and 15

Special Lecture by Tim Teeman,
Arts Editor of the "London Times,"
"Sexuality, Prejudice and the
Media: Sept. 26

London Film Charity Nights:
Oct. 5, 12, 18, 25; Nov. 8, 15, 22, 29

Holidays

FIE will be closed for holiday
observances:
Dec. 25, 2006 - Jan. 1 2007

London Students Benefit from Birkbeck Agreement

FIE is pleased to announce that FIE partner-school students may now choose to enroll in an evening course with the University of London's Birkbeck College during their semester study abroad. All FIE students have access to Birkbeck's excellent library facilities, and this extension of the FIE and Birkbeck partnership allows students additional opportunities to interact with British students. Birkbeck students are most often non-traditional, giving U.S. students a broad perspective of British life and culture.



Areas of study include, but are not limited to, international law, human rights, economics, contemporary art and history.

Students choosing this option would take a Birkbeck course on top of their FIE class schedule. Birkbeck will issue a U.S.-appropriate transcript for courses taken. More information about this option will be forthcoming in the Fall of 2006.

Perspective: Interview with an Intern

New City, New Job: Interns Experience the Benefits and Challenges of Working in London

by Alana Dunn*

London: the city of people, places and things. People like Tony Blair and the Queen, places like Hyde Park and Kensington Palace, things like the Tube and Twining's tea. But beyond all these, to FIE interns, London is also the city of internships.

For Janelle Gordon, a student from Marymount University in Arlington, VA, doing an internship in London was a chance to experience something new. Janelle was born and lived in Jamaica until the age of six and has since lived all over the United States, but has never been anywhere in Europe. When deciding where to spend her summer, she said she narrowed her choices down to Italy and London, but ultimately chose London.

"I thought it would be an easier transition for a beginner like me," she said.

Janelle spent the summer interning four days a week with an 'international lifestyle management firm,' or a members-only club that provides the best services and benefits for its clients.

As an intern, Janelle wanted to be involved in PR and marketing so she could best utilise her knowledge from her university.

"I tried not to expect anything, and just keep an open mind about my internship," she said. "I came to London wanting to network, meet people, make connections and get as much hands-on experience as possible."

As is to be expected with any internship or new job, Janelle met with some challenges when she first started at her placement.

"The first week was difficult," she said. "I spent a lot of time stuffing envelopes, and I wasn't doing much that related to what I'd learned at school. I felt like I wasn't reaching my full potential – I wanted to work!"

But after speaking with her supervisor, Janelle's experience improved dramatically.

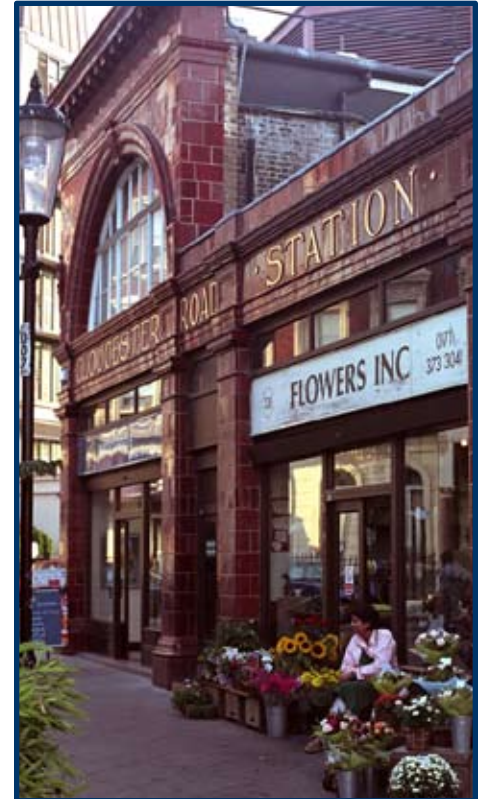
"It's great now," Janelle said. "I'm doing research on the company and its competitors, which will lead to a whole report. Now my work completely relates to what I went to school for."

"I've met so many people, and I've been exposed to so much culture; London is like a doorway to any country you want."

-Janelle Gordon

Networking through her internship was helpful. "I go to lunch almost every day with a co-worker, and he's been a great connection for me. He's gotten me in touch with people he knows, and I'm just so grateful."

Sometimes it can be difficult for students to adjust to both a new internship and a new city. However, Janelle said her goal was to



experience London to the fullest. "I just love going out and walking around," she said. "I've met so many people, and I've been exposed to so much culture; London is like a doorway to any country you want."

So what is Janelle's best advice for future interns? "Be as open as possible. Whatever thoughts you have, prejudices, everything – just leave it all at the airport!"



* Alana Dunn, an Elon University student, conducted this interview during her own summer internship in FIE's Internship Office.

London: Cheap as Chips (That's Fries to You)

Students Don't have to Spend a Fortune while Studying in London

Many students assume that to study in London, you have to have a large cash reserve — or at least a very big credit card. FIE's Student Life staff has set out to show students that you can study in London on a budget and still have an amazing semester or summer abroad, experiencing the city to its fullest.

The expert Student Life staff, which includes native Londoners as well as former study abroad students from the U.S., has been giving FIE students tips on cheap London opportunities for years. Now they have created an extensive guide which students receive during their on-site orientation, with sections such as "12 Cheap things to do on a Sunday" and "FIE Staff Tips." The guide also includes a number of articles on budget-conscious living in London from *Time Out* magazine, and easy recipes students can cook in their residence hall kitchens.

The recipes are culled from another new FIE initiative. Each residence hall kitchen is now stocked with a number of cookbooks offering quick and easy recipes for healthy, cheap meals.

Students are encouraged to utilize all of these resources in their daily London experience. In addition to the "Cheap as Chips" guide, FIE offers students a variety of subsidized extra-curricular events throughout the year, and sends a weekly "Cheap London" email about upcoming opportunities around the city.

Following are a few highlights from FIE's "London: Cheap as Chips" guide. For more selections, please visit the FIE Web site.

From "12 Cheap Things To Do on a Sunday"

1) Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens. Check out the Serpentine Gallery (a former 19th century tea house and favorite of Princess Diana), go rollerblading or cycling, hear what people have to say at Speaker's Corner, try to find the Peter Pan statue, play tennis, lounge near the Italian Gardens, or discover your own favorite part of these local treasures.

5) Go to Greenwich. A mere 40 minutes away by tube, Greenwich offers a great escape from the sometimes daunting big city. Explore the Sunday market, visit the Maritime Museum, or take your picture standing on the Greenwich Meridian, "where International Time begins." Cutty Sark or Greenwich DLR Stations.

7) Spitalfields Market. A trendy market offering a little bit of everything under one very big roof. Clothing, music, coffee, organic produce, flowers, jewellery, antiques, toys and more, plus an array of exotic vegetarian foods that are as forgiving on the pocketbook as they are on the heart. Liverpool Street Underground.

11) Day trip to Brighton. Brighton is only an hour away from London on the train. This south coast sea-side resort offers the famous 'lanes' — a great shopping area, Brighton Pier — with traditional entertainment, bars, pubs restaurants and much more.

From "FIE Staff Tips"

Eateries:

Wagamama's — You'll find this famous noodle restaurant all over London! Look out for 2-4-1 vouchers in the back of *Time Out*. And don't forget to sign up as a member at <http://www.wagamama.com>. You can find loads of offers from their members area.

Sandwich Shop — Yes, Kensington is expensive, but don't completely rule it out for cheap food. The Sandwich Shop on Gloucester Road offers a baguette, soft drink, bag of crisps and a free piece of fruit — all for under £3! Plus, towards the end of the day you'll find half price baguettes!

Shopping:

Missing Marshalls and Target? Find your fix at Primark (Kings Mall on Kings Street) and TK Maxx (Kings Street) in Hammersmith. Both are just two minutes from the station.

Need towels or electronics? Argos on High St. Kensington is the place to go. And it's fun and easy! You look through a catalog, see if it's available, order and pay! Then wait for your number to be called and collect your purchase. Located opposite the High St. Kensington tube station.

Culture:

Museums and Galleries are free! Don't forget to display your ISIC for special exhibitions that have charges.

Queue up at the TKTS booth at Leicester Square for discounted theatre tickets. Plus, always check with the theatre just before the show begins for last minute discounts!

Snapshot

City Lights Abroad:



FIE in London: FIE's flagship location offers students extensive academic, social and personal opportunities in the hustle and bustle of this beautiful city.



FIE in Dublin: FIE's partnership with the Dublin Business School offers students the chance to study Irish history and culture and enroll in courses with Irish students.



FIE in Madrid: Upper-level Spanish language students immerse themselves in Spanish culture and society with FIE and the Universidad Europea de Madrid.

FIE Welcomes New Staff

One of FIE's strongest assets is its dedicated staff. FIE is pleased to welcome the following additions to the team.

Sarah Foster

Internship Coordinator (London)

Originally the Internship Placement Advisor, Sarah continues her work with FIE as an Internship Coordinator. Sarah graduated from California State University, Long Beach with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre. She came to London for the first time as a student to study in 2002 and fell in love with the city, inspiring her return upon graduation to work in the UK. She is responsible for helping to coordinate the internship placements as well as offer assistance and advice to students throughout their London experience.

Contact Sarah: sfoster@fie.org.uk



Susan Parada

FIE in Madrid Resident Director (Madrid)

Susan Parada has lived in Spain since 1972, and has worked in the field of international education for more than 30 years. Most recently, she developed study abroad programs in Madrid, coordinating academics and co- and extra-curricular activities for customized programs. She studied Spanish Language and Literature at Hope College in Michigan, and her international studies included three semesters in Madrid studying at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid's Institute of European Studies and the Escuela Oficial de Idiomas.

Contact Susan: sparada@fie.org.uk



Emma Jones

Assistant Director for Program Development (U.S.)

Emma Jones joined FIE in April as Assistant Director of Program Development following four years as Study Abroad Advisor and Publicity Coordinator for Elon University. Emma holds a BA in Literature and Communications from the University of North Carolina at Asheville, and is pursuing her MA in Liberal Studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Emma will work collaboratively with FIE's current U.S.-based Directors of Program Development in their ongoing effort to accommodate the unique needs of U.S. institutions.

Contact Emma: ejones@fie.org.uk



Jennifer Scoles

Internship Coordinator (London)

Jenny is a graduate from the University of Bath with a BSC in Psychology. As part of her studies, Jenny spent a year researching at-risk children at Harvard Graduate School of Education. She is an avid traveller. Having lived in Rhode Island, USA and Banff, Canada for extended periods, she is familiar with living and studying abroad. As Internship Coordinator, Jenny hopes to help American students realize their potential when studying abroad, in the workplace, the classroom and out experiencing Britain.

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New Resident Assistants Join FIE Student Life Team in London

FIE's Student Life team in London supports students in fully utilizing the extensive resources available in the city during their out-of-class time. Two new RAs have joined the team this fall.

Matt Norton is joining the staff at the Hyde Park Gate residence. Matt has lived in North London all his life and has studied at Imperial College since 2003. After studying for the last year in France, Matt is returning to Imperial College for the final year of his Masters course in physics.

Yan Yan Leung is the newest member of the team at the Metrogate residence. Yan Yan has proved invaluable in her role as Research and Personal Assistant with FIE for the last 9 months, and FIE is pleased that she is able to continue her association with the organization.