

CHRISTINE'S MAJOR(S): telecommunications and communications and culture with a minor in business

YEAR/TERM ABROAD: spring 2004

DESCRIBE THE HOUSING SITUATION: It was different from the dorms here. Each floor had a kitchen; you prepared meals. It was very clean and very nice. I never had a worry that I was unsafe.

REASON YOU CHOSE THIS PROGRAM: When I came to IU, I knew I wanted an IU program so I could get direct credit. I wanted to be able to take classes and get an internship. I liked all the options that London-IES offered. My internship was with *People* magazine - everyone's internships were amazing. Students who didn't do the internship wished that they did. You get a better feel of the culture since you're working with British professionals.

FAVORITE CLASSES: Theatre in London - you get to go to shows once a week. They took us to mainstream shows and those that aren't familiar with tourists. They really had us learn about the city to find these theatres.

WHAT I WISH I KNEW BEFORE I LEFT: I wish I knew how expensive London was going to be. I thought I had saved enough. I'm in debt now, but it's a good debt. Take advantage of every opportunity, absorb everything - worry about the money later.

GOING ABROAD VS. STAYING ON CAMPUS, DISCUSS: I convinced one of my best friends to go abroad (she went to Adelaide), and now she says, 'I don't understand why people don't do it.' I'm a huge advocate; we have such easy access to so many programs. You just got to motivate yourself to plan it out. When I talk to college graduates, they say the one regret they have is not studying abroad. I wasn't going to let that happen. You'll come back with a new set of eyes that you won't get by just staying on campus.

christine archer

London, Britain



As part of an IES-sponsored trip, Christine Archer was able to visit Stonehenge. "I didn't know this, but you can't touch it," she said. On the bus ride along the countryside, she also got to see Sting's house. Archer said that London was such a hub for travel. On one trip, she went backpacking in Italy with four other students, staying in hostels and "living on gelato and pizza - it was so much fun."

"It's a real self-reflective period. I feel that I'm a lot stronger. I feel like I've had all these boundaries taken away. It's such a roller coaster of feelings, *and now I'm in such a good place.*"

COMPLETE THIS SENTENCE: IF I COULD DO IT OVER, I WOULD ... have planned my degree at IU a little bit better. I'm taking 18 hours now, but I would do nothing different about my experience.

ADVICE TO FUTURE STUDY ABROAD PARTICIPANTS: Don't spend time stressing out on the little things; it's not worth it. Everything will work out. You don't need to plan everything in advanced; I traveled to France by myself, but planned it out when I got there.