

LONDON, ENGLAND

CLARA JEON

Program: University of Westminster, Fall

Clara's Majors: Biology; History

Academic Life: I took classes with British students taught by British professors. Each class met once a week for three hours, so I only had three days of classes a week. One of these hours is for lecture, and the next two are for "seminar," which is basically what discussion is here at UW. They also emphasize essay writing there and usually one essay and one exam make up your entire grade. I enjoyed being immersed with British students because it allowed me to make friends who knew London well and they showed me parts of the city that I probably wouldn't have seen if I didn't meet them.

Why Westminster: London is such a large and diverse city that you will always find something to do, whether it's finding a new little market, going to a pub, or just relaxing in one of their many parks. With the University of Westminster program, you live in a dorm on the east side of London, which is a really hip and upcoming place. One of the best things about this program was making British friends during class. Since there's no language barrier, it's very easy to make friends with the locals and the British students really enjoy talking to the study abroad students. Having people you know all over the globe allows you to make multiple connections.

Life Lessons: Growing up in Madison and then attending college here, I've never lived outside of the Midwest. Although I was very excited to study abroad, I was nervous on whether I'd be able to live comfortably and happily somewhere so far away from home. When I went to London, all my worries quickly disappeared when I stepped out of my comfort zone and interacted with all sorts of new people that I now call my very good friends. I met people from all over the U.S., France, Germany, and especially England, whom I still frequently talk to today.



Clara in London with the Big Ben Clocktower in the background.

"I learned that I have the confidence to meet new people and have a different life away from my home in Madison."