

# Pursuing a Dream

*An Alum's Experience in London*

I want to share with you my study abroad experience in London, which turned out to be some of the best three weeks of my life. I got to learn a lot, meet amazing people from around the world and got to experience London in its entirety.

On my first day of classes, I was really scared since I did not know anyone in the class, and everyone looked like they had already made friends. I just sat on my desk and looked around, and saw that currently I am in a world-renowned university surrounded by some of the most amazing people ...That's when I realised that I am sitting here, in the same class as these brilliant minds. I am one of them and I have made my way here, ...I represent my college, my foundation and all my peers back home that deserve opportunities like these.

I took the 2 weeks Evaluating and Designing Public Policies: Experiments, Scalability and Data Engineering course. As an economics major with an interest in psychology, this course naturally piqued my interest. The course was intense – four hours of classes everyday for two weeks, along with two presentations and one exam at the end. The workload was worth it since this course definitely overdelivered.

One profound experience that has stayed with me the most from this trip is something very simple yet enlightening and humbling. I remember walking back home at 2 am in the night after celebrating my friend's birthday. Beautiful lights glowing on the dark streets, the streets empty yet heavy with emotions . I walked to the London bridge to wait for my bus, the bridge was silent yet it seemed like it was calling out to me. I now sat on the London bride surrounded by no one, all alone yet at peace. That's when it hit me and I realized that wow, I will never be 20 again sitting alone on the London bridge at 2 am, listening to Mohd Rafi sir songs and eating cookies. Suddenly, everything seemed possible.

One thing that Sejal Didi said which has stayed with me is to, "Make the best out of this opportunity". I choose to believe that I have indeed made the best out of it. I have met many amazing people, explored so many beautiful places, ate such good food and learnt as much as I could.

This experience has been a breakthrough point for my life and an enriching experience for my mind and body.

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*Abridged from original*

