

andyheap

canterbury, Britain

ANDY'S MAJORS: English and Criminal Justice

YEAR/TERM ABROAD: 2005-2006 Academic Year

REASON YOU CHOSE THIS PROGRAM: I wanted a year-long program that would allow me to focus on studying English literature, while immersing myself in a foreign culture.

FAVORITE CLASSES: *Chaucer and Romance Literature*. The Romance class in particular was fun because it was essentially a semester-long seminar on various incarnations of King Arthur throughout history.

DESCRIBE THE HOUSING SITUATION: A flat with five bedrooms, two bathrooms and one kitchen. I shared it with four first-year University of Kent students. It was located in a student housing court with twenty similar units, about a fifteen-minute walk from campus.

GREATEST CHALLENGE: After spending the first month getting settled and finding your niche in the English countryside it can be difficult to summon the will to start exploring the rest of England and beyond. However, traveling was a priority for me; I was able to do it, but it was still a challenge.

WHAT I WISH I KNEW BEFORE I LEFT: The language is more or less the same, but cultural values often differ unexpectedly. I wish I had known how early most shops close – things are changing, but make sure you get your food shopping done early!



Andy Heap visits the British Museum in London while studying at the University of Kent in Canterbury, England for a year.

BIGGEST SURPRISE: People in England really like Americans. While it is a distinct, different culture there are enough similarities that make the transition easy and comfortable. In England, I didn't have a single person give me trouble for being an American.

BEST MEMORY: There are too many to name one. Climbing mountains in Scotland, seeing the Pope in Rome, rushing the Viennese opera house in Austria, seeing Handel's *Messiah* in London, New Year's in Paris: all contributed to a spectacular experience overseas.

"College may be your only chance to live overseas. *Take advantage of it!*"

WHAT I WISH I KNEW BEFORE I LEFT: How cost-effective everything from food to travel can be with a little planning. Prices are high over in England, but if you know where to look for the best prices it is very manageable on a student budget.

ADVICE TO FUTURE STUDY ABROAD PARTICIPANTS: Befriend as many people from different countries as possible. Nothing will teach you more about the culture or give you as many opportunities to travel as knowing people from all over the world!