

Boston University School of Law

Graduate and International Programs Office
765 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 802
Boston, Massachusetts 02215
T 617-353-5324
Email: lawabroad@bu.edu



Boston University School of Law

Study Abroad Final Reports



Oxford University
Oxford, United Kingdom

FINAL STUDY ABROAD REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Please provide a written assessment of your experience abroad this past term in light of your academic and educational objectives. In particular, please touch on the following: your overall experience at the foreign institution, the quality of the faculty and the quality and availability of courses offered. Please also comment on other topics you feel might be helpful to future students, such as quality of life, financial, housing, social or other considerations that had an impact on your experience. Your report need not be longer than two pages.
- 2) Please indicate whether we can share your information with current BU Law students interested in participating in our study abroad programs.
 - a) Will you share your personal email address with students who request to contact former program participants?
YES ☒
NO
 - b) Will you share your final study abroad report (with any identifying information redacted) in a binder housed in the OGIP?
YES ☒
NO

Please write your Final Study Abroad Report below.

Name:

Semester/Institution: Harris Manchester College (Oxford University) Spring 2023

REPORT:

Overall experience: My semester at Oxford was undoubtedly one of the highlights of my law school experience. I was able to take tutorials in Contract Law and Administrative Law, both of which will be useful as I start my career in corporate law. The tutorial method allowed me to really engage with the material and hone my oral advocacy, research, and writing skills. In addition, I feel like I have a better understanding of the British legal system, which will be an important perspective for an international firm.

Quality of the faculty: I worked with two tutors, and they were both extremely knowledgeable and always willing to share their expertise, answer questions, and discuss topics. Hayley Hooper, the director of the program at HMC was especially wonderful and put a lot of time and effort into making the program a wonderful experience for us. Although I did not engage with them directly, the law faculty lecturers were also all extremely engaging and knowledgeable.

Quality and availability of courses: There are a variety of primary and secondary tutorials to choose from, including contract law, tort law, jurisprudence, EU law, and administrative law. The tutorial method is extremely different from a traditional US law school class, but I really enjoyed having a break from my regular routine. During tutorial, one or two students meet with a tutor for an hour and discuss the week's readings and corresponding essay. Each tutorial is similar to an hour-long cold call, but it is a more laid-back discussion format. My primary tutorial was Contract Law and my secondary tutorial was Administrative Law. Both of the tutors that I worked with were always willing to answer questions and explain concepts. Although intense, I found that the tutorials allowed me to engage with the material in a more in-depth way. The weekly essays also allowed me to improve my research and writing skills. In addition to tutorials, we had to attend an Intro to British Law class. The students split up the reading list and each presented on one topic. We also had the opportunity to visit the Supreme Court and British Parliament. Finally, we had to attend 16 law faculty lectures. No preparation was required for the lectures and they covered a wide range of topics. There is no cold-calling or required participation and they are ungraded. The lectures were a great way to get more information about the tutorial material or to explore other topics related to British Law. I attended lectures on Contract Law, Administrative Law, Criminal Law, and Constitutional Law. I really appreciated the opportunity to attend lectures on a variety of different interesting topics and to learn without the pressure that typically accompanies a law school class.

Workload: Each of the tutorials has a very heavy reading load, but students are not expected to read everything on the reading list. The tutors are good about indicating which cases/readings on the list are the most important. Each tutorial requires an 1800-2500 word essay based on the weekly readings. The primary tutorial meets every week and the secondary tutorial meets every other week. The Intro to British Law class meets every other week as well and alternates with the secondary tutorial. Intro to British Law required weekly presentations and a 200-2500 word paper at the end of the term. I found the workload to be heavy but not unmanageable, and I was still able to spend plenty of time exploring Oxford and participating in social activities.

Logistics: One of the biggest benefits of this program is that there are only 8 weeks of class. This allowed me to complete it before my BigLaw summer associate position started. It would also allow a 3L to complete it before graduation. In-class time is more limited, but there is a lot of outside work, so students have the flexibility to manage their own schedule. Housing and most meals are included in tuition, so it was one of the more financially feasible study abroad programs. I was also not required to purchase any textbooks or other materials.

Social life: Harris Manchester College had weekly social events that I was able to attend throughout the term. These varied from game nights to a Harris Manchester "prom." The other students at the college were extremely welcoming and eager to include us in all of the activities.

The HMC law students were especially friendly and often invited us to join them for social events. Each week, there are formal dinners on Mondays and Wednesdays where HMC students are provided with wine and a three-course dinner. These formals are great opportunities to socialize with other students and experience the culture at Oxford. As part of the program, we also had the opportunity to go to Barcelona for a weekend cultural trip.

FINAL STUDY ABROAD REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Please provide a written assessment of your experience abroad this past term in light of your academic and educational objectives. In particular, please touch on the following: your overall experience at the foreign institution, the quality of the faculty and the quality and availability of courses offered. Please also comment on other topics you feel might be helpful to future students, such as quality of life, financial, housing, social or other considerations that had an impact on your experience. Your report need not be longer than two pages.
- 2) Please indicate whether we can share your information with current BU Law students interested in participating in our study abroad programs.

- a) Will you share your personal email address with students who request to contact former program participants?

YES ☒

NO ☐

- b) Will you share your final study abroad report (with any identifying information redacted) in a binder housed in the OGIP?

YES ☒

NO ☐

Please write your Final Study Abroad Report below.

Name:

Semester/Institution: Oxford, Spring 2023

REPORT:

My semester abroad at Oxford was incredibly valuable. The teaching method (tutorials) at Oxford is very different from the method of teaching at BU, and I enjoyed this new experience. The method really requires you to engage with the material, which allowed me to learn a lot and develop relationships with both professors who led my tutorials. It is very individualized, which allowed me to explore deeper particular topics that I found very interesting. I took EU law and contract law, both of which were very interesting. I think that having EU law as an option to take was really valuable as it is not something available at BU, and I really think will be useful to have a background in in my legal career. I went into this program hoping to be able to do some comparative law and gain skills that would help me going forward, and I think that I was easily able to accomplish this because of the tutorial experience.

Additionally, it is very easy to meet other students at Oxford and I enjoyed getting to know the other law students, as they had very interesting perspectives on british law that I would not be exposed to in the United States. I think that this aspect, which allowed comparisons between our legal system and theirs, was one of my favorite parts of the experience.

The quality of life at Oxford is really good, and the city itself is lovely. It is pretty small, so it is easy to get around and see all areas of Oxford. It is not too expensive, and the housing itself is very nice and comfortable. All in all, it is a wonderful experience and I would recommend it to anyone.

FINAL STUDY ABROAD REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Please provide a written assessment of your experience abroad this past term in light of your academic and educational objectives. In particular, please touch on the following: your overall experience at the foreign institution, the quality of the faculty and the quality and availability of courses offered. Please also comment on other topics you feel might be helpful to future students, such as quality of life, financial, housing, social or other considerations that had an impact on your experience. Your report need not be longer than two pages.
- 2) Please indicate whether we can share your information with current BU Law students interested in participating in our study abroad programs.
 - a) Will you share your personal email address with students who request to contact former program participants?
YES ☒
NO ☐
 - b) Will you share your final study abroad report (with any identifying information redacted) in a binder housed in the OGIP?
YES ☒
NO ☐

Please write your Final Study Abroad Report below.

Name:

Semester/Institution: Oxford, Spring Term 2022

REPORT:

I chose to study abroad at Harris Manchester College, Oxford, during the 2022 Hilary Term. I would highly recommend this experience to anyone curious about studying abroad, for myriad reasons, which I will detail below.

My professional and educational objectives were as follows: I wanted to supplement my goal of working for a global firm after graduation; I wished to develop more specialized knowledge; and I hoped to challenge myself within a different academic setting than those I've encountered previously. My study abroad experience certainly met all of these goals. I now feel more comfortable working within a global setting, having spent most of my time at HMC learning alongside peers from all over the world. I also gained intimate knowledge of my two tutorial topics, having engaged in long reading lists and written weekly papers on a range of particular topics. Finally, I feel like I've become much more adaptable after spending a term under the tutorial system, which differs fundamentally from BU's lecture format.

I took two tutorials: EU law and jurisprudence. I would recommend them both, although I heard good things about the other topics as well. For EU law, I met once a week and was assigned a weekly paper of approximately 2,000 words. For jurisprudence, I met once every other week and was assigned a weekly paper of approximately 1,500 words. For both tutorials, the reading lists were very, very long; however, it is not expected that you read every page thoroughly, or even at all. You are expected to skim most of the materials. This was a difficult practice for me to learn at first, but I eventually got the hang of it and learned what to and not to focus on for our paper and discussions. I will warn future students that there is a learning curve at first, as the tutorial system is very different from BU's teaching system: the reading list seems insurmountable in the beginning, the tutorial discussions leave no room to hide (it's typically just you, your tutor, and maybe 1-2 other students), and the topics may seem more abstract or theoretical than BU's essay or exam topics. However, I feel like I really hit my stride halfway through the term, and from then on, it felt very doable. The quality of the instructors and tutorials was also very high, and I feel grateful I got to learn from such extremely knowledgeable tutors while at HMC.

As for life at HMC, I had a truly wonderful time. The people were friendly and welcoming, and it was easy to meet friends, as so many students lived in college and gathered 2-3 times a day for meals. I also generally enjoyed the food, with few exceptions, as the college has a great chef in charge. On the weekends, you're on your own for lunch and dinner, but there's some solid takeout options nearby. Nearly everything is a 10-20 minute walk away, and if you have to venture further than that, you're not going to mind because Oxford is a beautiful town. It felt like walking through a storybook each and every day. The libraries are centuries old and very peaceful to study in, and there are many to choose from. The social life in college is great, and there's always people around to go to the nearby pubs or clubs with. Although you may have some stressful papers and late nights here and there, if you want to study abroad and are on the fence on whether Oxford is the right choice: it probably is. It was my favorite experience in my academic career, and I would recommend it every time.

FINAL STUDY ABROAD REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Please provide a written assessment of your experience abroad this past term in light of your academic and educational objectives. In particular, please touch on the following: your overall experience at the foreign institution, the quality of the faculty and the quality and availability of courses offered. Please also comment on other topics you feel might be helpful to future students, such as quality of life, financial, housing, social or other considerations that had an impact on your experience. Your report need not be longer than two pages.
- 2) Please indicate whether we can share your information with current BU Law students interested in participating in our study abroad programs.
 - a) Will you share your personal email address with students who request to contact former program participants?
YES ☒
NO ☐
 - b) Will you share your final study abroad report (with any identifying information redacted) in a binder housed in the OGIP?
YES ☒
NO ☐

Please write your Final Study Abroad Report below.

Name:

Semester/Institution: Spring 2022 / University of Oxford

REPORT:

I wanted to participate in the Oxford program for three main reasons. First, I knew the program was writing intensive and I wanted to become a more effective and faster writer. Throughout the program I wrote 1-2 essays each week that were all between 6-12 pages. By the end of the term, I felt like I was able to digest case law and legal scholarship more efficiently and translate my arguments to the page much more easily. The second reason I wanted to participate in the program was because I am interested in international law and I felt that taking international law courses at a foreign institution would be an invaluable experience. I ended up taking Public International Law and European Union Law. Both topics were extremely interesting, and it was nice to stray from the case law method that is used in law schools in the United States. At Oxford students engage with a variety of academic materials and the tutorial system allows for in depth discussions about the material between you and your professor. Your tutorials also show you what you do and do not understand about the material and allow you to learn a lot over a short eight-week term. The final reason I wanted to study abroad was to meet new people from around the world and experience life abroad. Oxford is a little bubble; you are fully immersed in the university from your in-college housing, to the daily meals you eat in the dining hall, to the social events that the college holds. You get to understand the ethos of Oxford and its entertaining and idiosyncratic traditions. However, Harris Manchester has a very international student body. I met people from across the United Kingdom, Europe, and Asia. Harris Manchester's truly international character is somewhat unique among colleges at Oxford, and it was great to live with and learn from students who come from a variety of backgrounds.

One piece of academic advice I have for students participating in the program is that time management is your most important asset. There is a significant social life at Oxford and students at Harris Manchester generally seem to have a decent work/life balance. However, the reading lists are very long and because you are only in class for 2-3 hours each week it is up to you to budget your time accordingly. Creating your entire daily schedule is completely up to you. Obviously, time management is a key to success in law school as well, so I don't think you will find the adjustment to be too difficult. If you happen to have journal obligations while abroad, I recommend completing as much as you can before the term starts. I did journal work throughout the term and the extra workload was manageable but did add some stress. On the financial side of things, I found that I saved a little bit of money participating in the program. This is because I no longer had to budget for food expenses. If you can sublet your apartment in Boston during the term you will save a significant amount on living expenses.

Overall, my experience at the University of Oxford was fantastic. The term is short, and the workload can be stressful, but you learn a lot in a short period of time. Additionally, you can take many different courses outside of international law, so I would recommend this program to anyone who is seeking a study abroad experience.

FINAL STUDY ABROAD REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Please provide a written assessment of your experience abroad this past term in light of your academic and educational objectives. In particular, please touch on the following: your overall experience at the foreign institution, the quality of the faculty and the quality and availability of courses offered. Please also comment on other topics you feel might be helpful to future students, such as quality of life, financial, housing, social or other considerations that had an impact on your experience. Your report need not be longer than two pages.
- 2) Please indicate whether we can share your information with current BU Law students interested in participating in our study abroad programs.
 - a) Will you share your personal email address with students who request to contact former program participants?
YES ☐
NO ☐
 - b) Will you share your final study abroad report (with any identifying information redacted) in a binder housed in the OGIP?
YES ☐
NO ☐

Please write your Final Study Abroad Report below.

Name:

Semester/Institution: Spring 2022/Oxford University

REPORT:

My overall experience at Oxford University was incredible for a variety of reasons. In so many different ways I was challenged as a student, a lawyer, and as a person. Harris-Manchester college was a fantastic institution, and they worked very hard to integrate the Boston University students into campus life within their college. The faculty were by and large brilliant. Beyond

being passionate and knowledgeable about their subjects, they were interested in us students as people and as intellectuals.

There were a number of topics offered, although it is worth noting not the entirety of their course catalog was available and a few of us students had to select different topics. Nonetheless, there is a variety of topics and the required British Legal History and Constitutional courses will teach Boston University students a great deal about the British legal system as a whole. Again, I cannot emphasize the breadth of courses offered, although not quite as numerous as at BU the classes themselves were challenging and highly engaging. Engaging, I must say, not even necessarily by choice; the tutorial system essentially morphs each class session into an extended cold call. If this type of learning environment is intimidating to you, then perhaps you may wish to reconsider attending this particular study abroad. Personally, I aspire to be litigator and I enjoyed cold calls, so this tutorial system was more or less my dream style of education.

In terms of quality of life, I've never experienced anything like it. Meals are all included and some involve table service, they are always delicious and filling. The dorms varied but every student was guaranteed their own private suite, which was great as a law student in my mid-20s. The campus itself is stunning. Even that description doesn't do it justice. The facilities everywhere you go are first-class; after all, the institution has been existing on the soil on which it stands for about 800 years.

Financially, it depends how you wish to live. Because room and board are included with tuition, it is very possible to live quite frugally, especially in comparison to Boston. However, socializing can be quite expensive depending on how much you enjoy being out and also traveling. England is an expensive country in general, so if you are looking to participate in recreational travel and the like be sure to have some money saved up.

Finally, the campus atmosphere was incredible. There are scholars from all over the world, and of course there is an English influence which is great fun. Some of the most brilliant people I've ever encountered were met at Oxford, all with interesting curricula and stories to share.

Simply put, this was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and anyone wishing to get out of their comfort zone, explore the world, learn about foreign jurisdiction's common law, and meet fascinating people should attend this study abroad.

FINAL STUDY ABROAD REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Please provide a written assessment of your experience abroad this past term in light of your academic and educational objectives. In particular, please touch on the following: your overall experience at the foreign institution, the quality of the faculty and the quality and availability of courses offered. Please also comment on other topics you feel might be helpful to future students, such as quality of life, financial, housing, social or other considerations that had an impact on your experience. Your report need not be longer than two pages.
- 2) Please indicate whether we can share your information with current BU Law students interested in participating in our study abroad programs.
 - a) Will you share your personal email address with students who request to contact former program participants?
YES ✓
NO
 - b) Will you share your final study abroad report (with any identifying information redacted) in a binder housed in the OGIP?
YES ✓
NO

Please write your Final Study Abroad Report below.

Name:

Semester/Institution: Spring 2022 / Harris Manchester College, Oxford

REPORT:

I found my time at Oxford to be incredibly worthwhile. I recommend this opportunity to anyone who can make room in their schedule for it primarily because of the unique pedagogy and work environment. I believe I attained the educational objectives I had going in: learn more about foreign contract law, increase my ability to speak and write about legal concepts generally, and become better prepared to practice law in an increasingly globalized world.

Academics

The teaching style at Oxford is considerably different from that of most lecture courses at BU Law. In two of my three tutorials at Oxford (Contract and Comparative Private Law), I was the only student in the “class.” My third tutorial was the required Introduction to the British Legal System course, which I took with the other BU Law students studying at Oxford. These one-on-one tutorials primarily consisted of the tutors questioning me on particular areas of the readings for the week. As for the readings, the syllabus readings were extremely long and, in many cases, actually impossible to actually complete. This required me to learn to read more efficiently and improve my prioritization skills.

Although English Contract Law is similar to the U.S.’s, there are critical differences that made it interesting to study. Even with similar course topics, the teaching style and different underlying assumptions made it less redundant than I thought it would be. Comparative private law involved comparing English, French, and German contract and personal property law. This tutorial was also quite interesting, but also quite challenging without having a background in any of the three systems. The Introduction to the British Legal System course involved giving multiple fifteen to twenty minute presentations on various unique aspects of U.K. Law. This helped with my ability to both learn and communicate new legal concepts quickly. The program also required lecture attendance, and while I found them interesting, the lack of engagement made it difficult to retain information from them.

Although there was much less class time (admittedly far too little) than at BU, every hour I spent with my tutors made me more confident in my ability to verbally communicate the law. My tutors understood the subject matter very well and were very candid in their responses to what I had to say, so I received immediate constructive feedback if what I said was incomplete or

unpersuasive. This feedback carried through to the writing, of which there was a lot. During the term, I submitted many essays totaling over 20,000 words. The written feedback I received on most of these papers was very extensive. These papers included issue-spotter hypotheticals, policy questions, comparative questions, and more.

My goals of this experience were to learn more about foreign contract law and improve my verbal and written lawyering skills. On the first point, I did learn a lot, but I was told just weeks before the term started that my primary tutorial choice of commercial law would not be offered for the term. There were not too many courses to choose from, but the ones offered covered a diverse number of subject areas. Moreover, the short length of the term limits the amount of substantive law one can actually learn, and so in that respect I learned less law than I likely would have studying at BU. However, I believe that I was able to improve my legal communication skills. Despite the short term, I received significantly more faculty feedback than during my average semester at BU. Learning extensively about foreign contracts has helped me to question some of my assumptions about U.S. contract law, which I believe will help me in my professional career. Moreover, learning about other legal systems and interacting with law students from all over the world helped fulfil my goal of being able to better communicate with lawyers from outside the U.S. Finally, my unexpected meeting with the President of the U.K. Supreme Court was a very memorable experience that helped me to think about jurisprudence in a way I had not before.

Living Abroad

The Oxford program is a great, convenient way to live in another country, and life at Harris Manchester College is fantastic. Housing and meals are arranged through the college and are covered by BU tuition. That made this opportunity no more expensive than a term studying

in Boston. With housekeeping and meals provided, I was able to maximize the amount of time spent either studying or socializing. I was extremely productive while studying at Oxford, and I attribute some of this to the beautiful library open 24/7 that was just a couple minutes away from college accommodation. The college has a ton of social events, and the people there were extremely friendly and welcoming despite me being there for only a couple of months. The college is located very close to the heart of Oxford, and the city has incredible architecture. Because of the short-term, there was time to travel around afterwards, and there were a few trips coordinated by Harris Manchester College that were both free and entertaining. I found the abundance of fun things to do when not working made my studying more productive than it would have been otherwise because I did not want to miss out on the rest of the Oxford experience.

Conclusion

I learned a lot and had a great time in fulfilling my study abroad objectives at Oxford. The only main drawbacks are that the course catalog is less robust than BU's, and the short length of the term and instructional hours per week limit the quantity of substantive law that one is likely to retain after the term compared to the average semester at BU Law.

FINAL STUDY ABROAD REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Please provide a written assessment of your experience abroad this past term in light of your academic and educational objectives. In particular, please touch on the following: your overall experience at the foreign institution, the quality of the faculty and the quality and availability of courses offered. Please also comment on other topics you feel might be helpful to future students, such as quality of life, financial, housing, social or other considerations that had an impact on your experience. Your report need not be longer than two pages.
- 2) Please indicate whether we can share your information with current BU Law students interested in participating in our study abroad programs.
 - a) Will you share your personal email address with students who request to contact former program participants?
YES ☐
NO ☐
 - b) Will you share your final study abroad report (with any identifying information redacted) in a binder housed in the OGIP?
YES ☐
NO ☐

Please write your Final Study Abroad Report below.

Name: _____

Semester/Institution: Spring 2021 / Oxford University – Harris Manchester College

REPORT:

My primary goal in attending the semester abroad at Oxford was to build an academic bridge my undergraduate and law school degrees. As a Classics major undergrad, I had taken a short survey course on Roman property law almost a decade ago. Oxford University is one of two universities in the UK that still requires Roman Law for all first-year law students, and has had a long and prolific history of teaching Roman law for centuries. To say that my Roman law

tutorial with Joe Sampson was the best course I have every taken in my entire educational experience seems trite, but there is no other way I can adequately describe the impact that course has had. In fact, I am tempted to continue studying Roman law and finally live out a former dream of a career in academia. The tutorial system coupled with Joe's enthusiasm to teach Roman law made for a simply unparalleled experience. There are students who choose to attend Oxford for law just to study under Joe, and I was told by several third-year (finalists) students that they were quite envious that I was able to have Joe as a tutor for 1:1 sessions because many do not have that same opportunity. The reading and written work requirements were considerable, but not impossible. For ten weeks, the number of pages for readings easily averaged over three-hundred pages, and each week's topic required an essay of about 1500 words. The work was certainly manageable—Joe's expectations were roughly 40 hours per week of work where 15-20 hours were spent on the reading and the rest were meant to be dedicated to synthesizing the material and writing a coherent and insightful.

My secondary goal was to learn corporate law from a different perspective. My full-time job after graduation will be in debt finance, and my tutor for UK Company Law specializes in finance and corporate insolvency, which made for an excellent pairing of interests and relevancy to my future career. US Corporate Law and UK Company Law have a surprising amount in common, and it made for a fantastic (and unexpected!) comparative experience. Kristin, my tutor, was both my tutor and the primary lecturer for the Company Law lectures I attended. This was an excellent opportunity and I highly recommend future students consider doing the same. The lecture topics and tutorials do not fully overlap, and lectures cover the "big picture" quite nicely, which I found to be a necessary supplement to Company Law in particular. The weekly requirements for this course was immense and, coupled with Roman law, sometimes felt overwhelming. The weekly readings easily average over five-hundred pages. There were at least three textbook readings, five other secondary sources per week, and over thirty cases. Essays were capped at 1700 words, but similar to Roman law, it was quite easy to exceed the word limit. I recommend that students leave enough time when revising their essays because the word limits sneak up faster than anticipated when trying to synthesize the abundance of knowledge.

Although tutorial and lectures were virtual, I did not find that to decrease my experience at all. The tutors and students were all accustomed to the format, and the Bodleian was incredibly responsive to book requests and scan requests. Many of my texts for Roman Law were available only in print, and I was incredibly grateful to have been on campus at Oxford so that I could easily access those texts in person. Harris Manchester College's (HMC) library is equally well-stocked with a generous book budget to purchase any texts the library does not own. The librarian, Kate, had only just started in December and was still learning her way so I found the main Bodleian librarians and Law librarians to be more helpful, but Kate was very nice and accommodating all the same.

Even in the midst of the pandemic, the quality of life and social aspect of HMC was great. We were assigned to "households" and my other "flatmate" (although we both had our own single rooms) and I would frequently take long walks in the numerous Oxford meadows/parks. For those who like to stay active, there are fantastic running routes along the

canal and through Port Meadow (where you can sometimes see/pet some horses!). For those who like shorter strolls, Christ Church Meadow and University Parks are other great options. Christ Church, in particular, was popular for picnics. I did not have the opportunity to join any student clubs/activities, but exploring Oxford more than made up for the lack of student groups. HMC was also quite good at hosting events, and we had burger-making nights and pizza-making nights where the college mailed us cooking kits and we all gathered on Zoom to cook/eat together.

In short, my experience at Oxford was both an academic and social success. My flatmate is one of HMC's few PhD students, and we are already making plans for my return to Oxford once we are more safely out of the pandemic. The academic commitments seemed, at times, to be overwhelming, and there were a few weeks where I didn't leave my room because the academic commitments were so great. Even in spite of that, I was still able to make lasting friendships with peers and discover a few hidden passageways between HMC and the Bodleian. Students can absolutely find success at Oxford as long as they appropriately balance their academic work and social activities.

FINAL STUDY ABROAD REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Please provide a written assessment of your experience abroad this past term in light of your academic and educational objectives. In particular, please touch on the following: your overall experience at the foreign institution, the quality of the faculty and the quality and availability of courses offered. Please also comment on other topics you feel might be helpful to future students, such as quality of life, financial, housing, social or other considerations that had an impact on your experience. Your report need not be longer than two pages.
- 2) Please indicate whether we can share your information with current BU Law students interested in participating in our study abroad programs.
 - a) Will you share your personal email address with students who request to contact former program participants?
YES ☒
NO ☐
 - b) Will you share your final study abroad report (with any identifying information redacted) in a binder housed in the OGIP?
YES ☒
NO ☐

Please write your Final Study Abroad Report below.

Name:

Semester/Institution: Spring 2021; Harris Manchester College

REPORT:

This report begins with the caveat that I completed my study abroad program remotely. As such, my assessment consists entirely of my academic experience. This report assesses my overall academic experience in light of my stated objectives for my time at Harris Manchester: I wanted to improve my writing and time-management abilities; I wanted to study subject matter that aligned with my career interests; and I wanted to gain a basic understanding of international and comparative law. On balance, I found that my academic experience satisfied each objective. After reflecting on how to best categorize my experience, the report is also divided into two

related yet distinct considerations: workload, and courses and faculty. I found that each consideration was top-of-mind throughout the term.

Workload

There is no sugarcoating the academic demands of this program. Each week consists of hours spent reading hundreds of pages of materials, hours spent studying and absorbing said materials, and hours spent writing at least one 1500-word essay. Simply put, the weekly workload is much more substantial than a given week at BU. That is to be expected, however, because the program lasts for ten weeks rather than thirteen or fourteen like BU's semester. Although I felt that I realized the extent of the workload before beginning the program, I did not fully appreciate just how much time and work the program would require.

Apart from the condensed term relative to BU's semester, learning about foreign or comparative law was difficult because I had never taken fundamental courses on UK or EU law, which meant that I was also entirely unfamiliar with some of the initial subject matter of my courses. There was even an adjustment period where I had to acquaint myself with basic legal terminology used in UK or EU law, where a different word or phrase describes a commensurate concept in the US. The program requires substantial effort on top of hours spent reading and studying assigned materials. To fully grasp the material, I had to set aside time to research the basic structure of the UK and EU government and legal system. Finally, after spending hours reading and studying, writing and editing a 1500-word essay can be draining.

I responded to the demanding workload by establishing and adhering to a strict routine. My tutorials met on Thursday and Friday. I spent the weekend and Monday reading and studying the assigned materials before writing my essays on Tuesday and Wednesday. Although the workload was difficult, I felt that I greatly improved my writing and time-management skills by the end of the program. I also had to adjust my writing style and approach while incorporating feedback from each of my tutors. Adjusting week to week was difficult given the amount of assigned reading and the complexity of the materials. Nonetheless, I believe that learning to write for different audiences was valuable and will directly translate to my future career in litigation where I will have to write for different partners and most importantly, different judges and courts. Devoting substantial time to reading and writing also meant that I could immerse myself in the subject matter that brought me to the Harris Manchester Program. All of this is not to say that the workload is not worth it. It is not despite of, but because of the workload that the program is so rewarding. Ultimately, the heavy workload meant that I had to spend hours learning about interesting subject matter and improving my writing skills, which were my top two educational objectives.

Courses and Faculty

At the outset, each tutor and professor that I learned from were subject-matter experts and provided a challenging and rewarding virtual classroom experience. Like the professors at BU, each tutor and professor at Harris Manchester had a different teaching style. For instance, my EU tutor preferred to focus our sessions on policy discussions whereas my IP tutors generally preferred discussing doctrine. Once I adjusted to the different teaching styles and had a firmer grasp of each instructor's expectations, I was able to establish a routine for completing each week's reading and writing assignments.

During my term at Harris Manchester, I took Intellectual Property Law as my primary tutorial, European Union Law as my secondary tutorial, the Introduction to UK Law seminar, and lectures on UK legal history and the free movement of goods under EU law.

My IP tutorial was taught by two tutors, one tutor taught trademarks and copyright, another taught patents. Dividing the IP tutorial was useful because it meant that I could be taught by experts in their respective subject matter, allowing us to engage more fully with the material. As a future IP litigator, I was excited to learn about international IP law and to gain a better perspective on how the EU and international law interact with the US legal system. I also greatly enjoyed that my IP tutors typically assigned essays on cutting-edge topics that considered the impact of new technologies or advancements on established doctrine. For instance, I wrote about the right of publicity under trademark law and the effect of artificial intelligence on subject matter eligibility under patent law. Learning about new subject matter and applying it to an undeveloped area of law presented a unique challenge, and one that fulfilled my general educational objective of experiencing a rigorous, challenging program.

My EU law tutorial consisted of both constitutional law and law on the free movement of goods and services. I soon learned that I knew little about the EU and had to spend lots of time outside my assigned materials orienting myself with the structure of the EU. Although EU law was my secondary tutorial, I spent more time each week on it because I was so unfamiliar with the subject matter compared to my IP tutorial. Ultimately, my EU tutorial gave me a perspective on international and comparative law that I did not previously have while studying at BU. I enjoyed that the tutorial focused on constitutional issues and matters concerning fundamental rights, in addition to commercial considerations and legal issues concerning the free movement of goods and services. I also enjoyed learning about different legal regimes, comparing them to the US, and attempting to draw parallels between the EU and the US. I was glad to gain a broader understanding of EU law, including its procedures and constitutional principles, which I hope help me be a better litigator, where I will need to navigate various legal regimes and topics.

The introduction to UK law seminar and lectures on UK legal history and the free movement of goods were excellent supplementary materials. The UK law seminar with Professor Krebs was an engaging and entertaining way to learn about the basics of UK legal studies and the UK legal structure. Although we were not able to tour Parliament or an Inns of Court, it was entertaining to hear Professor Krebs describe his experiences as a barrister. The Introduction to UK law seminar was another chance to develop my writing skills while learning about international law as Professor Krebs assigned a ten-page paper covering a comparative topic of our choice. I enjoyed the flexibility of the seminar and appreciated that Professor Krebs gave us the chance to study any topic that piqued our interest. Although I suspect that my lectures would have been more entertaining had I completed the program in-person, it was relaxing to be able to watch dozens of informative lectures on various topics. Moreover, accessing recorded lectures via Canvas meant that I could watch any additional lecture on legal topics that aligned with my interest areas.

Finally, adjusting to the tutorial setting, where you are basically "on call" for the entire hour, was not as difficult as I had imagined. Each tutor and professor did a good job at making the sessions into a conversation rather than a lecture or monotonous cycle of questions and answers. I did feel that sometimes tutorial sessions were not the most effective way to learn some of the materials. For instance, each week contained lots of background information that might not be covered during the tutorial and could not easily be covered unless the tutor lectured the

entire session. But like any class in law school, I eventually learned to read the assignments and parse through them for the most important information that would be the focus of my paper and the upcoming tutorial. Like other aspects of the program, this required an adjustment.

FINAL STUDY ABROAD REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Please provide a written assessment of your experience abroad this past term in light of your academic and educational objectives. In particular, please touch on the following: your overall experience at the foreign institution, the quality of the faculty and the quality and availability of courses offered. Please also comment on other topics you feel might be helpful to future students, such as quality of life, financial, housing, social or other considerations that had an impact on your experience. Your report need not be longer than two pages.
- 2) Please indicate whether we can share your information with current BU Law students interested in participating in our study abroad programs.
 - a) Will you share your personal email address with students who request to contact former program participants?
YES ☒
NO ☐
 - b) Will you share your final study abroad report (with any identifying information redacted) in a binder housed in the OGIP?
YES ☒
NO ☐

Please write your Final Study Abroad Report below.

Name:

Semester/Institution: Spring 2020

REPORT:

My educational objectives at Oxford were largely tied into my professional goals. After obtaining my bachelor's degree, I began working as a paralegal at a financial technologies company in Boston that has operations around the world, including in London. I continued to work for the company during law school and spent part of the summer of 2018 working in our London office. In parallel, I sought out international law experiences at BU, including

participating in the Immigrants' Rights and Human Trafficking clinic, the corporate counsel externship program, courses pertaining to international law and finance, and working on the International Law Journal. More recently at work, I became involved in Brexit contingency planning and also advised on newly enacted EU regulations. This all fit in perfectly with the opportunity to dive deeper into UK & EU law at Harris Manchester College, Oxford.

Something to note at the outset is that Oxford's educational model is unique from both BU and most other universities around the world because the primary style of teaching is through tutorials with on average one to three students. This allows for students to engage deeply with the material which may include, depending on the professor, participating in a Socratic method style of questioning both about the cases and higher-level normative questions. This model is not for everyone and can be quite intimidating. There are far fewer meetings with faculty than at BU, and consequently, most days are spent reading in solitude. But if you do it right, you will walk away with a very rich understanding of each topic. Luckily, it was not new to me. My bachelor's degree was in legal studies at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. It is very rare these days to find an undergraduate degree focused on law in the U.S., and it certainly is not popular. The program at UMass was situated under the department of political science and had only a little over 200 students across all four years. This meant that classes were very small, and there was a lot of individualized attention. The transition from my program at UMass to the style of teaching at BU was unexpectedly difficult for me, and it was only in the fall of my 3L year, when my classes were much smaller seminars in topics that I was passionate about, that I finally lived up to my own academic standards. This is all to say that when I found this style of education at Oxford, I was thrilled for the chance to experience it again at the graduate level. In the end, the educational model at Oxford was absolutely perfect for me.

My primary tutorial was in European Union Law. This was taught by a German DPhil student to myself and one other Boston student. We covered European integration and institutions, the legal and constitutional limits on European law-making, sources of EU law and supremacy, preliminary ruling and direct effect, national remedies for breach of individual rights under EU law, and free movement of goods, services, and persons. We explored these topics through readings from textbooks, journal articles, and a large number of cases. The workload at Oxford is quite intense, and involves several days' worth of reading, as well as an essay response to a normative or problem question in preparation for each meeting. The expectation during a tutorial session is that you are familiar with the entire reading list and can parse the material in detail. The same was true for my secondary tutorial in UK Company Law. This was taught by a Portuguese DPhil student and was one-on-one. We covered incorporation and the company constitution, corporate capacity, shareholders' rights and remedies and corporate management, directors' duties, shareholder control and corporate governance, derivative actions, actions for unfair prejudice, and winding up a company. I had already taken Corporations at BU, which provided a unique opportunity for comparative analysis. The Oxford version involved more focus on why the rules came to be the way they are, and whether they were solving the problems that they were designed to solve. In other words, it was a lot less technical and far more theoretical. These two tutorials were supplemented with a foundational course on the British Legal System taught by the program director Professor Krebs and Professor Hayley Hooper, as

well as my lectures in comparative corporate law and the principles of financial regulation, and a business law workshop. The workshop was my favorite of the three, and consisted of visiting speakers from around the world presenting their working papers on topics that varied from how to hold international financial institutions accountable, to executive compensation provisions in contracts, to the regulatory challenges posed by fintech, followed by questions and discussion.

But of course, Oxford is so much more than academics. It is a collection of smaller college communities, which affords visiting students in particular the chance to integrate into college life and meet a lot more people than we otherwise would in such a short time. Harris Manchester College is also special because students are 21+, even as undergraduates, meaning it was much easier for us to fit in as older graduate students. After experiencing how difficult it was to participate in BU life while working, I was grateful for the opportunity to get involved in HMC and Oxford life, and joined the HMC chapel choir, and the Oxford Ballroom Dance Team. I even traveled to compete with the team at two UK competitions. Everyone at HMC was genuinely warm and welcoming, and dinner conversations were always interesting and often intellectual. If you want an immersive college environment and an intense and independent intellectual experience, you will find it and more at Oxford. You will also find yourself in a city that has fun and quirky traditions, world class extracurricular lectures and conferences with visitors that include Nobel Prize winners, and no shortage of arts, music, and museums to visit. I also enjoyed simply walking around this beautiful and historical city and breaking up my days by working at the various quaint coffeeshops interspersed throughout the city. These 8 weeks were admittedly non-stop, and squeeze in equally if not more work than a 14-week semester at BU, but I would happily do it all again as the experience completely exceeded my high expectations.

FINAL STUDY ABROAD REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Please provide a written assessment of your experience abroad this past term in light of your academic and educational objectives. In particular, please touch on the following: your overall experience at the foreign institution, the quality of the faculty and the quality and availability of courses offered. Please also comment on other topics you feel might be helpful to future students, such as quality of life, financial, housing, social or other considerations that had an impact on your experience. Your report need not be longer than two pages.
- 2) Please indicate whether we can share your information with current BU Law students interested in participating in our study abroad programs.
 - a) Will you share your personal email address with students who request to contact former program participants?
YES ☒
NO ☐
 - b) Will you share your final study abroad report (with any identifying information redacted) in a binder housed in the OGIP?
YES ☒
NO ☐

Please write your Final Study Abroad Report below.

Name: _____

Semester/Institution: Oxford Spring 2020

REPORT:

Oxford was one of the most challenging yet rewarding experiences of my academic career. In terms of the coursework, I was studying International Human Rights and British Constitutional Law. IHRL met 8 times and Con Law met 5 times over the course of the terms. Each "class" was either one-on-one or two-on-one with the professor, and included hundreds of pages of readings and one essay. This "tutorial" system was particularly challenging, as I had not experienced

anything like it before. Given the amount of work being assigned, and the novelty of the tutorials, I had a pretty difficult time adjusting. However, once I had my first few tutorial under my belt, I learned how to better manage my time and tailor my work to the particular professor's interests.

The tutorial system had its pros and cons. It's biggest con was that it was incredibly isolating. I would spend most of every day reading and writing on my own. I only knew a few other students taking the same courses as me, and they would rarely be at the same spot on the syllabus as I was. As such, I almost never had any other students to study and work with. The biggest pro, however, was that I got a lot of one-on-one time with the professor, and during those meetings we could focus on exactly what I wanted to focus on. We did not have to spend time covering material that I could just as easily learn from a book, and instead we could begin our conversations from a common basis of knowledge. The assigned materials placed me in a position to be able to have constructive and incredibly informative discussions with the professors.

The professors were all, obviously, top-notch. They were both leading experts in their field, incredibly knowledgeable, and some of the most intelligent people I have ever met. While their status and obvious intellect was intimidating at first, their willingness to teach and demeanor soon enough put me at ease. I can now say with full confidence that I learned an immense amount about IHRL and British Constitutional Law, and that I likely would not have learned nearly as much as I did in the more traditional class room setting. I now feel much better situated to discuss and debate constitutional and international human rights law now just in the UK, but also in the US, and have no doubt that such knowledge will aid me in the future.

In terms of non-academic experiences, I had an absolute blast. We were provided with our own rooms and *our own bathrooms* (I had never had my own bathroom before). In addition, we were provided with 3 meals a day on weekdays, and 1 a day on weekends. Meals were an especially odd experience to me. They were only available for about 45 minutes and you were not allowed to have your cellphones out. You were also required to sit next to whoever was already seated, never skipping any seats. As such, I almost always ended up sitting next to people I had never met before, or had never had a conversation with before. This meal system allowed me to meet a lot of the students at the college, but was also frustrating on days where I just wanted to eat quickly and go back to work, or on days where I just didn't have the energy to be social. As such, I would often end up eating out.

Other than the meals, my social life was similar to what it is at BU. I would go to the gym everyday and made quite a few friends there. The Oxford Union provided me with some of my most unique and amazing experiences. The Union has speakers and events every single day. Personally, I attended a debate on religion's role in modern society, an interview of Kunal Nayyar (even got to meet him), and an interview of the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, with whom I got to have an entire conversation about constitutional law.

Overall, I am very satisfied with my experience at Oxford; it was everything I wanted it to be, and then some. I highly recommend it to anyone interested.

FINAL STUDY ABROAD REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Please provide a written assessment of your experience abroad this past term in light of your academic and educational objectives. In particular, please touch on the following: your overall experience at the foreign institution, the quality of the faculty and the quality and availability of courses offered. Please also comment on other topics you feel might be helpful to future students, such as quality of life, financial, housing, social or other considerations that had an impact on your experience. Your report need not be longer than two pages.
- 2) Please indicate whether we can share your information with current BU Law students interested in participating in our study abroad programs.
 - a) Will you share your personal email address with students who request to contact former program participants? **Y**
 - b) Will you share your final study abroad report (with any identifying information redacted) in a binder housed in the OGIP? **Y**

Please write your Final Study Abroad Report below.

Name:

Semester/Institution: Spring 2020 -- Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford

REPORT:

My experience at Oxford overall, and at Harris Manchester in particular, was quite positive. The tutorial system is unlike anything I had ever experienced in the US outside of 1x1 music lessons, and while I'm not sure I would have enjoyed it completing a multiple-year degree, it was an interesting intellectual exercise for a single term. Tutorials force you to sift through and read massive quantities of material and boil them down into concise, 1500-2500 word essays on a weekly basis. I did more reading and writing during my 9 weeks at Oxford than all of 1L year. At times the experience was very isolating, as I basically spent 8+ hours/day in the library by myself, reading and writing. It was intense, but I developed key skills that should serve me well post-graduation as a law clerk and associate at a large law firm. The ability to weed through dozens of lengthy sources and cases and extract the core relevant information and write a clear and convincing legal argument within the span of just 2 or 3 days is one that I'm positive will come in handy in legal practice.

Quality of instruction was generally very good, although social and academic mores differ from the US. For example, one of my tutors openly discussed grades and essay performance in front of other students, without warning, which is not something I had ever experienced in the US. Additionally, it was definitely challenging at first to get a sense of what my tutors would focus on during our meetings, as it is impossible to cover 1000+ pages of material in a 1-2 hour session. The 1x1 or 2x1 tutorials were a fantastic opportunity, however, to delve deeply into interesting theoretical topics. I will say that law tutorials in Oxford are *heavily* slanted towards the theoretical / philosophical, with minimal orientation towards real-life practice. That's not

a bad thing per se, but don't go into this program expecting a lot of practical know-how to pursue an international law career. My British constitutional law course, in particular, felt more like a political philosophy course as opposed to an actual law course. It was intellectually stimulating, to be sure, but not entirely expected. One additional key difference from the US: we read a lot of secondary sources (e.g. book chapters, academic articles, etc.) in addition to dozens of cases for each tutorial. In my classes at BU, most readings have been cases only. The sudden shift to hundreds of pages of dense academic commentary was something I had to get used to quickly.

From a housing / financial perspective, Oxford is a steal. Not only is room and board covered as part of your BU tuition, you get three excellent meals each weekday in HMC's dining hall. The quality of the food was quite high (with superb vegan / vegetarian options), and our accommodations, though spartan, were plenty comfortable, and all three BU students had single rooms and our own bathrooms in-unit. If you can sublet out your place in Boston, it's possible to even save money during your term in Oxford when compared to a normal term in BU, because of reduced non-existent housing and food costs. Plus, the BU students get a free weekend trip to a European city of their choosing! HMC also provides a bevy of social opportunities to get involved with the community, and students there are all generally quite friendly and used to having visiting students on campus.

To conclude, shortly after arriving back in the US, I wrote up a personal facebook note reflecting on my time in Oxford. I think it covers a lot of what these reports are supposed to reflect, and I've included the entirety of my post below to the extent it might be relevant for future students.

Oxford and COVID-19

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2020

The last 72 hours have been a roller coaster for me, along with most of the rest of the planet. I woke up on Thursday morning to the news that President Trump had announced a travel ban on flights coming from Europe, sans the UK and Ireland. US residents were exempt, but the uncertainty stemming from the announcement, as well as the rapid spread of COVID-19 across the globe, prompted me to bump up my flight home from the UK to Friday, March 13.

The decision soon proved prudent, as my college at Oxford -- Harris Manchester -- announced on Friday that all students had to vacate by the following Monday, save for limited emergency circumstances. I was originally scheduled to stay in my room there until March 20. I wasn't supposed to fly home from the UK until March 27. I cancelled plans I had in France, the Netherlands, and the UK, and unfortunately wasn't able to meet up with Elizabeth, John, or Christian, all of whom I had very much been looking forward to spending time with.

I ended up rebooking my United reward ticket on Air Canada (a Star Alliance partner) and flew back to Boston via Toronto. The Heathrow-Toronto flight was a bit surreal -- the plane was nearly half empty. I had an entire four-seat middle row to myself, which made for quite a

comfortable ride. However, I felt on edge the entire trip, mainly as a result of the palpable tension present among fellow travelers at every stage of the journey. From the numerous face masks, to the frantic phone calls and conversations, to the constant use of hand sanitizer (myself included), the entire trip felt unlike any I'd ever experienced.



I snapped a photo of the Toronto skyline while waiting for my flight to Boston

After several delays in Toronto, I finally made it home, and although my time in Oxford and Europe was cut short, I am still extremely grateful for my nine weeks abroad. While brief, it was a very formative experience for me, much like my four months in Belgium in undergrad. It was wonderfully refreshing to escape the law school bubble after two and a half years ensconced within it, experience a new type of study (the tutorial system), and meet lots of interesting people from all over the world.

The three visiting BU Law students (including yours truly) spent the [Oxford Hilary Term](#) at [Harris Manchester College](#), one of the constituent colleges of the University of Oxford. HMC is unique among Oxford colleges in being open only to students over the age of 21. It is also one of the smallest of the Oxford colleges. That made it much easier for me, as a practical academic geezer at the ripe old age of 27, to make friends much more quickly than I might have otherwise.

The fact that HMC serves three meals a day in its dining hall also facilitated this. Since students at HMC study a wide range of subjects -- from medicine to law to Sanskrit -- meal conversations were rarely boring. In fact, most students seemed more than willing, if not eager,

to do away with small talk and jump straight into all sorts of conversations, ranging from the heartfelt to the macabre. A small sample of mealtime conversation topics I overheard or participated in this term includes: the ethics of cannibalism, abnormal rates of schizophrenia in Sardinia, the ethics of medical quarantines, and mass transit construction and operation costs. And of course constant discussion of US & UK politics.



Arlosh Hall -- the dining hall at Harris Manchester (Google Images)

Oxford is a wonderful city in which to spend a few months. The entire city is relatively dense and compact, and as a result, cycling is a dream (by American standards, at least). I've never lived anywhere with as many cyclists per capita as Oxford, and it makes the streets feel so much calmer and safer than a typical American city. Motorists generally drive quite slowly and cautiously, as they are always on the lookout for people walking and cycling. I spent quite a bit of time cycling in and around the city, including the lovely little neighborhoods of Jericho and Summertown. I also spent several mornings cycling a few miles outside the city center (mostly on a separated bike path through serene fields and woods) to a [wonderful coffee shop](#) in the nearby suburb of Headington, home to the world-famous [Headington Shark](#).

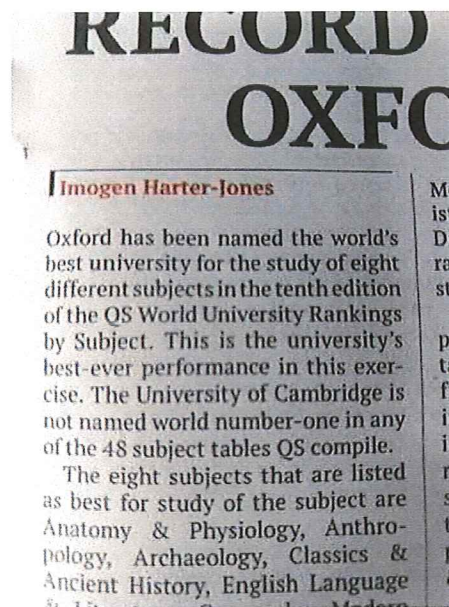


Some of Oxford's fantastic fully-separated cycle infrastructure

In addition to uni students and commuters, you also see a lot of uniformed schoolchildren out and about on bikes (and walking), sometimes with their parents cycling alongside, but oftentimes alone. It's a rare sight in the US, where children have little independence and are typically shuttled everywhere by their parents until they get their driver's license. Sadly, the US has built urban and suburban environments that make it impossible for children and adolescents to have true independence. Oxford seems like a great place for a kid to grow up, although it does definitely suffer from a [housing affordability crisis](#), so many people are priced out, and too many are homeless.



The Headington Shark sculpture in Headington, a suburb of Oxford



From the front page of The Cherwell -- throwing shade at Oxford's eternal rival, Cambridge

Of course, Oxford isn't just great because it is fun to cycle around! The University itself offers countless academic, cultural, social, and artistic events. I tried to make the most of my time there, from attending open debate nights hosted by the conservative and socialist student organizations (aptly called "Port & Policy" and "Champagne & Socialism," respectively) to beautiful Evensong services sung by the world-famous [New College](#) and [Magdalen College](#) choirs. I became a regular reader of the two Oxford student newspapers, The Oxford Student and The Cherwell, both of which are quite blunt and even cheeky at times. I even tried karaoke for the first time (at HMC), though I can't claim to have sung well. Thanks to Maria, I also got to experience proper English pub culture, [joining a pub trivia team](#) for the last few weeks of the term! And thanks to Yijo, I attended my first play performed in Sanskrit, which was absolutely splendid. Can't say I'll ever have that opportunity again.



Another photo of HMC

At the end of term, after COVID-19 threw a wrench in all my post-term travel plans and I had rebooked my flight home, I hurriedly returned my rental bike to the shop in Summertown where I had checked it out 2 months prior. It was a nice evening, with clear skies and gorgeous late-day sunlight, so I walked the ~1.5 miles back to HMC instead of taking the bus, cutting through University Parks on the way. Many of my afternoon runs in Oxford went through that park, which abuts the River Cherwell and features grand old willow trees and wide-open fields.

I find walking an inherently contemplative exercise, and I certainly had a lot to contemplate on that trek: my impending flight, the spread of COVID-19, and missing Oxford and the friends I had made there. I tried to take in as much of the scenery and architecture as I could on that final evening in Oxford, and ended up in a bit of an uneasy reverie of sorts. However, it was rather abruptly interrupted by a young girl in a school uniform who stopped me on the pavement with an “excuse me?” followed immediately by “Will you marry me?” I laughed, shook my head no, and continued walking, hearing a chorus of other girls laughing at what was likely a schoolyard dare.

The whole exchange provided a much-needed laugh in a very stressful time. Moving on from one life chapter to the next is rarely easy, especially when it occurs in the middle of a global pandemic unlike anything we’ve ever seen in our lifetimes. But regardless of what happens in the

coming months, I'm grateful for the opportunity to have spent a term in Oxford, and hope I'll be able to return one day.



The City of Dreaming Spires

FINAL STUDY ABROAD REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Please provide a written assessment of your experience abroad this past term in light of your academic and educational objectives. In particular, please touch on the following: your overall experience at the foreign institution, the quality of the faculty and the quality and availability of courses offered. Please also comment on other topics you feel might be helpful to future students, such as quality of life, financial, housing, social or other considerations that had an impact on your experience. Your report need not be longer than two pages.
- 2) Please indicate whether we can share your information with current BU Law students interested in participating in our study abroad programs.
 - a) Will you share your personal email address with students who request to contact former program participants?
YES ☒
NO ☐
 - b) Will you share your final study abroad report (with any identifying information redacted) in a binder housed in the OGIP?
YES ☒
NO ☐

Please write your Final Study Abroad Report below.

Name:

Semester/Institution: Oxford University (Harris Manchester College), Spring 2019

REPORT:

As a student who has focused her law school career taking international law-related courses, I was really looking forward to my semester at Oxford studying International Human Rights Law and European Union, during an important time in the United Kingdom with the impending Brexit. Overall, I found the experience to be a rewarding addition that complemented my legal education in the United States at Boston University. Both academically and personally, I enjoyed my semester at Harris Manchester College.

Starting out the semester, my objectives were to gain an enhanced perspective on international law from a global perspective and to continue to develop skills that would be beneficial when working in an international legal setting. From the purely academic side, I found the tutorials and lectures to be both interesting and informative. My main tutorials in International Human Rights Law and EU Law led to an extremely enhanced understanding of those areas of law and to very interesting discussions on the legal and theoretical issues surrounding both topics. I especially enjoyed my IHRL tutorial. My tutor led us in engaging discussions of the difficult questions surrounding international human rights law and posed interesting questions from different perspectives. I also really enjoyed our Introduction to the British Legal System tutorial with Professor Krebs. We were given the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the various legal issues in the United Kingdom during such an important moment in UK history, Brexit, and also given a chance to watch a criminal trial, as well as proceedings in the House of Commons and House of Lords.

Additionally, living in college at Harris Manchester provided a unique opportunity to engage with and join the Oxford community. Living in college and participating in tutorials and lectures provided a unique experience: I met with many students studying law, including with a Belgian bankruptcy judge who was pursuing a master's degree. I was taught EU Law by a Greek DPhil student who had just finished working with the European Commission. These connections with international lawyers made the experience richer, as I learned more about their legal systems, their academic experiences, and their professional goals and opportunities. I found the Oxford community to be different from BU Law, mostly because of the variety of subjects pursued by the students. Since Harris Manchester is for "mature students" (meaning over 21), there was a wide range of ages, degrees, and areas of study. I enjoyed the intersection of academic fields that I encountered. Just as I was interested in their areas of study, many students were interested in learning about my own academic career because the course of study is quite different in England than the United States.

For students interested in going to Oxford, it is important to note that the tutorials are very reading and writing intensive. Similar to BU Law's seminars, they vary based on the professor, but you can expect to have significant reading requirements for each tutorial. That being said, I enjoyed the different teaching style. Having only a few students in each tutorial allowed for more engaging and interesting debates and discussions, which is more difficult in a ten to twenty-person seminar. I also found the types of reading materials to be similar to what may be assigned in BU Law seminars (journal articles, treaties, cases, etc.), although the volume of reading tended to be higher per tutorial than would be expected for a seminar.

Since I decided to specialize in International Law at BU, I knew that learning international law from abroad would be an important addition to my knowledge of international law. Studying abroad at Oxford provided a unique experience in many ways, and I would recommend it to anyone interested in international law.

FINAL STUDY ABROAD REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Please provide a written assessment of your experience abroad this past term in light of your academic and educational objectives. In particular, please touch on the following: your overall experience at the foreign institution, the quality of the faculty and the quality and availability of courses offered. Please also comment on other topics you feel might be helpful to future students, such as quality of life, financial, housing, social or other considerations that had an impact on your experience. Your report need not be longer than two pages.
- 2) Please indicate whether we can share your information with current BU Law students interested in participating in our study abroad programs.
 - a) Will you share your personal email address with students who request to contact former program participants?
YES ☒
NO ☐
 - b) Will you share your final study abroad report (with any identifying information redacted) in a binder housed in the OGIP?
YES ☒
NO ☐

Please write your Final Study Abroad Report below.

Name:

Semester/Institution: Spring 2019; Oxford University (Harris Manchester College)

REPORT:

As I noted in my initial educational objective report, I had multiple academic and professional goals for my time at Oxford. Now that the term is over, I feel that I have not only exceeded my expectations but also enjoyed opportunities I had not originally anticipated.

Academically, I wanted to learn more about transnational business practices and environmental law. Through my corporate finance tutorial, lectures, and seminars I feel that I gained a deeper understanding of global business finance from both a theoretical and practical stance. I found the guest speakers (typically practitioners from London law firms, banks, and private equity funds) to be especially helpful to my goal of getting a better sense of how corporate finance occurs "on the ground." I also explored environmental law through environmental law lectures and a seminar on Comparative and Global Environmental law. Another of my initial goals was to take advantage of learning opportunities outside of the classroom. I met this goal by attending the 2019 Oxford Forum for International Development conference (covering topics such as global healthcare, China's Belt and Road initiative, and climate change), multiple symposia related to Brexit, and a special lecture on Private Equity.

The multiple opportunities available at both Harris Manchester College and Oxford more generally thus allowed me to exceed my academic goals. This was made possible both by the quality of the faculty and the wide availability of courses (and special lectures). My primary tutor (Louise Gullifer) was particularly helpful in suggesting events that would be interesting to me and pointing me towards literature and local scholars focused on my interests. The only drawback to the Oxford academic system for visiting students is that some courses (such as EU law) offered lectures and seminars in Michaelmas and Trinity term, but not Hilary term. Thus, as a visiting student in Hilary term, I was unable to receive the full experience of the EU law course (though I was able to take seminars and lectures on my primary Corporate Finance course). The availability of lectures/seminars made a significant impact, as these experiences provided a lot of additional information and placed me within an academic community of other law students as compared to the one-on-one tutorials.

Regarding my professional goals, I stated in my initial objectives that I wanted to meet people with similar career goals as me and begin to build a network of legal professionals. I was amazed at how easy this was at Oxford, especially as many Harris Manchester College students were law students with goals to work in corporate law. Because of this—as well as the frequent law-related events I attended throughout the term—I found it easy to embed myself in the community of legal students, faculty, and practitioners at Oxford.

One of my biggest professional goals during my time at Oxford was to "create a transatlantic professional network that will allow me to serve as a legal ambassador between [my future employer] Choate and its UK partner" Travers Smith. I met this goal by traveling to London multiple times to meet with associates at Travers Smith. This has allowed me to not only create professional relationships with young associates that I will likely work with in the future, but has also led to personal friendships as one London associate will be staying with me during his visit to Boston this summer.

In addition to meeting my academic and professional goals, I enjoyed a rich cultural and social experience at Oxford. Thus, while I feel that I learned a lot about substantive law, I also experienced the ways in which the law is inherently engrained in the particular culture and political regime of the UK. This became especially apparent as I became more knowledgeable about—and interested in—the Brexit process. Also, because I stepped outside of my typical BU law school experience while at Oxford, I became aware of more potential career paths. As I met many law students and professionals—including big law associates working in financial London, EU lawyers working in Brussels, and government workers enforcing competition law in the UK—I thought more about what kind of legal career I want to have and what opportunities exist outside of Boston (which has been my sole focus during my law school career).


Finally, regarding Oxford as a city and university more generally, it is hard to say enough good things. The city is a great place for students to learn—with access to endless lectures, speakers, events, resources, and technology—but it is also a great place to live. With inexpensive and diverse food and drink, numerous free museums, a botanic garden, and multiple parks, Oxford is a fun city in which to spend time outside of the classroom. It is also a great place for those seeking to create personal and professional relationships. In only ten weeks, I made friends from across many countries, academic fields, and socio-economic backgrounds. From discussions over dinner to Monday afternoon football games, the people at Oxford truly deepened and enriched my experience as a visiting student. An additional benefit was the “on college” housing provided by Harris Manchester College, as it was only a two-minute walk to dinner or the library. Also, with an en suite bathroom, housing services, and family-style college meals, Harris Manchester provides not only a convenient living arrangement, but an opportunity to become immersed in the college community. Finally, because the Harris Manchester community is made up of “mature” (21+) students, it was easy to meet people at similar stages of their career and life.

FINAL STUDY ABROAD REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Please provide a written assessment of your experience abroad this past term in light of your academic and educational objectives. In particular, please touch on the following:
your overall experience at the foreign institution, the quality of the faculty and the quality and availability of courses offered. Please also comment on other topics you feel might be helpful to future students, such as quality of life, financial, housing, social or other considerations that had an impact on your experience. Your report need not be longer than two pages.
- 2) Please indicate whether we can share your information with current BU Law students interested in participating in our study abroad programs.
 - a) Will you share your personal email address with students who request to contact former program participants?
YES ☐ X
NO ☐
 - b) Will you share your final study abroad report (with any identifying information redacted) in a binder housed in the OGIP?
YES ☐ X
NO ☐

Please write your Final Study Abroad Report below.


Semester/Institution: Spring 2019 / Oxford University

REPORT:

The Oxford University study abroad program was ideally suited to my academic interests, style of learning, and long-term professional goals. The program provided a range of different tutorials and seminars, all of which will enhanced my substantive legal understanding in International Human Rights Law and Jurisprudence. Moreover, the unique teaching style enhanced my insight into my long-term professional goals.

Academically, the Oxford program provided a great opportunity because I am interested in International Human Rights Law and legal regimes in conflicts. The advantage of being able to study the British Legal System was immense. It expanded my understanding of comparative law but also provided insight into how regional legal frameworks, namely the European Union, interact with domestic laws. This insight was particularly beneficial when studying International Human Rights Law because I was able to learn and examine different human rights protections from varied international law sources. While it is of course possible to study European Union legal regimes from BU, the opportunity to hear experts on issues ranging from free speech to religious freedom was unparalleled. Learning that was done in tutorial and in preparation for tutorials was supplemented by access to lectures and seminars in a variety of subject areas. One seminar that was particularly enjoyable was a Law & Armed Conflict Seminar. During my Fall 2018 semester at BU, I had taken a similar seminar. The opportunity to explore the same coursework from the British and EU perspective enhanced my understanding of how different countries interpret international legal regulations. The seminar at Oxford also provided an operational aspect to the legal regulations that was not available at BU.

The tutorials and seminars I attended were supplemented by an outstanding faculty. Our academic advisor and professor for the British Legal System course was incredibly kind and knowledgeable. Additionally, he helped tailor the course so that we were not just learning generalities, but were able to dive into specific aspects and relevant issues, such as Brexit and the interaction with EU law. My professors for both jurisprudence and international human rights were also both phenomenal.

Each course had a weekly writing requirement, and both professors used these essays to help me improve my legal writing by providing comments and criticism to help me develop. Moreover, they were able to provide incredible career advice and act as a reference during my summer internship application process.

The program structure was important for my future professional goals, which includes academia. Through the tutorial system and interactions with my tutors, I was able to determine that I want to take my academic pursuit in the direction of religious freedoms under international human rights regimes. Additionally, as an aspiring legal scholar, I was able to immerse myself in a program that parallels the structure of a PhD process and provides first hand insight into a career in academia. I was able to accomplish this because the learning environment is focused more heavily on writing than exams.

The institution overall was great. The room provided by the college was nice, spacious and clean. The accommodations also included meals during the week, which lessened the financial burden of the program. The benefit of being in the college was also social interactions. All of the students in the college are studying different topics, which allowed for interesting and engaging conversations. It also allowed me to take different perspectives on the law because it allowed conversations about how different fields interact with the law, such as technology and artificial intelligence.

The Oxford Program provided an immense opportunity for me to further both my academic and professional goals. The unique seminars that were offered will enhance my substantive understanding of the material I am interested in pursuing. The varied teaching structure allowed me to excel in the program, while also providing me with insight into my future professional goal of entering into legal scholarship.

FINAL STUDY ABROAD REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Please provide a written assessment of your experience abroad this past term in light of your academic and educational objectives. In particular, please touch on the following: your overall experience at the foreign institution, the quality of the faculty and the quality and availability of courses offered. Please also comment on other topics you feel might be helpful to future students, such as quality of life, financial, housing, social or other considerations that had an impact on your experience. Your report need not be longer than two pages.
- 2) Please indicate whether we can share your information with current BU Law students interested in participating in our study abroad programs.
 - a) Will you share your personal email address with students who request to contact former program participants?
YES ☒
NO ☐
 - b) Will you share your final study abroad report (with any identifying information redacted) in a binder housed in the OGIP?
YES ☒
NO ☐

Name:

Semester/Institution: Oxford University (Harris Manchester College), Spring 2019

REPORT:

As a student who has focused her law school career taking international law-related courses, I was really looking forward to my semester at Oxford studying International Human Rights Law and European Union, during an important time in the United Kingdom with the impending Brexit. Overall, I found the experience to be a rewarding addition that complemented my legal education in the United States at Boston University. Both academically and personally, I enjoyed my semester at Harris Manchester College.

Starting out the semester, my objectives were to gain an enhanced perspective on international law from a global perspective and to continue to develop skills that would be beneficial when working in an international legal setting. From the purely academic side, I found the tutorials and lectures to be both interesting and informative. My main tutorials in International Human Rights Law and EU Law led to an extremely enhanced understanding of those areas of law and to very interesting discussions on the legal and theoretical issues surrounding both topics. I especially enjoyed my IHRL tutorial. My tutor led us in engaging discussions of the difficult questions surrounding international human rights law and posed interesting questions from different perspectives. I also really enjoyed our Introduction to the British Legal System tutorial with Professor Krebs. We were given the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the various legal issues in the United Kingdom during such an important moment in UK history, Brexit, and also given a chance to watch a criminal trial, as well as proceedings in the House of Commons and House of Lords.

Additionally, living in college at Harris Manchester provided a unique opportunity to engage with and join the Oxford community. Living in college and participating in tutorials and lectures provided a unique experience: I met with many students studying law, including with a Belgian bankruptcy judge who was pursuing a master's degree. I was taught EU Law by a Greek DPhil student who had just finished working with the European Commission. These connections with international lawyers made the experience richer, as I learned more about their legal systems, their academic experiences, and their professional goals and opportunities. I found the Oxford community to be different from BU Law, mostly because of the variety of subjects pursued by the students. Since Harris Manchester is for "mature students" (meaning over 21), there was a wide range of ages, degrees, and areas of study. I enjoyed the intersection of academic fields that I encountered. Just as I was interested in their areas of study, many students were interested in learning about my own academic career because the course of study is quite different in England than the United States.

For students interested in going to Oxford, it is important to note that the tutorials are very reading and writing intensive. Similar to BU Law's seminars, they vary based on the professor, but you can expect to have significant reading requirements for each tutorial. That being said, I enjoyed the different teaching style. Having only a few students in each tutorial allowed for more engaging and interesting debates and discussions, which is more difficult in a ten to twenty-person seminar. I also found the types of reading materials to be similar to what may be assigned in BU Law seminars (journal articles, treaties, cases, etc.), although the volume of reading tended to be higher per tutorial than would be expected for a seminar.

Since I decided to specialize in International Law at BU, I knew that learning international law from abroad would be an important addition to my knowledge of international law. Studying abroad at Oxford provided a unique experience in many ways, and I would recommend it to anyone interested in international law.

FINAL STUDY ABROAD REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Please provide a written assessment of your experience abroad this past term in light of your academic and educational objectives. In particular, please touch on the following: your overall experience at the foreign institution, the quality of the faculty and the quality and availability of courses offered. Please also comment on other topics you feel might be helpful to future students, such as quality of life, financial, housing, social or other considerations that had an impact on your experience. Your report need not be longer than two pages.
- 2) Please indicate whether we can share your information with current BU Law students interested in participating in our study abroad programs.
 - a) Will you share your personal email address with students who request to contact former program participants?
YES ☐
NO ☒
 - b) Will you share your final study abroad report (with any identifying information redacted) in a binder housed in the OGIP?
YES ☒
NO ☐

Please write your Final Study Abroad Report below.

Semester/Institution: Spring, 2018, Oxford

REPORT:

I. Experience at foreign institution; quality of faculty; quality of availability of courses

Overall, my experience at Oxford was incredible and worth recommending to others. Our "home" college—Brasenose—is very well-regarded academically, and located in the heart of the University. As far as my actual courses, both of my tutors were from other colleges and were selected specifically for my interests in courses—highlighting both the quality of faculty (i.e. my tutors were very knowledgeable, flexible, and kind) and quality of availability of courses (I received the courses I wanted to study and the coursework itself was altered to suit my needs).

My initial goals for studying abroad were to 1) "expand my media law knowledge as it pertains to intellectual property, the Internet, free speech and the press," 2) utilize my four and a half years abroad as a base for comparative law analysis, and 3) learn from the unique Oxford approach which emphasizes guided self-instruction. I met all of these goals. My tutors were incredible, and my primary tutor was recommended to me from a previous BU student who studied abroad at Oxford. I looked forward to comparing the protections of the First Amendment (along with causes of action such as defamation and libel) in England to the United States, specifically due to the current political climate in the United States and concerns over censorship and net neutrality. I hoped to be able to focus some of the teaching on telecommunications law as well, a course that was being offered at Boston University in the Spring that I was not able to take since I was abroad. Looking back, all of these goals were met, and I was even able to go to "lectures" in addition to Prof. Rowbottom's tutorials and meet fellow classmates adding to a positive "communal" experience – though my tutorials were singletons.

As far as Tax Law, my overarching goal from this tutorial was to be able to thoughtfully engage at a high-level regarding "tax considerations" for businesses, since I will be working in a corporate environment, so that I can have basic useful knowledge for start-up clients and both large and small filmmaker clients. My assignments were focused on answering specific questions regarding how to assist such companies, and I was therefore very pleased with taking this beginning level course. The tutor was also very helpful in explaining any particularly difficult concept, and adjusting the course material as needed.

The other academic goals I had for the term included gaining a familiarity with comparative tax law (that is, England versus the European Union, or other relevant jurisdictions at the tutor's discretion); Brexit implications; and learning about tax policy and tax's normative goals (England or comparative, at the tutor's discretion). All of these goals were met through my tutor sessions or written work.

II. Quality of Life, Financing, Housing, Social Considerations, etc.

Brasenose has a supportive, friendly and overall terrific student life. You spend time with other graduates in a room called the HCR where there are weekly yoga meet-ups, pilates meet-ups, teas (e.g. a giant table is filled with nice foods and drinks), board game nights, and just a general space to play video games and relax with others. I easily made a lot of friends at Brasenose, several of which I will remain in contact with after and had the chance to travel with—though, you do have to be proactive to make friends. Eating was communal in a typical "Harry Potter" style dining hall with long wooden benches and average to great meals though limited hours regarding when the food is available. There are formal meals 3 times a week where you dress up a bit fancier, and you are served a three course dinner. Always a great experience

with good food and nice company with students from across degrees and disciplines, and I even managed to attend four other colleges formals by joining a "formal exchange" Facebook group. This was just one of the many ways you can meet new people outside of law, and see more of Oxford. Over trinity term, if you wish, you can join the crew team even with no experience. I practiced with them several times. Also, we have access to a pretty decent gym, and there are great areas for long walks around Oxford by the canals, Magdalen college, and Christ Church Meadows. You can also join Oxford's "walkers" who plan weekly walks and weekend trips (there is a distinct Facebook group). Tips: You can get access to the All Souls library which is a very selective and prestigious library by submitting an application form early, and both the Law Faculty library, and the Radcliffe Camera library are great places to study. I have traveled a lot in Europe before, so I do not recommend traveling during term more than 1-2 times (or try and remain in the U.K. because there are lots of things to see!) because the term is very short and it goes by too quickly. Also, get a rail card first thing, while it costs 30 pounds, you subsequently save 30% or so on every ride and trains are extremely expensive in the U.K., but a great way to get around. Plus, Oxford is a bit of a headache as far as getting to airports (two hour bus minimum, and rather pricey – around 30 pound / \$42 transfers), so not ideal for lots of traveling in my opinion. But, each person is different, our group of students ranged from traveling every weekend to only taking one trip, so it is completely up to you and your interests. Also, you can buy a cheap extra suitcase (10 pounds / \$14) for some of your excess shopping at Argos or Primark.

Some drawbacks with the program are that it is slightly disorganized. This didn't cause too many problems, but it is worth going into the semester with a flexible mindset (i.e. our visit to Parliament could have benefitted by being longer with an organized lunch, but again, a small detail). Though the program seems a bit more "supervised" due to the offering of trips, and some expenses being covered, your independence and self-reliance are still very much needed, and this is perhaps where some concerns arise with mismatched expectations. One of the biggest concerns was that though the program says our lodging and meals are included, we were not made aware that often meals are not served on the weekend or outside of term (we are there for about 3 weeks outside of term), and so this is an additional expense and issue that could have been resolved quickly at the outset with a bit more transparency. Also, our housing was not in the city center and this really affects your experience. I would ensure that you have lodging reasonably close to the college, as we had to consistently follow up and do our own research to find new accommodation. Not a big problem, but, worth noting, since housing availability changes every week there surely should be options close to college at one point. Also, though you may be pointed in the direction of the school nurse, it is up to you to register for a doctor and make sure that you have your health insurance in order (BU seems to pay an additional stipend for our NHS which is a great added benefit we were not made aware of, but again, this is not a problem per say since we have the additional insurance!).

Overall, if you make the best of it, and speak up when something *really* doesn't seem right, you should have a very nice time and furthermore, you get to meet Oxford students and become a part of a really unique and prestigious community. I highly recommend it, and wish I could have stayed longer.

FINAL STUDY ABROAD REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Please provide a written assessment of your experience abroad this past term in light of your academic and educational objectives. In particular, please touch on the following: your overall experience at the foreign institution, the quality of the faculty and the quality and availability of courses offered. Please also comment on other topics you feel might be helpful to future students, such as quality of life, financial, housing, social or other considerations that had an impact on your experience. Your report need not be longer than two pages.
- 2) Please indicate whether we can share your information with current BU Law students interested in participating in our study abroad programs.
 - a) Will you share your personal email address with students who request to contact former program participants?
YES ☒
NO ☐
 - b) Will you share your final study abroad report (with any identifying information redacted) in a binder housed in the OGIP?
YES ☒
NO ☐

Please write your Final Study Abroad Report below.

Name:

Semester/Institution: Spring Semester/Oxford

REPORT:

My primary objectives this semester were as follows: (1) gain a more theoretical perspective of the concept of law; (2) understand the English legal system; and (3) improve my writing. I think that at the end of the program I accomplished all of my goals to a degree. I accomplished my first goal more than the other two.

I accomplished my goal of gaining a more theoretical understanding of the law by taking a course in jurisprudence. I did not fully understand what the course involved at the time I signed up to take it, but I discovered that it pertains to the philosophy of the law. I had wanted to take such a course at BU, but the university does not seem to offer one. I had a mixed experience with my tutors, but my Jurisprudence tutor was wonderful (she's leaving the university though). My tutor encouraged me to consider each assignment as an opportunity to experiment with different ideas, and the ability to be creative was lots of fun.

I learned more about the English legal system, but not as much as I had expected. The tutorial that all BU students were required to take was rather disorganized and cursory in its scope. I learned the most by doing my own research for my final paper. Ultimately, however, I did enjoy the course despite its shortcomings.

With regard to my writing, it is hard to say whether or not I improved because I never received any feedback with regard to my writing style. All of the feedback pertained to the substance of the work I submitted. With that said, I do feel that I have become a faster writer, which is positive.

My overall experience at Oxford was mixed. The program for BU students was not well planned. I am aware that this was the first year that BU had its program at Brasenose College, but that is not an excuse for the complete lack of preparation. It felt as though no one at Brasenose knew we were coming, and both faculty and administrators seemed to struggle to figure out what to do with us, which was frustrating to say the least.

However, the program was what each individual was willing to make it. For me, once I became accustomed to the chaotic nature of the program, I did my best make my time meaningful on my own. I am proud to say that I created a positive experience for myself, but it took effort and the lack of support from BU did not make things easier.

The best part of my experience involved the students I met. As a graduate student, we were invited to be members of the graduate student club, which was very active and welcoming. I truly enjoyed getting to know the kind and intelligent graduate students at Brasenose, and I believe that some of the friendships I made will continue into the future.

FINAL STUDY ABROAD REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Please provide a written assessment of your experience abroad this past term in light of your academic and educational objectives. In particular, please touch on the following: your overall experience at the foreign institution, the quality of the faculty and the quality and availability of courses offered. Please also comment on other topics you feel might be helpful to future students, such as quality of life, financial, housing, social or other considerations that had an impact on your experience. Your report need not be longer than two pages.
- 2) Please indicate whether we can share your information with current BU Law students interested in participating in our study abroad programs.
 - a) Will you share your personal email address with students who request to contact former program participants?
YES ☒
NO ☐
 - b) Will you share your final study abroad report (with any identifying information redacted) in a binder housed in the OGIP?
YES ☒
NO ☐

Please write your Final Study Abroad Report below.

Name:

Semester/Institution: Spr in g 2018 Oxford University

REPORT:

In early January 2018, I formulated two academic goals myself upon entering my semester abroad. The first goal was to become a better writer and thinker. The second goal was to gain a broader understanding of the international legal issues my future employer faces. In

order to achieve both of these goals, I enrolled in Corporate Finance Law as my primary tutorial and Taxation Law as my secondary.

Through taking Corporate Finance, I broadened my understanding of debt and equity financing, private equity law, securities regulation, and creditors' and debtors' rights. In my tutorial, I was extremely fortunate to have Louise Gulliford, a renowned expert in the corporate finance field, to be my instructor. In my Taxation Law class I had a PhD candidate who designed the course by discussing with us the topics we were all interested in covering. Both instructors were fantastic and extremely knowledgeable.

The demands of the weekly writing assignments improved my writing abilities as well. As an up and coming attorney, I know that it is an essential skill to be able to communicate clearly and effectively. Although the weekly papers were a bit arduous at times, they nevertheless forced me to practice and refine my writing abilities. This, combined with the intellectual arguments that composed my tutorials pushed me and made me into a better thinker and writer.

Outside of academics, your time abroad here will be what you make of it. Everyone in the program did things a little differently from one another. Some really wanted a true "Oxford experience" immersing themselves into Oxford college life, attending formal dinners, going to lectures, and going out of their way to become part of the Brasenose College community. Some of us spent our weekends going on adventures traveling outside the country. Ultimately, however, there's something here for everyone. If you want to travel, travel. If you want to push yourself academically or intellectually, you can do that here too. If you want to make new friends and experience life as a true Oxford student, that's all here as well. Your time here will be what you make of it.

FINAL STUDY ABROAD REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Please provide a written assessment of your experience abroad this past term in light of your academic and educational objectives. In particular, please touch on the following: your overall experience at the foreign institution, the quality of the faculty and the quality and availability of courses offered. Please also comment on other topics you feel might be helpful to future students, such as quality of life, financial, housing, social or other considerations that had an impact on your experience. Your report need not be longer than two pages.
- 2) Please indicate whether we can share your information with current BU Law students interested in participating in our study abroad programs.
- a) Will you share your personal email address with students who request to contact former program participants?
YES ☒
NO ☐
- b) Will you share your final study abroad report (with any identifying information redacted) in a binder housed in the OGIP?
YES ☒
NO ☐

Please write your Final Study Abroad Report below.

Name:

Semester/Institution: Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford – Spring 2017

REPORT:

During the spring of 2017, I completed the Hilary Term at Harris Manchester College at the University of Oxford in Oxford, England. During the term, I focused my studies on Corporate Finance, European Union Law, and the British Legal System. Overall, the experience was overwhelmingly positive and beneficial, as I was able to develop an understanding of both substantive and procedural law in the United

Kingdom and Europe as a whole and benefit incredibly from the self-motivated structure of learning and discussion.

The structure of learning at Harris Manchester revolves around a tutorial system that allows students direct and conversational interaction with their instructor, and this was wholly beneficial in my studies of both European Union law and the British Legal System. The European Union is a very foreign concept to most students studying law at American universities, and there is very little that I, as a law student trained in the United States, was able to understand by making comparisons to the American legal system. Therefore, it was critical for me to have the one-on-one interactions with my European Union law tutor at Harris Manchester College in order to develop an entirely new frame of understanding to begin to process European Union law from. Additionally, working one-on-one with my European Union law tutor allowed me to have more practical discussions about European Union legislation and court precedents that will be much more helpful if I am ever working with a client that is subject to the jurisdiction of the European Union. The tutorial system at the University of Oxford allowed me to discuss hypotheticals of potential circumstances of both American and international clients with my tutor and work to understand the "real world" implications of practicing with clients that are involved in the European Union jurisdiction. Additionally, the perspective from my tutor, who is a European Union national, offered a greater understanding of the current environment of the European Union that may not be possible with study at an American law school.

My experiences studying the British Legal System were similar to my experiences studying European Union Law, as it was most challenging to refrain from attempting to compare the British legal system to the American legal system and determine how the British legal system works comparatively. It was rather interesting to learn the basis of the British legal system falls primarily on historical tradition and convention rather than a formalized constitutional structure found in the United States Constitution. Again, having the

FINAL STUDY ABROAD REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Please provide a written assessment of your experience abroad this past term in light of your academic and educational objectives. In particular, please touch on the following: your overall experience at the foreign institution, the quality of the faculty and the quality and availability of courses offered. Please also comment on other topics you feel might be helpful to future students, such as quality of life, financial, housing, social or other considerations that had an impact on your experience. Your report need not be longer than two pages.
- 2) Please indicate whether we can share your information with current BU Law students interested in participating in our study abroad programs.
 - a) Will you share your personal email address with students who request to contact former program participants?
YES ☒
NO ☐
 - b) Will you share your final study abroad report (with any identifying information redacted) in a binder housed in the OGIP?
YES ☒
NO ☐

Please write your Final Study Abroad Report below.

Name:

Semester/Institution: Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford – Spring 2017

REPORT:

During the spring of 2017, I completed the Hilary Term at Harris Manchester College at the University of Oxford in Oxford, England. During the term, I focused my studies on Corporate Finance, European Union Law, and the British Legal System. Overall, the experience was overwhelmingly positive and beneficial, as I was able to develop an understanding of both substantive and procedural law in the United

ability to discuss with a tutor who has had a lifelong awareness of the environment of the British legal system was beneficial to myself, who has spent my entire life in the mindset of the American legal system.

) My experiences studying Corporate Finance at Harris Manchester were equally beneficial, as I was able to develop a stronger basis in business and finance that will ultimately prepare me to work with clients from both a legal perspective and a business and financial perspective that will make me a much more valuable member of the legal team. Additionally, my tutor at Harris Manchester was incredibly knowledgeable of many aspects of corporate finance in both the United States and the United Kingdom and would help me to draw comparisons between the two. Understanding both U.K. and U.S. corporate finance will ultimately make me more marketable to law firms and clients because I will be able to advise for clients who are interested in global financing or operations.

In addition to all of the traditional academics benefits of studying at Harris Manchester College in Oxford, there were many academic benefits that I would label as "non-traditional" that simply come along with interacting with fellow students at Oxford. The students at Harris Manchester were very independent thinkers and would often offer new perspectives on a variety of hot issues such as human rights and diplomatic policies that are sometimes not often seen even in American law schools. In the United States, law students are somewhat isolated from other students of advanced studies, where at Harris Manchester College, law students study alongside philosophy students, medical students, economics students, linguistic students, and so on, so it was quite a wonderful experience to be able to expand my perspective in that way.

Ultimately, my experience at Harris Manchester College at the University of Oxford was extraordinary, and I would recommend it to every law student who has the opportunity.

FINAL STUDY ABROAD REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Write a one page report assessing your experience abroad, in light of your academic and personal goals. Topics to consider:

Courses

Professors

Housing

Social Activities

City Life

Money Matters

- 2) Please indicate whether we can share your information with current BU Law students interested in participating in study abroad programs.
 - a) Will you share your personal email address with students who request to contact former program participants?
YES ☒ NO ☐
 - b) Will you share your final study abroad report (with any identifying information redacted) in a binder housed in the OGIP?
YES ☒ NO ☐

Please write your Final Study Abroad Report below.

PROGRAM NAME & SEMESTER: Harris Manchester College at Oxford University, Spring 2015

As I stated in my application essay for the study abroad program at Harris Manchester College at Oxford University, "[i]ndividuals, organizations, corporations, and whole societies rely on access to information, technology products, communications infrastructures, revenues, and creative expressions that transcend national boundaries." While the laws that govern access to this content and technology are rooted within national or regional jurisdictions, law making in the fields of intellectual property, technology, media and Internet law increasingly happens on a global or regional scale. Further, national

and international legal regimes often struggle to address the same emerging, cutting edge issues presented by the globalization of information and technology.

I chose to study abroad at Harris Manchester College because I expected that it would provide an excellent opportunity to broaden my perspective and to enhance my substantive knowledge of foreign and international law in these fields. In addition, Oxford's unique tutorial method would enable me to explore, in-depth, differing normative approaches. My experience at Oxford fully met these expectations.

My primary tutorial in International and Comparative Intellectual Property law was taught by Thomas Dysart, a doctoral student. While the term was too short for a fully comprehensive survey, Tom designed the course to address current and emerging issues of particular importance in copyright, trademark, and patent law. Each tutorial's assignment required me to learn the relevant substantive law and critically assess the approach taken to that week's issue by courts in the United States, by the Court of Justice for the European Union, and by particular European national courts where relevant. In addition, my first tutorial assignment addressed how intellectual property law and policy setting work at the international and regional level. While the subjects required in-depth study into new issues and legal regimes, Tom's comparative approach enabled me to see parallels with U.S. law, and my background in intellectual property prepared me well to understand the material and develop my arguments.

My Media Law tutorial was taught by Professor Jacob Rowbottom, an expert on media law and the law of freedom of expression, and on their application to digital media. Professor Rowbottom allowed me to shape the syllabus around my interests, and my tutorials focused on media freedom, privacy law, defamation and libel, the law of government secrecy, and the protection of journalists' sources. I came to these subjects with less prior academic exposure, and at times I struggled with my

essays and readings, but I greatly enjoyed and valued my discussions with Professor Rowbottom during our tutorials. In retrospect, I believe I learned the most from those essays with which I struggled most, as I was forced to confront the gaps in my understanding and the weaknesses in my argument or writing.

I attended Professor Rowbottom's Media law seminar, as well as seminars in Trademark law and Patent law taught by prominent academics in those fields. These seminars were often dynamic environments, and I enjoyed the chance to participate along with the other students, and to engage with the professors. Through the Oxford Intellectual Property Speaker Series, I heard scholars from around the world speak on contemporary issues in intellectual property and had the singular opportunity to listen to Judge Arnold, a key judge on Internet law issues in the United Kingdom, speak in a small seminar environment. In addition to my formal courses, I regularly attended and participated in the Oxford Intellectual Property Research Discussion Group, where graduate students presented and discussed their work. Through this group I made valuable connections with students and academics with shared interests, and was invited to present my own work to the group for feedback. Lastly, Professor Gullifer's Introduction to the British Legal System course provided the necessary context in which to understand a changing legal landscape and culture.

This fall, I will begin my career as a public interest law and policy fellow in intellectual property, technology, and Internet law at Public Knowledge in Washington, D.C.,. Public Knowledge's advocacy work has both a national and international dimension, and I have no doubt that the education I received at Oxford will prove invaluable to me in this role. Already, in my work as a legal intern at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, I have found that my substantive knowledge of international and foreign approaches to issues in these fields enriches both my ability to approach my work from diverse perspectives, and to develop and argue for new or alternative approaches. While choosing to study

abroad in the last semester of my final year of law school certainly presented its own special set of organizational complications and personal challenges, studying at Oxford was an incredibly valuable experience that I am immensely grateful for, and that I know will continue to benefit me throughout my career.

FINAL STUDY ABROAD REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Write a one page report assessing your experience abroad, in light of your academic and personal goals. Topics to consider:

Courses

Professors

Housing

Social Activities

City Life

Money Matters

- 2) Please indicate whether we can share your information with current BU Law students interested in participating in study abroad programs.
 - a) Will you share your personal email address with students who request to contact former program participants?
YES ☒ NO ☐
 - b) Will you share your final study abroad report (with any indentifying information redacted) in a binder housed in the OGIP?
YES ☒ NO ☐

Please write your Final Study Abroad Report below.

PROGRAM NAME & SEMESTER: Oxford University - Spring 2012

Despite being away from Oxford University for a little over a month, the experience continues to shape my outlook on law, its practice and European legal cultures in a very significant way. From mid-semester, the Oxford program continued on its excellent track. The tutorial method and closeness with instructors enhances your self-reliance to research and write quickly. Another way my tutors helped me through the term was with my journal note, despite being work outside of their particular class. My tutors directed me toward new research (especially British scholars), offered interesting and meaningful suggestions and support. Being able to discuss the processes of research and writing, regardless of subject matter, also made me feel more engaged with the academic community. I cannot stress how important this is, especially to members of the International Law Journal or someone certing with an international topic.

Socially, at the end of the term when the weather warms and Harris Manchester students start thinking about their break, there seem to be a lot of activity. One of the practical rewards of keeping up with work throughout the term is being able to take advantage of these new opportunities. I found that many of my friendships with Oxford students either developed or

crystallized during this time when peers realize that you will not be returning after Easter. My memories from this time were sharing a pint while discussing law and politics. While in class you will learn about formal differences in legal cultures, it was during these social experiences that I learned most about differences in legal professions. Particularly interesting is the knowledge that these same people will be your professional network in only a few years. Professionally, this is important because it allows you to be aware in differences in working cultures. One of my goals was to understand better how international lawyers work compared to American lawyers and these otherwise "social" undertakings actually proved to be the most significant way I met this goal.

Toward the end of the semester, I think it is natural that students begin to look away from Oxford (and England to a certain extent) to evaluate Europe. Since the Oxford program ends early, there is significant time to travel. Among our group, I believe everyone did some traveling in Europe afterwards. I used the connections I made at Oxford to seek explanations to questions I had about law in individual states as well as the EU. Of course, networking at Oxford opens doors for finding people on the continent to chat or stay with. I also viewed my travels as an extension of my Oxford term to test what I had learned about international and European law when speaking to Europeans. As in America, it's very important to compare and contrast opinions about law and politics from legal experts and everyday people.

To summarize my Oxford experience, I would say that anyone will be able to meet goals for learning international law, understanding differences in international legal practice, networking and becoming part of the legal academic community. While Oxford and Harris Manchester does a very good job at helping you with administrative tasks, meeting the above goals require a lot of self-initiative. But that's part of the Oxford experience in tutorial, social life and the process of exploiting all of the university's resources. The Oxford program is described as three months of reading week. To get the most out of the experience in such a short time, that has to be true. My final advice to those considering it or about to start is to do everything to the max. By mid-March, you will be exhausted but definitely not regretting it.

Harris Manchester Program

Spring Semester

The primary feeling I had when I received notification of my acceptance to the study abroad program at Harris Manchester College was disbelief. I had to email the program office in order to ensure that they didn't send the message to my address in error. Once it was confirmed, however, I was overwhelmed with apprehension. I was in my final year of law school without a job, internship, or clerkship waiting for me after graduation and I was about to pledge my last semester to be spent over three thousand miles away. It was difficult to weigh the possibility of attending one of the most prestigious institutions in the world against the anxiety that comes with leaving the country while searching for post-graduation work in one of the worst job markets in decades. Half of my friends told me that it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, the other half said that it wasn't worth the risk, but, obviously, my excitement overcame my trepidation. Now that I am back I can say that I don't regret the choice.

The first big obstacle was simply getting there. The flight was, of course, hugely expensive, finding a sublettor for my apartment was no small hassle, and I had to make sure that anything remaining before graduation could be completed while I was overseas. But, when I arrived at Oxford and met the staff who I would be working with, my unease melted away. All of the staff that I encountered at Harris Manchester was extremely polite, professional, and helpful for everything from understanding British slang to finding a UK power adapter for my computer. Because the exchange student term is ten weeks instead of the standard eight, our first week was quiet. None of the Oxford students had returned from their break yet and the lectures hadn't

started. We spent the week sightseeing around Oxford and exploring the nearby pubs but, overall, we were hoping that the semester wouldn't be so plain.

The second week came, however, and the college filled up with students, all of whom were very friendly and receptive to foreign students. It wasn't difficult to meet new people as all of our meals were taken in the dining hall, sitting at large tables in an informal atmosphere. The student government association at Harris Manchester even organizes college parties – called 'bops' by people at Oxford – where all of the students can meet and have fun. Despite this, though, the semester was more difficult academically than all of my graduate courses to date. Each of us had three tutorials, two of which met every week and one that met every other week. These tutorials had enormous lists of assigned reading which inevitably required hours of time spent in one of Oxford's many libraries. For two of these tutorials, we were obligated to write essays each week which would then be discussed and defended during our meetings. It is impossible to go through the term at Harris Manchester and avoid pressure or conflict with the professors because the tutorials are so small – there is no place to hide when you are sitting across a desk from an expert in the legal field. This style of teaching has the benefit of ensuring that you will learn the material and come away from the term with the ability to argue topics like international intellectual property law or European Union law confidently. The lectures, of which we were required to attend sixteen, were taught in enormous halls, generally without any participation expected from the students. They covered large areas of law, jurisprudence, and legal philosophy, and were invariably taught by excellent professors. Although we arrived with the intention of making our semester as light as possible, we found ourselves wanting to attend more lectures than the requirement, or optional lectures outside of our area of study, because they were always informative and interesting.

) If I were to judge the term solely based off of the academics and the friendships made while at Harris Manchester, I believe that I would still find it to be worth the sacrifice. But there was certainly more to the semester than that. I was able to join the Brasenose rugby team (because Harris Manchester is too small to field their own team) and play against other colleges, giving me both unique bragging rights and a reason to drag myself out of the library once a week. Another student in the program joined the Wadham rowing team. The town of Oxford is also full of amazing museums and exhibits if you find that you aren't learning quite enough in the classes. Moreover, because the semester is only ten weeks, the study abroad program offers significant opportunities to travel after the term. I did return from Oxford to be greeted by a large amount of work that piled up in my absence, along with a very important job hunt, but in exchange I was able to attend Oxford, see Europe, learn more about European and international law than I thought I could, and make a long list of intelligent, ambitious friends. It was more than) worth the cost.

MID-SEMESTER STUDY ABROAD REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Write a one page report assessing your experience abroad, in light of your academic and personal goals. Topics to consider:

Courses

Professors

Housing

Social Activities

City Life

Money Matters

- 2) Please indicate whether we can share your information with current BU Law students interested in participating in study abroad programs.
 - a) Will you share your personal email address with students who request to contact former program participants?

YES

- b) Will you share your mid-semester report (with any indentifying information redacted) in a binder housed in the OGIP?

YES

Please write your Mid-Semester Study Abroad Report below.

PROGRAM NAME & SEMESTER: Harris Manchester College, Oxford University, Spring 2012

With only two weeks remaining in my term at Harris Manchester College (HMC), I continue to be shocked that BU students are not beating down the doors to participate in this program. The international and comparative law courses that are available, the personal teaching format, the endless resources of Oxford University, and the sheer beauty of the town should be more than enough to coax the most uncertain student to at least consider applying to participate in this program.

Courses

Comparing the structure of classes at BU and Oxford is like comparing apples and oranges; they are fundamentally different and both have their own strengths and weaknesses. One of the main reasons I wanted to study at Oxford was to learn through the tutorial method,

and for the most part I have enjoyed this style of learning/teaching. Because the professors give students an extensive reading list with numerous journal articles, book chapters, and cases to read each week, the student has to figure out what is most helpful or important for them.

While it might be possible to get away with not fully understanding a concept in the standard BU lecture (or even seminar) environment, tutorials offer no such luxury; writing a paper that synthesizes our weekly readings and expresses our own opinion on the subject necessitates that we have a firm grasp on the material. It can be frustrating to discover during the tutorial that reviews the material you just read that you misunderstood key concepts, but this should not and does not generally happen (at least not so far).

My two courses, besides the required British Law course, are Human Rights Law and European Union Law. As stressful as it is to prepare sufficiently for a tutorial so that I have enough to competently contribute, it is rewarding to be able to have an informed discussion about a topic I now have at least a basic understanding of with an expert and my peers. It is particularly enlightening to be taught by professors from the UK or continental Europe because of their unique perspective about how federalist institutions (like the EU) should operate, and for a critical and objective perspective on the U.S.

Professors

All three professors are excellent. They know their subjects thoroughly, they clearly want their students to firmly grasp and engage with the material, and they patiently explain how the law works when I cannot wrap my head around a concept like the practical consequences of parliamentary sovereignty.

Housing

Based on what I have seen and heard from the other BU students at HMC, housing options seem to run the gamut, but all are perfectly adequate (and some are downright charming). My room is on the ground floor of the quad at Trinity College, a five-minute walk from HMC. Downsides include: tourists loudly walking by the window on weeknights, being in a separate part of the building from 'regular' Trinity College students (it seems to be mainly visitors staying between a weekend and a week), and not staying at HMC. However, the fact that my building is essentially a restored castle (or at least gives that impression) with brightly

painted walls, a high ceiling, and an enormous window looking onto trees and grass more than make up for these minor shortcomings.

City /Social Life

I imagine that full-time Oxford students eventually become disenchanted with living Oxford and think of it as just a typical town. But, as a visiting student, I am blessed with fresh eyes that do not need rose-colored glasses to see the fairytale aspects of a city dripping with history, knowledge, creativity, and architectural beauty. The city has plenty of cheap or free activities. For example, there are several museums (natural history, art, etc.), and several of the colleges feature evensong ceremonies several days each week, which are essentially abbreviated church services that are mainly sung by children choirs. One of the ways I most enjoy spending time in the city is by wandering around new side streets, constantly searching for the best scone and sticky toffee pudding.¹

Money Matters

How much a student spends is mainly a function of how much she chooses to travel and socialize. Because breakfast, lunch, and dinner are provided Monday through Friday, plus Sunday brunch are provided by HMC and included in the cost of the program students could survive 50 GBP per week. In actuality, I generally spend about 150 GBP per week, between touring around, coffee, weekend meals, souvenirs, etc.

¹ Whoever criticizes British food clearly neglected to try their scones and desserts.

MID-SEMESTER STUDY ABROAD REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Write a one page report assessing your experience abroad, in light of your academic and personal goals. Topics to consider:

Courses

Professors

Housing

Social Activities

City Life

Money Matters

- 2) Please indicate whether we can share your information with current BU Law students interested in participating in study abroad programs.
 - a) Will you share your personal email address with students who request to contact former program participants?
YES ☒ NO ☐
 - b) Will you share your mid-semester report (with any indentifying information redacted) in a binder housed in the OGIP?
YES ☒ NO ☐

Please write your Mid-Semester Study Abroad Report below.

PROGRAM NAME & SEMESTER: Harris Manchester College, Spring Semester '12

I have spent over half of a semester in Oxford, a city that I had never seen within a country which I had never visited, and looking back I find that the place I have become most familiar with is a small corner of the college library. I am so familiar with this corner, in fact, that I have developed a strange case of library tan, as the window behind my desk seems to focus the rare glimpses of English sunlight directly onto my neck as I read and re-read articles on European legal systems. I still remember the first email that I received from my European Union Law tutor, a professor of comparative law at Oxford, because it just seemed so shockingly cruel. The readings for the first week comprised six book chapters, eleven journal articles, and sixteen cases – the syllabus overall was so intricate, so bursting with thick and tedious titles and questions, that it was difficult in itself to understand. When we went to that tutorial, we were sat down and greeted with a barrage of technical questions, forced to develop and argue complex legal theories, and never given an inch of dark space to slouch into, or a moment to dissemble and hide. And then we discussed the two-thousand word essays that we write each week. I have other tutorials as well. Don't go to Oxford if you don't want library tan.

For the few blessed moments that I do get out of the library, I typically go to the common room. Every college has a common room where the students can sit, relax, read the paper, or do the stereotypically human things to which even Oxford geniuses must occasionally succumb. Ours has a pool

table and we are currently involved in a small pool tournament. Apparently, in addition to its cutthroat academics, Harris Manchester is a meat-grinder for billiards. But the intriguing thing is not the skill of the players, it is the diversity. A few days ago I stood by drinking coffee, watching a Welshman play a Scottish woman, along with two Germans, a Dutchman, an Australian woman, and a remarkably imperious Londoner who had just come off a stint in the Royal Navy. In a sense, despite this inherent diversity, I remain the outsider. I don't understand many of their inside jokes, their cultural terms and idioms, or even references to current events. They are all Europeans; I'm only invading their school for a few weeks. Don't go to Oxford if you are uncomfortable being an outsider. Don't go to Oxford if you cannot deal with your sense of uniqueness importance being compromised.

Worst of all is the assault on my own intelligence. The Harris Manchester library is a decent size, maybe two dozen floor-to-ceiling bookshelves, but it is no comparison to the libraries at my previous universities. Yet I was constantly intimidated by it. After my first few weeks, I realized why that is. The vast majority of these books are over my head. Surrounding me now are treatises on the works of Shakespeare and analyses of late 19th century fiction. Across is a corner filled with theological analytics, and a few paces from that is a shelf dedicated almost entirely to quantum physics. I may take a brief stroll through the desks and find students memorizing neurological structures, typing dissertations on fashion in Austria during the 1600s, or reading The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire in order to find parallels with the French Revolution. Over the weekend, a nice drink with fellow students at an Irish bar down the road devolved into a debate over the Calvinist influence underlying the plot of Christopher Marlowe's Dr. Faustus. Don't go to Oxford if you cannot live without being the smartest person in the room. Don't go to Oxford if you are not ready to be intellectually challenged at every turn, from every person, and in every sphere. Don't go to Oxford if you can't challenge them back.

But, through all of these scathing criticisms, I suppose the ultimate question is whether or not I enjoy my experience. If I were to make the choice again, would I leave Boston during my easiest semester, leave all of my friends for the last few months of law school, still without a job offer, to come here? Emphatically, the answer is yes. Because these things which I have made a terror of my life for the past few weeks are also the things that I love about this term. Go to Oxford if you want to be shown what hard work and pressure can do. Go to Oxford if you want to share drinks with people from twenty different countries, learn to compliment a woman in Danish, and play a rugby game against a line of English, Irish, and Scottish chaps who want to see how tough an American really is. The professors are demanding, the load gets unbearable at times, and the nightlife is a fraction of what you get in Boston. Luckily, I did not come here for lax professors, light reading, and twenty-four hour clubs. I was warned that this would be an excoriating term and that I should not expect to have a typical college semester abroad. They were right, and I got exactly what I wanted.

MID-SEMESTER STUDY ABROAD REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Write a one page report assessing your experience abroad, in light of your academic and personal goals. Topics to consider:

Courses	Professors	Housing
Social Activities	City Life	Money Matters

- 2) Please indicate whether we can share your information with current BU Law students interested in participating in study abroad programs.
 - a) Will you share your personal email address with students who request to contact former program participants?
YES X NO ☐
 - b) Will you share your mid-semester report (with any indentifying information redacted) in a binder housed in the OGIP?
YES X NO ☐

Please write your Mid-Semester Study Abroad Report below.

PROGRAM NAME & SEMESTER:

My hope in coming to Oxford was to expand my knowledge of international law, particularly in the field of human rights, and expose myself to the British legal system; I thought both would be helpful in pursuing my overall goal of working in international or asylum/refugee law in the United Kingdom. I would say that so far my experience has more than met these goals. I have found the courses and academic atmosphere exceed my expectations and the professors, tutors, and other students are engaging and interesting.

My two tutorials, international human rights law and EU law, are very different but interesting. The tutor for EU law gives us a wide breadth of material and yet we seem to be able to cover it in detail in the tutorial. My international human rights tutor really encourages us to examine not only the primary legal material but the political, social, and economic background to the decisions and treaties as well which really contributes to a complete understanding of the subject. As someone who feels the study of law could be enhanced by a more interdisciplinary approach, I have really enjoyed this aspect of the tutorial and of the Oxford system generally.

I have been attending lectures on jurisprudence and human rights law in the British Parliamentary system. As with my tutorials, these lectures encourage a broader look at the

) material and pull from other disciplines to both enhance the legal reasoning and critique it. The professors leading the lectures are engaging and passionate. Additionally, the jurisprudence lectures are split between several professors. I find this to be important for two reasons: we get exposed to several different styles and opinions, all within one class; and it creates a dialogue between the various professors/lectures as they may pick up on something said earlier or argue against a point made by a previous lecturer.

The university has been extremely accommodating. Everyone, from the students to the professors to the staff, is friendly and genuinely concerned about how we are getting on in both academically and in the city generally. Oxford is accessible but there is always something to do, from museums to lectures to sports. Even though I am only here for a semester, I was able to join the rowing team for the college here (despite having never rowed in my life) without a problem and everyone was very supportive. The student body welcomed us with open arms and makes sure we are aware of any and all social events going on at college and sometimes outside of it. Having meals in college was also very helpful, both from a social perspective and because it cut down on the cost. Overall, I have found this semester to be very cost-effective.

) So far, my Oxford experience has been phenomenal. I feel like I am working towards my overall academic and career goals and also feel very welcomed and relaxed in the community. I would highly recommend the experience to anyone considering coming to Oxford.

)

Oxford, Fall 2012:

The Oxford program at Harris Manchester has been very rewarding overall. The facilities, faculty and fellow students have been a pleasure to work with throughout the semester, particularly the library staff. Professor Gullifer is absolutely amazing. Not only is she a great teacher (her course on British law is excellent), but a great organizer for BU students. She really cares about student needs and is very accommodating.

Keeping up with tutorial reading lists is formidable, but manageable. Oxford teaches you to write well and write well quickly. The approach to law is significantly different from BU courses. Oxford classes are truly about jurisprudence (contrasted with "law"). Theory and philosophy is emphasized to a large extent over black letter law and using other types of reasoning common to law school. This is helpful in understanding how foreign (particularly British) lawyers think and approach legal issues. "Thinking like a lawyer" at Oxford is definitely different than at BU. One way this is not helpful is if you depend on learning a field of law thoroughly by taking it at Oxford. For instance, you will learn quite a lot about the theoretical underpinnings of IP, but not the specific provisions of common international treaties. I'm not sure how helpful this knowledge will be in practice.

The students at Harris Manchester are very welcoming and excited to learn about American law students. The political science/law students talk a lot about the European Union and American federalism, so students attending Oxford in the future may want to read up on those subjects to better engage these students. Many of the British law students are interested in corporate work and love to talk stocks. Sports are a fairly large component of student life, and most of the BU students have found a team to play on. Rugby is not as hard, or rough, as American football. Students usually drink late on Wednesday (after wine is served at formal dinners), Friday and Saturday nights. The remaining nights are generally used for working. The top three bars are King's Arms, Turf Tavern and Bear Inn. The best food is at pubs and the Italian restaurants downtown. Tesco is probably the best option for cheap weekend food. A big tip is buying the pre-packaged sandwiches, storing them in the fridge to take out when you are on a tear writing for tutorials.

A final tip deals with traveling outside of Oxford. After accounting for reading and writing for tutorials, there is often little time for adventure outside of the college/city, especially if you do a sport, socialize or visit the college museums. It seems easier to travel either before the term begins or afterwards. On the other hand, getting in and out of London is very easy (and cheap) by bus for a daytrip.

I think for the most part my personal goals have been met. I came to Oxford largely to interact with foreign "lawyers" so that I would be comfortable working on a global level during my career. The law faculty is very diverse and open to talking about practice. All

) of my professors are from different countries, though they all share an Oxford legal education. The Oxford law students are also very conversational. My other goal was to learn international law from non-American perspectives. In every tutorial, a reading list is provided by the professor. The reading list rarely, if ever, includes American sources. I think this is a BU law student can benefit most from the Oxford education, particularly when the topic is narrowed to ignore philosophical and theoretical arguments.

)

)

PROGRAM NAME & SEMESTER: Oxford University (HMC), Spring 2012

) Next to participating in a BU legal clinic, spending Hilary Term at Harris Manchester College (HMC) at Oxford was the best experience of my law school career. I would highly recommend the program to any student interested in international or comparative law generally or in relation to a specific field of study (e.g., the international dimension of intellectual property law).

The content and structure of the courses was highly conducive to gaining a thorough understanding of the complexities of different fields. That is, while it was not possible to cover every aspect of European Union, British, or Human Rights law in eight weeks, through substantial reading assignments, tough (but fair) questions during tutorials and through weekly essays, our professors helped us develop a basic, broad understanding of the field and an in-depth understanding of particular areas (e.g., free movement of workers in EU law). Although stressful and extremely daunting at first, Oxford's method of tutor-guided self-teaching via weekly papers and Socratic tutorial sessions helped me get a solid grasp on the material and become confident in my own ability to understand, synthesize, analyze, and apply foreign cases and theory-intensive readings. I also felt a sense of accomplishment at the end of the term having written about fourteen papers (8-10 pages each) on topics that were initially confusing and overwhelming.

) Another great aspect of academic life at Oxford is the lecture system. One of BU's requirements is that students attend sixteen lectures, with topics ranging from jurisprudence to Roman law. Several of the students, including myself, decided to attend the Jurisprudence lectures, a series that is required for beginning Oxford law students. These were interesting because they highlighted that the Oxford legal education stresses the theoretical underpinnings of law (at least for first year students). It was also exciting and surreal to hear the perspectives of legal philosophers from around the world that I have read since college, like Jeremy Waldron.

The students at HMC (and at Oxford generally, from what I gathered), had a great balance between academics, extracurricular, and play. Oftentimes after dinner students would head to the Junior Common Room to play pool, have a coffee before starting work for the night (the library was just upstairs), talk with friends, or have a pint. There were also several student-organized bops (mini-parties/dances) in the JCR throughout the term, with themes like "1980s TV shows" and "Glitter." There were also plenty of touristy sights and experiences in Oxford, like visiting the natural history museum, walking along the Thames, or going to an Evensong service (sung by a local boys' choir) at a college chapel. Lastly, because the program ends in mid-March, there is plenty of time to travel (or intern) throughout England before the BU semester ends.

) Even when the workload felt particularly heavy, I greatly nearly every minute at HMC. The students, faculty, and staff were all exceptionally friendly, helpful, and kind, the courses

) were unique and challenging, and the buildings and outdoors were beautiful. BU students are very lucky to get to participate in this program, and I hope more students do in the future.

)

}

FINAL STUDY ABROAD REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Write a one page report assessing your experience abroad, in light of your academic and personal goals. Topics to consider:

Courses

Professors

Housing

Social Activities

City Life

Money Matters

- 2) Please indicate whether we can share your information with current BU Law students interested in participating in study abroad programs.
- a) Will you share your personal email address with students who request to contact former program participants?
- YES ☒ NO ☐ RNM5885@gmail.com
- b) Will you share your final study abroad report (with any indentifying information redacted) in a binder housed in the OGIP?
- YES ☒ NO ☐

Please write your Final Study Abroad Report below.

FINAL STUDY ABROAD REPORT

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Write a one page report assessing your experience abroad, in light of your academic and personal goals. Topics to consider:

Courses

Professors

Housing

Social Activities

City Life

Money Matters

- 2) Please indicate whether we can share your information with current BU Law students interested in participating in study abroad programs.

- a) Will you share your personal email address with students who request to contact former program participants?

YES ☒ NO ☐

- b) Will you share your final study abroad report (with any indentifying information redacted) in a binder housed in the OGIP?

YES ☒ NO ☐

Please write your Final Study Abroad Report below.

PROGRAM NAME & SEMESTER:

Oxford University, Hilary Term 2012

My hope in coming to Oxford was to expand my knowledge of international law, particularly in the field of human rights, and expose myself to the British legal system; I thought both would be helpful in pursuing my overall goal of working in international or asylum/refugee law in the United Kingdom. I found both my classes and my fellow Oxford students to further these goals. The professors and tutors were demanding yet patient with us and really encouraged deep engagement with the material. The other students, both those in law and those studying other courses, were interested in discussing current issues and provided a range of views to which we would not otherwise have been exposed.

My three tutorials, international human rights law, EU law, and introduction to the British parliamentary system were very different but all very interesting. Learning EU law from a European citizen in a European Union country was invaluable. Our tutor gave us an insight we would have been unable to get in the United States. Additionally, the material was extremely

) relevant to many of the students with whom we were studying, both British citizens and the many continental European students here as well. Our professor in introduction to the British parliamentary system really went above and beyond to make us feel welcome as well as taking the time to make sure we grasped many of the intricacies of the British system. Our course study was enhanced by a visit to the Supreme Court and the House of Commons, during which we were able to see in practice many of the facets of the British political system we had been studying. My international human rights tutor really encouraged us to examine not only the primary legal material but the political, social, and economic background to the decisions and treaties as well which really contributed to a complete understanding of the subject. As someone who feels the study of law could be enhanced by a more interdisciplinary approach, I really enjoyed this aspect of the tutorial and of the Oxford system generally.

The university, and particularly Harris Manchester College, was extremely accommodating. Everyone, from the students to the professors to the staff, was friendly and made him or herself available if and when we had any questions or concerns. Ms. Gullifer, the head of the program and our tutor for introduction to the British parliamentary system, made sure we were getting on well academically but also that we were able to engage socially with the college. The student body was extremely welcoming and genuine. I truly feel as though I made many friends with whom I will stay in touch far beyond my time at Oxford.

) My Oxford experience has been the high point to my time at law school. I have already recommended the program to several friends at BU, especially those interested in international law, and would recommend it to anyone as a way to branch out from the traditional law school curriculum and expose oneself to more theory and a broad range of opinions and ideas.

Harris Manchester College, Oxford University - Spring Semester '11

Reflecting back on a year ago when I was applying for the study abroad program, there were several reasons why I was interested in a semester abroad at Oxford's Harris Manchester College. I felt that an aspiring international commerce lawyer might benefit from learning commercial law in an international setting; I wanted to see debates surrounding the international community from an international perspective; and I looked forward to the challenge of the Oxford tutorial system. As my time at Oxford has come to an end, I can confidently say that my experience surpassed my expectations.

First, I had the opportunity to take commercial law and corporate finance tutorials with world renowned and very prolific scholar Louise Gullifer. Case in point, we used the pre-publication version of her latest and most comprehensive work on corporate finance as the text in the corporate finance tutorial. Because of her expert understanding of the topical areas, I was exposed to the theoretical underpinnings as well as practical, real world examples of corporate finance and commercial law. In fact, upon leaving Oxford I reported to Vienna, Austria for a short stint with the United Nation's Commission on International Trade law where I am now using much of the knowledge gained in the two courses.

Second, and as mentioned in my mid-semester report, HMC has an immense international student body. It also happens that most have strong opinions on the world as regards international politics. Nearly constantly I found myself engaged in debates ranging from human rights, to armed conflicts, to economic justice, to climate change. On top of the usual lively debate in casual settings, I also took International Armed Conflicts and International Law of the Seas as lectures, which encompassed nearly the same subject matter but fostered better informed

debates in a more formal setting. As this was one of the key reasons for my deciding to study at Oxford's Harris Manchester, my experience surpassed my expectations.

The tutorial system offered a refreshing juxtaposition to the lecture system present in America. While I think both have their pros and cons, the tutorial system's weekly essay requirements require students to intimately engage the material more frequently than many American students might be accustomed to. While I cannot claim to have had a true Oxford experience as I was not responsible for exams, I do see the benefits of receiving feedback on essays that represent your understanding of the subject matter before exams are given. Also, the feedback itself is invaluable, an element that is often lacking in the communication exchange between American law students and professors. There usually is not the opportunity to get the same kind of detailed feedback from American law professors on exams, if any feedback is given, it is usually on one or two problems of a multi-problem exam.

Accordingly, my time at Oxford met or surpassed all expectations I had coming into the program. Interestingly enough, it offered more than I had counted on too. What I failed to mention in my list of expectations before arriving were the relationships I hoped to make, which is shameful because I went on to make life-long friendships while at Oxford. For me this is the most important aspect of my time there. Accordingly, my experience has proven to be worthwhile on both a personal and academic level. And I am fortunate to have had such an opportunity.

BU Law Study Abroad: OXFORD Final Report

My semester at Oxford was the perfect way to end my experience at Boston University Law School. The experience opened my eyes to the world, and it was also an exciting academic challenge. I am very glad that I took part in the program. I made life-long friends and learned more about the law, in an international context, than I possibly could have in any conventional setting.

During the semester, I took two personal tutorials – EU Law and EU Taxation. I am really glad to have had the opportunity to learn so much about the European Union. Upon reflection after the semester, I could not believe how little I knew about the EU or the European legal system! In my future practice, I will be constantly working with international organizations. Most tax structuring involves foreign entities. As such, I really think that the information I learned about the EU will be invaluable in my future endeavors.

The faculty and staff at Harris Manchester were incredible. Louise is such a nice person; and she is a talented lawyer and teacher. She made sure that we were comfortable, challenged, and taken care of for the whole duration of our stay. Both of my tutors were equally wonderful. Each of their teaching styles varied significantly – but I was able to adapt quite well. Every week, I received an assignment for my tutorials. This usually involved writing academic papers; but sometimes I was given other assignments – like problem sets (equivalent to a BU law exam essay) or presentations. I struggled much more with the academic essays. I have become so accustomed to writing as a lawyer, or writing for exams – that I forgot how to think and write like an academic. I think the program helped me to retrain my brain to think more creatively in that respect.

The best part of the experience, by far, was being able to see and travel through Europe. Before this trip, I had never left North America. Now, I have been all over Europe. Before the trip, I was able to visit France and Spain; and after the trip I travelled to Holland and Italy. One of the best travel experiences was the trip that our director, Louise, took the whole group on. We all flew to Prague – and we had such an amazing time! Louise set up a wonderful, authentic Czech dinner with her ex-pat friends living in Prague. We had such a great time trying the local beer and dining on the traditional fare – like huge platters of pig's knee or beer cheese. It was a great opportunity to bond with the group, and I enjoyed seeing a whole different side of Europe.

The accommodations at Oxford were very nice! We were all housed in one small building, and we each received a private room with a bathroom. The rooms were equipped with internet. One thing I would warn future Oxford students about, however, was the budget. Money goes very quickly in Europe – and especially in England. Although many of the meals were provided to us, the meal times were set – and were not always convenient. Additionally, the meals were usually traditionally “English” and may be unappetizing to some. I for one, spent a lot of time eating out in Oxford; and this added up very quickly!

I recently saw that BU added a London study abroad program. I think that is wonderful! I would advise students that are natural city-dwellers to try that program out. Oxford is a beautiful and historic town, but it does not have as many exciting things to do as London. I really enjoyed my time in London; we travelled there quite a few times on the weekend.

Overall, Oxford was a great experience. I was able to travel the continent and learn a lot about the law. I will take both the experiences and knowledge with me into my career as a lawyer. I am very glad that I took part in the program, and I would recommend it to any student who is looking for a challenging academic experience abroad.

University of Oxford Study Abroad Program, Hilary Spring 2011

Before I left the United States for my semester abroad at the University of Oxford, I had little idea of what to expect. I did, however, know what I hoped to get out of the experience. In my two and a half years at BU I took a number of courses I was interested in, but I had not focused on any one area. I wished to use my semester at Oxford to go a bit deeper into an area of the law, specifically corporate law and topics related to finance. In the end, while I received a lot of instruction in these areas, my experience abroad was so much more.

With respect to instruction on corporate law topics, the focal points of my experience at Oxford were my tutorials. My primary tutorial was in corporate finance and my secondary in commercial law. While I was quite familiar with many commercial law topics, as they are similar to many concepts I learned in contracts and property law, I came to Oxford with very little exposure to finance and its related concepts. However, after ten weeks of reading and writing on most major topics related to corporate finance, I am quite confident in my grasp of the subject. In fact, I intended to pursue a career in financial regulation after taking the New York bar this summer.

In large part, I attribute my interest and comprehension of these topics to the incredible instruction of Louise Gullifer, the law tutor in charge of the BUSL program at Harris Manchester College. Louise, along with another Oxford tutor, wrote the book on corporate finance from which I studied. She also has written extensively on insolvency, an understanding of which is integral to corporate finance. Louise not only was a fantastic instructor, but she was also able to direct me to various corporate law presentations held each week around the university. Attending these events rounded out my understanding of corporate finance and exposed me

further topics in corporate law, for example corporate governance, with which I previously had little exposure.

While every Oxford student spends a considerable amount of time with their assigned tutors, often they spend even more with the other students in their tutorials. This was certainly true in my case. Brandon Middleton-Pratt and I took both corporate finance and commercial law together. Often, before our corporate finance tutorials, we would meet for coffee to discuss the readings for the week. Because Brandon has a solid background in finance, these meetings were incredibly helpful for me. Spending so much time together, we also became quite good friends. I believe this mimics the experience of many Oxford students. For example, it was easy to tell who the medical students in Harris Manchester College were, as they often gathered together at lunch or in the college bar to talk about their recent or upcoming tutorials. I wrote about this kind of outside-the-classroom learning, which seems to continually take place at Oxford, in my mid-semester report. These kinds of experiences made for an incredibly rich and diverse learning environment and were one of my favorite parts of my time at Oxford.

Other aspects of my time abroad which I really enjoyed and which provided a well-rounded learning environment were the cultural experiences which Oxford afforded. Oxford itself is full of museums, theaters, and buildings of historical interest. The city's proximity to London also allowed for quick trips to one of the cultural and legal capitals of Europe. For example, one day Louise was able to take the BU students to see an insolvency case argued in front of the Supreme Court and for a visit to Parliament of the UK. Afterwards, all of the BU students had dinner together at a curry house on Brick Lane before catching the bus back to Oxford. The UK's obvious proximity to Continental Europe also allowed me to conclude my trip abroad with some travelling. I spent a little over two weeks visiting Amsterdam, Berlin,

) Milan, Vienna, and Paris. This trip was an incredible way to finish my semester abroad and my law school career as a whole.

My experience abroad was one I will never forget. I discovered an area of the law in which I am deeply interested and learned about that subject in a completely different way from that which I am used to, but one that proved to be very comprehensive and informative. I also made friends with people I believe I will be in touch with for years to come. Finally, I was able to see parts of the world and experience cultures which I otherwise would have struggled to visit and experience.

)

Oxford, 2011

I will try to assess all of the aspects of my study abroad experience in order to give any one reading this a good idea of what to expect at Oxford. I will start with the teaching arrangements.

The Tutorial System

Oxford uses a one-on-one (or one-on-two or three) tutorial system in which you meet weekly with a professor. This is, of course, much different than our system. Despite my unfamiliarity with it, I enjoyed it a lot. It allows you to fully flesh out ideas with the professor. It forces you to be very well-versed in the subject – you cannot really slack off when you are the only student in the classroom. And, it allows you to make a personal connection with the professor that is lacking in our lecture system.

Although I was generally satisfied with the tutorial system, there are few things that I was a little displeased with. The one major downside is that it can be quite overwhelming and requires an immense amount of work. You need to meticulously read the material assigned to you and really need to be on top of everything. Additionally, for some reason, all of my professors were quite disorganized. They would assign literally 500 pages of reading each week and then, at tutorial, discuss only a fraction of the reading. This made it quite difficult to really concentrate on some of the more interesting and arcane issues, for you had to be sure you had a good grasp of all the general issues. I later learned from other students that the tutors do not actually expect you to read all of the assigned reading – this seemed a little odd to me, but by the end of the term I managed to divine which reading was truly important and which was not, a skill that I should mention was not easy to develop. Overall, though, I really liked the tutorial system and was happy to be able to participate in a totally different teaching system. It was a little scary at first, but in the end it was a great experience.

Housing and Food

The housing was quite nice. We lived in one room dorms that had their own bathrooms. Not as great as having your own apartment, but certainly better than a grungy undergrad dorm. The food, however, was awful. It lived up to the long-held belief that English food is bad. To make matters worse, you have to pay a substantial amount of money to eat the food and, although full-time students can opt out of meals and get their money back for opting out, you cannot. This seemed really unfair to me and irked me. If I could do it again, I would try to find some way to weasel out of the food program (though I am not sure this is possible).

The Best Reason to Go

In spite of my above complaints, I would strongly recommend this program. It was an unparalleled academic experience. As a 3L, it was nice to change pace during my last semester. And, it was really really fun! The pubs in Oxford are great. London is a short (and relatively cheap) train ride from Oxford. And, on the weekends you can fly to anywhere in Europe for quite cheap. Most importantly, the person running the program – Lousie Gullifer – did a fantastic job. She made me feel right at home; was always very helpful; and brought us on a great weekend trip to Prague. So if you have the opportunity to do this program, I would say do it. It isn't perfect, but if you go, I am sure you will have the experience of a lifetime.

Oxford Spring 2011 (Hillary Term)

Looking back on my term at Oxford, the experience was overwhelmingly positive in a number of ways. Although the most rewarding part of being at Oxford was the academic work, the social and cultural aspects of being in Oxford and at Harris Manchester College in particular were important factors in making the experience as enjoyable as it was.

The primary teaching at Oxford occurs through the tutorial system, with each tutor assigning a list of reading for the week and an essay on a specific topic within the general subject. The weight of the reading list, and the specificity of the essay topics tend to vary greatly depending on the subject and the tutor. The tutorials supplemented by a lecture program, where students can choose to attend lectures on subjects that interest them or that relate to their tutorials. I completed two tutorials, one in jurisprudence and the other in human rights, and attended a number of lectures on both topics.

I found the jurisprudence lectures and tutorials to be more engaging and more interesting than the human rights coursework. Oxford is particularly well known for its contributions to the revival of jurisprudence as a field of legal study, and this is reflected in the quality of the jurisprudence faculty and the number and variety of jurisprudence lectures offered. My tutor for jurisprudence also contributed to my enjoyment of the subject. Raquel was a DPhil student finishing her doctorate in jurisprudence, and I couldn't have asked for a more enthusiastic or knowledgeable person to guide me through the subject. Although her reading lists were ambitious, they featured all original material, and I feel like I came away from the tutorials with a much fuller understanding of the subject. I think it was also helpful to study jurisprudence during the last semester of my legal education because it allowed me to step back and look at the philosophical underpinnings of the law and the ways that thinking about the law can and should inform legal practice.

At the end of my law school education, I found it useful to step back and look at the law from a different perspective and engage with legal material in a new way. The Oxford approach to legal education, at least in the subjects I chose, places less emphasis on case law, and brings in more scholarly writing and secondary materials. I found that the work of writing two weekly essays in particular really forced me to engage with legal materials in a different way. In addition, I found the focus on scholarly work and philosophy, even in my Human Rights and British Legal Systems tutorials was a refreshing change of pace.

Being at Harris Manchester College really added to my experience at Oxford. Louise Gullifer was fantastic as a program coordinator and as a tutor in the British Legal system. She was incredibly organized and knowledgeable, and really made everything run very smoothly. She also made sure that we felt at home at Harris Manchester, and she was always available to answer any questions we had throughout the term. The trip to Prague that she organized as part of our program was really fantastic. We toured the entire city and got to learn a lot about its

history and architecture over the course of a weekend. It was really Louise that made the trip to Prague so enjoyable. A friend of hers who lived in the city was able to show us around, and she organized a few outings that really made it a richer and more memorable experience.

Because Harris Manchester College only accepts students who are over the age of 21 into their program, it felt much more natural to be located there than at any of Oxford's other colleges. It meant that we were able to socialize with people closer to our own ages, and the students at Harris Manchester had often pursued other careers or education before coming to Oxford. Additionally, the population of Harris Manchester is very small, so it was easy to get to know the other students and to make friends at College. The College also hosts a number of social events throughout the term (including a Burns night with traditional Scottish dancing) that make it easy to get to know the other students and feel at home at the school.

Oxford has a lot to offer as a city that makes it a lovely place to spend a term. Although the weather in the winter is stereotypically grey and depressing, and the pace of the term itself may leave little down time, it's definitely worth the effort to go out and explore the town. The entire town is littered with museums and performance venues that offer everything from dinosaur skeletons, to a fantastic collection of Italian art. If nothing else, the Ashmolean is definitely worth a visit for both its art collection and its anthropological exhibits, and the museum of natural history holds the world's only remaining complete stuffed dodo bird.

Overall, I really enjoyed studying at Oxford for a term. Although the pace of the academic work was much quicker than doing a typical semester at BU, I was still able to take advantage of much that Oxford had to offer and to do some traveling around England and the UK. I managed to fit in trips to London, Edinburgh, and Dublin in addition to the group trip to Prague, and at the end of my term, I was able to travel to Europe for a bit before coming back to the States. The ability to travel definitely enhanced the value of the experience. I would definitely recommend the Oxford program, and the jurisprudence course in particular to other Boston University students interested in studying abroad.

OXFORD PROGRAM SPRING 2011

Overall, I am glad that I chose to do the Oxford Study Abroad Program. It was very different than what I imagine a typical study abroad program is because it was so intensive. Although it was shorter than a typical semester, the amount of work compacted into those weeks made it extremely rigorous. I knew this going into the program, but actually experiencing it was jarring. However, the amount of work coupled with the learning style at Oxford taught me a great deal and complemented the rest of my legal education at BU.

Although I initially felt that the tutorial style of learning was more of a break from the traditional law school experience, I soon realized it was analogous to what young associates do at law firms. It required a great deal of concentration and preparation to teach myself a completely new subject and then write a paper on it in one, short week. However, it was similar to what I was asked to do last summer, working at a law firm, and it was good training. More importantly, the topics to choose from were varied and interesting. I studied Public International Law and Commercial Law. Commercial Law was helpful because I learned to better understand American Commercial Law by comparing it with that in the UK. Public International Law was completely new to me. It was great to study it from a viewpoint of European influence, rather than a viewpoint of American influence. Moreover, the tutors for both subjects were very good. The thing I would want to change about tutorials is the opportunity to decide what I studied within my selected topics, specifically Public International Law. My tutor was strict about only teaching what would be on the subsequent exam for Oxford students, which I wasn't taking. I wish she had been a little more flexible in allowing me to pursue some topics within the subject I was interested in, after covering the basics. Other tutors in the program were much more flexible, so this was only a personal issue for me.

Louise was a wonderful director for the program. I had her as my tutor for Commercial Law, and she was excellent. I was really challenged and learned a lot. She was open to discussing many different topics, which helped apply my newly learned knowledge to different aspects of my education. She also did a great job stimulating discussion in our British Legal System Class. More than that, Louise organized our fantastic trip to Prague. The trip was one of the highlights of the Oxford Program. Louise planned a great tour of the city and allowed us to

explore what we were interested in the next day. Overall, she was the perfect person to lead a program such as this.

The housing for the program was very nice. The rooms were new and modern. However, I was still able to get the 'old' Oxford living experience, because New College has a lot of medieval buildings. Our housing was very centrally located- close to both Harris Manchester and downtown Oxford. Oxford was a very convenient location for traveling around the U.K. and abroad since it is so close to London. Surprisingly, Oxford has a lot to do packed into a smaller city and I went to London a lot less than I thought I would, because of that. Moreover, there was a lot to do on campus. Harris Manchester is a great place to have the program. The students are closer in age to us, and a large portion of the student population is international. The students in this program, and this school, have a lot of interesting perspectives and experiences.

My only suggestion for the program would be to get more information beforehand about how the program is structured. I didn't realize that most of our meals would be included, which would have been good to know for budgeting purposes. I also would have liked to have a better idea of how the terms schedule worked. This is very minor, but it would have been helpful for planning and budgeting time and money for other travels around Europe while I was there. Also, it would have been good to have a better idea about how the lecture and tutorial system complement each other, so student can try to match their lectures and tutorials. The Oxford system is a little more haphazard than BU, and I ended up taking course that did not have a lecture component that matched that term. The lectures I did take were interesting, but I would have liked to have had them correspond in at least one case. However, this program was a great capstone to my BU Law experience. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Study Abroad Evaluation
May 8, 2006

Studying abroad at Oxford was an experience both challenging and extremely rewarding. The most interesting aspect of the academic portion of the semester at Oxford was learning to tailor my own individual course of legal study, guided by my tutors. It took a few weeks to adjust to the demands of the tutors and the length of the reading lists. Especially challenging was judging the length of time it would take to finish the assigned reading as well as leaving enough time to compose an answer to the essay question at the end of each week's reading list. By the end of the semester, I had learned not only about European Community Law and English Commercial Law, but I had tested my ability to accomplish assignments in short periods of time and I had learned how to productively manage the different assignments from my tutors.

Part of the challenge of preparing for tutorials and writing the weekly essays was locating all of the sources in the reading list. Instead of reading assignments from one casebook and one statute book, the reading lists from my tutors at Oxford included materials from a much more diverse array of sources. I learned how to navigate the websites for different European courts in order to find cases. It was also important to know how to find the opinions of different judges and the AGs (advocate general) for certain European Court cases. Reading cases directly from a court's website and finding materials in the library instead of reading them in a pre-prepared casebook felt much more as though I were doing original legal research. Although the cases were longer than in abridged casebooks, I really enjoyed working with primary sources. This allowed me to form my own position on essay questions without any inherent bias that might arise from reading a casebook with abridged cases.

Tutorials themselves were an amazing opportunity to discuss and learn with the experts in the different fields that I was studying. There was definitely some anxiety about tutorials and I felt a lot of pressure to be adequately prepared, but the tutorials themselves were very informal. I especially liked how my commercial law tutor had a set of problems to prepare for each tutorial, for that allowed me to gauge somewhat my level

of preparation for each session. The feedback on my weekly essays was also very helpful.

My living situation at Oxford varied slightly from the others in our group. I was placed in a dorm for graduate students instead of in the house with the other BUSL students. I had my own room, although I had to share a co-ed bathroom. There are rooms in this dorm (the Acland Site) that have ensuite bathrooms, and I would suggest that a future student request one of these rooms if it is possible. Living apart from the BUSL group enabled me to meet some of the other graduate students at Oxford and they were studying really interesting topics from water conservation to politics in the Middle East. I would also encourage future students to rent or buy a bike, as long as they can keep telling themselves to "look right!" Having a bike cut down on a lot of travel time and made the town of Oxford seem much more accessible.

I traveled to London often – sometimes just for the evening. The buses to London are frequent and cheap, and depending on the time of day that you catch the bus it can take less than two hours to get into Central London. Occasionally I rode the train to London which was considerably more expensive than the bus, but only took fifty-five minutes. Our group trip to London with Dr. Spence to visit the Houses of Parliament was one of the highlights of the semester. It was amazing to see the Houses of Parliament, especially the House of Lords, with an expert such as Dr. Spence.

The group trip to Milan was also a great experience, once we had finally agreed on a date and location for this trip. I would suggest that, for the future, the date for the group trip be set in advance, before the students can make any personal plans. The biggest problem we had with setting our own date for the trip was that by the time we got around to discussing a date, everyone had made travel plans and we were not all able to go on the trip.

I was very honored to be selected for the Oxford program and felt extremely fortunate to study law at Oxford. It was an experience that challenged me to learn the law in a completely different academic environment than BUSL and I truly enjoyed meeting that challenge. The brevity of the semester should not suggest to future students that studying at Oxford is an easy ride – rather, I worked extremely hard for the entire length of the semester and the magnitude of the workload makes it clear why tutorials do

) not last longer. At the end of term, however, the reward arrived in over a month of time to travel. I ended up in South America and traveled throughout Argentina, Patagonia and Peru. Studying at Oxford was extremely rewarding in so many different ways and I will remain forever grateful for the experience.

Office of Foreign Programs - Oxford Review:

The Oxford Semester Abroad program has been one of the most definitively enriching academic experiences of my life. I feel the Oxford semester has addressed approximately the same amount of material to a semester at BU, but in a shorter amount of time and with weekly essays to monitor your individual progress. I found this periodic assessment approach to be much more informative than lectures given without any personal feedback. At the same time, however, the increased pace made for a somewhat "whirlwind" experience, making it more difficult to recognize nuances in the law. Thus, the experience as a whole has served more as a means for opening doors to future study, and to acquiring a new outlook, than to providing a comprehensive and finalized analysis of any one subject.

The Lectures and Tutorials in Public International Law were as valuable for their eye-opening moments as for their discussions of legal practice. Dr. Black-Branch has extensive knowledge in a wide variety of global events. Speaking with him has been humbling, but extremely informative. He will be reluctant to criticize you during tutorial, but anyone fortunate enough to study under him should soon realize that he has an extremely thorough understanding of the subject. I am extremely grateful for having access to his knowledge of global policies and world events to clarify my own understanding.

I feel that BU subsumes philosophy of the law within its Constitutional Law classes, but at Oxford, all students are required to take jurisprudence as an independent subject. As law is an undergraduate subject in the UK, the need for a humanities focus is somewhat stronger than in the US, but I personally found the lectures to be quite informative all the same. A rotation of speakers provided for a wide variety of perspectives. Lectures may be abstract at times, but provoke lines of thinking that a codified constitutional system would not have need to normally address. Drawing comparisons to American law was especially informative.

The tutorials in Intellectual Property with Michael Hall were delightful and very thorough. Having hands on experience with a number of cases, it was fascinating on one occasion to discuss a client's situation in a landmark case only to discover that Mr. Hall had known the defendant personally. Seeing how European Directives have been implemented to address patent issues that the U.S. has addressed as well, has greatly informed my understanding of the relevant considerations in each controversy.

Louise Gullifer did an excellent job managing our schedules and guiding us through the expectations of the faculty. Her Introduction to the British Legal System provided a foundation for discussions in our other classes and for a comparative analysis with the United States system. The workload was considerably less in her class than in other tutorials – a single essay and presentation being the only requirement at the end – but approximately the same amount of material was covered.

In sum, I would strongly encourage students desirous of a broad legal background to consider the program. This review outlines the academic benefits, but the program also provides an opportunity to meet other students and to discuss disparate fields of study under one roof. Making the most of Oxford requires that you take initiative and partition your time wisely between reviewing lectures and preparing the week's essays for tutorial. Doing well in a tutorial session requires considerable knowledge and recall.

It took me about two weeks to get the hang of it, but the rewards have been numerous. I have little doubt the experience will affect the remainder of my legal study and career.

Oxford Evaluation 2005

I had a great experience studying abroad at Oxford. The workload was intense but I enjoyed getting a different perspective on legal education.

The one-on-one tutorial format was intimidating at first. Being required to write a paper each week meant that I had to be on top of the material. The reading lists were very daunting, but my tutor helped me to prioritize the order in which I should read the materials. I took Jurisprudence as my primary tutorial and European Community law as my secondary tutorial. I understand why Dr. Spence and the B.U. study abroad office recommended that Jurisprudence only be taken as a primary tutorial. I completely agree. It takes some time to get comfortable with the language and the methodology of Jurisprudence. It is very different from anything I had done in law school, or even in undergraduate studies. I had not taken any Philosophy courses before, so everything was different – the language of Jurisprudence, the material, the arguments. I found myself constantly asking – what is the point of Jurisprudence? The material was very dense, and it could take me a whole day to get through one article. I was very frustrated. It didn't really click for me until halfway through the term, but I was so excited when it finally started to make some sense.

Although I struggled with Jurisprudence, I still think that it is a valuable course for American students to take because we simply don't get exposed to it in American legal education the same way British students do at Oxford. When we talked about the American Legal Realists and Law and Economics in Jurisprudence, I realized that these philosophies of law were the ones that were taught (or at least mentioned) at B.U. I had taken it for granted that Realism or Law and Economics were the only relevant ways to look at law. Jurisprudence exposed me to different approaches to law and the purposes of law.

My secondary tutorial, European Community law, was interesting, but I would recommend it as a secondary tutorial unless a student was very much interested in practicing European Community law. I found that five tutorials were enough to give me a good overview of how the European Community worked. The European Community tutorial was also more straightforward than Jurisprudence, although the reading list was really long.

The one-day Introduction to the British Legal System course was very interesting, although most of us stayed up all night to finish the essay but then found out that Dr. Spence wasn't even expecting it that day. But at least it was finished.

Our living accommodations were fine, except for the lack of internet access. It was a 30-minute walk from school, which wasn't bad at all, and a good chance to get some exercise. I did

not get a bike, because I couldn't bear the thought of riding a bike on the other side of the road and dodging the buses and cars. But I had no problems getting around on foot and by bus.

The town of Oxford was beautiful, with all the different colleges and the beautiful architecture. There were always a lot of things going on, such as concerts and plays. The Middle Common Room at St. Catherine's, which we were a part of, was also a source of social activity. I went to the first two guest dinners, which were fun. The first guest dinner was fancy dress, and they really do get dressed up. There were guys there in tuxedos.

The whole system of putting dinner points on a card was rather complicated. Not only did we have to put dining points on our St. Catz card, as well as money on our card, we had to get a separate card for photocopying in the law library. We also had our Oxford ID card. Basically, I had a lot of cards to keep track of.

I did have a chance to row with the St. Catherine's rowing club. I highly encourage future students to do this. It is very early in the morning, but it's a lot of fun, and it is great exercise and good stress relief. And there were a lot of other Americans in the boat. Rowing is a big deal in Oxford, and it was a great chance for me to experience an Oxford tradition.

The mid-term trip was also great. By the time we went, we were all pretty burned out on the workload, so it was great to get away. We went to Italy – to Naples and the Amalfi coast – and it was beautiful. It was great to have Dr. Spence along because he spoke Italian.

The workload was very intense, but not unmanageable. The best thing for future students to do would be to schedule their secondary tutorials every other week, to give themselves a break and some more time to do the reading. I had a couple times where I had my secondary tutorials every week, as opposed to every other week, and that was just crazy, although I did finish my secondary tutorial earlier that way. The law library also has shorter hours than we are used to at B.U., so students may still want to buy one or two books that they will be using constantly – especially in Jurisprudence if they will be reading the whole book. They can always sell it back to the bookstore.

Overall, I had a really great experience at Oxford. We had a good group dynamic – the six of us got along well. I definitely recommend this program to future B.U. students, but they should realize that it is a challenging curriculum, and not like study abroad programs in undergrad.

End of Semester Oxford Report

This semester at Oxford was one of, if not the highlight of my time at law school. It was just an overall great experience. Rather than reiterating what was written in my mid-semester report, I will simply provide my specific impressions about my tutors.

Louise Gullifer: Intro to British Legal System

Louise was great, not only in class, but in running the program as a whole. With logistical issues, she was always incredibly friendly and helpful. As interesting as the classes were, the best part of the experience was the weekend trip we took as a group to Istanbul. Louise organized everything perfectly, and the trip was amazing.

Regarding the actual course itself, she gave us a very structured syllabus and was very eager to indulge in comparative discussions about American and British legal structures. Field trips to the Supreme Court and Parliament were also both interesting and entertaining. The course was a very good experience overall, and Louise is the perfect person to run this program.

Katja Ziegler: EU Law

Katja was incredibly knowledgeable and enthusiastic about the subject. This was by far my most intense tutorial, as sessions typically went an hour and a half, and I was the only student (there were other students in my other tutorials). Thus, I really had to be on top of the materials. She was particularly strong at teasing out areas that my essay indicated I had not fully grasped and working to give me a better understanding. Also very helpful was the fact that she not only provided her own brief introduction to each subject in the syllabus (which as a result approached 40 pages), but Katja also provided multiple options for essay topics each week. This increased

the likelihood that I could write a paper on an aspect of the topic that I found particularly interesting.

Barbara Lauriat; Int'l IP

Like Katja, Barbara was also very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about her subject. She was very punctual, ensuring that our tutorials always lasted exactly one hour – and always covering the relevant material. This allowed us to stay sharp throughout the tutorials. I found tutorials to be more stimulating, but also much more tiring than a typical law school class because I was essentially on call all the time. This is able to maintain for roughly an hour, but after that mark, fatigue settles in. She also frequently directed us to various special/guest lectures (separate from the general weekly lectures) that were relevant to the subject matter.

An interesting aspect about this program was the excessive amount of reading assigned. The tutors assign so much reading that they know it is virtually impossible for the students to complete every aspect. I prefer the American system of assigning a much smaller amount of reading with the expectation that each student will read every page carefully. Louise and Katja found a happy medium by marking the most important readings with an asterisk. These readings are to be interpreted as mandatory, whereas all other readings are encouraged, but supplementary. Thus, if I had time and a particular subject interested me, then I would delve a bit deeper into the non-asterisked materials. My only complaint about Barbara's class was that she did not mark any readings with asterisks. I was eventually able to tease out on my own which readings were the most important, but it would have been helpful if some of the materials were asterisked so that I could have read those particular cases more carefully.

All in all, this was a tremendous experience, and the perfect way to end my law school career. I would (and already have) recommend the Oxford program to anyone interested.

) As a side note, considering that I debated between doing this program and Law Review last year, should future students find themselves in a dilemma similar to my own, I would recommend that they stay at BU the second year, do Law Review and reapply to Oxford for the following year. However, a deferral option for the program would probably be best. While I recognized the importance of Law Review, I did not want to pass up the opportunity to spend a semester in Oxford. It all worked out in the end, and in hindsight, I'm much happier I did this program 3L year.

)

)

May 11, 2004

Oxford Study Abroad Final Report

The Oxford Visiting Student program offers an unparalleled opportunity to study European and Comparative law. The professors were not only extremely knowledgeable about the topics they taught, but they seemed genuinely interested in imparting their knowledge to their students. They were also very receptive when I sought to compare United States law with the European law or British law. Each tutorial required me to write a short paper on a particular subject and this independent research was really the backbone of the instruction and also the basis of my final grade. Although the reading lists were extensive, the professors were willing to help you focus in on particular cases and readings that were essential to understanding the subject matter. They also seemed to take great joy in picking out cases with interesting facts or unlikely results.

Although the Oxford instruction system would be imposing for any freshman college student, as a law school student I felt able to meet the challenges of the work. I found it necessary to ask a lot of question of my professors early on to understand what they were looking for in my work. They were more than willing to explain the requirements and this, combined with their feedback, helped me to improve my marks from week to week.

Additionally, the lectures and seminars offered a great opportunity to study a new subject, or gain a greater understanding of a topic by comparing different legal systems. I had the opportunity to study British civil procedure with students from England, Canada, Germany, Czech Republic and France. We would often compare different procedural systems to better understand the benefits and detriments of those systems. For instance, the course gave me a new appreciation for the U.S. system for temporary injunctions and class actions law suits. I also attended lectures on the United Nations Security Council which gave me a preview of groundbreaking new papers in international law written by people with real experience and knowledge of the subject.

Although the class instruction was fantastic, the living arrangements were by far the worst aspect of the program. We were placed more than two miles from St. Catherine's College which is really the hub of academic resources and social interaction. I believe we really lost great opportunities to interact with other students from around the world because we were so marginalized. Additionally, there was no phone service (which was particularly troubling because we were so far away) and most problems that we reported to the administration were ignored. Personally, I worked with no St. Catherine's professors and it seems that the only things offered by individual colleges are food services, housing, and the opportunity to meet other students. With exception of Dr. Spence, the College administration was generally uninterested in any of our group's concerns. Because the college could not offer us adequate housing, I see no reason Boston University could not work with another Oxford College that might be more receptive to having visiting students.

One of the best opportunities I had was the chance to play rugby on the college team. Although I had no knowledge or experience in the sport, other players were happy to help me out and I played in several games. I think that sports are one of the best ways to meet other students at Oxford. I also was active with Middle Common Room which

gave me an opportunity to meet other graduate students from around the world. I enjoyed participating in many of their social events and relaxing in the common room to watch TV or movies.

I also had many opportunities to travel. Our group enjoyed a weekend trip to Barcelona and I visited Ireland, Italy and the Czech Republic on my own. I also rented a car and traveled around south England and Wales. Driving on the other side of the road was not as confusing as it would seem.

As far as practical tips for students, I recommend trying to set a regular schedule (if possible) with the tutor as to when you will meet. Additionally, take any opportunity to meet with the tutor in a small group with other Oxford students; it is a great way to get a different perspective on different legal systems and the topic you are studying. Also, be prepared when you get to Oxford to purchase a bicycle (if you will again be staying so far from campus) as well as kitchen items (a plate, mug, etc.) as this was only provided by the college after extensive negotiations. A good pair of walking shoes or hiking boots is essential, as is an umbrella and waterproof jacket.

Also, if you receive information about assigning your computer to an IP address, make sure you provide the information that pertains to your wireless card. St. Catherine's only provides hard access to the internet for residents and there are no Ethernet ports for students outside of the rooms. Essentially, St. Catherine's provides no internet access for its visiting students. However, the Middle Common Room does have a rather weak wireless signal which can be used on campus. Also, if you do not have a wireless card, you can often get Ethernet access in the law library (if working). If you run into problems, keep asking different people until you get results. Generally someone will tell you something is not possible or not available – in that case, just ask to speak with someone else until you get what you need.

Laptops are not necessary at tutorials or lectures, but they are essential to making sure you get your papers on time. Make sure you have a removable media drive (CDW or floppy drive) to transfer your files to public computers for printing).

Oxford is only an hour from London and it is rather affordable (about \$15) to take a bus roundtrip into town. I highly recommend getting in as often as you can as London has great restaurants, theater and museums. Additionally, because Oxford shuts down so early in the evening, an early afternoon trip into London and late night return is never a bad idea.

Finally, the Oxford program is a great opportunity to study with some very skilled and intelligent professors and students. You will have the chance to meet some very talented students and an opportunity to understand not just how things work, but how they can work differently. In law school, we tend to get caught up in how the system operates, but tend to lose sight of the fact that it could operate differently and be just as (if not more) efficient. Whether you are planning to work in international law, or simply going to be a U.S. litigator, this is a very valuable lesson to learn.

gave me an opportunity to meet other graduate students from around the world. I enjoyed participating in many of their social events and relaxing in the common room to watch TV or movies.

I also had many opportunities to travel. Our group enjoyed a weekend trip to Barcelona and I visited Ireland, Italy and the Czech Republic on my own. I also rented a car and traveled around south England and Wales. Driving on the other side of the road was not as confusing as it would seem.

As far as practical tips for students, I recommend trying to set a regular schedule (if possible) with the tutor as to when you will meet. Additionally, take any opportunity to meet with the tutor in a small group with other Oxford students; it is a great way to get a different perspective on different legal systems and the topic you are studying. Also, be prepared when you get to Oxford to purchase a bicycle (if you will again be staying so far from campus) as well as kitchen items (a plate, mug, etc.) as this was only provided by the college after extensive negotiations. A good pair of walking shoes or hiking boots is essential, as is an umbrella and waterproof jacket.

Also, if you receive information about assigning your computer to an IP address, make sure you provide the information that pertains to your wireless card. St. Catherine's only provides hard access to the internet for residents and there are no Ethernet ports for students outside of the rooms. Essentially, St. Catherine's provides no internet access for its visiting students. However, the Middle Common Room does have a rather weak wireless signal which can be used on campus. Also, if you do not have a wireless card, you can often get Ethernet access in the law library (if working). If you run into problems, keep asking different people until you get results. Generally someone will tell you something is not possible or not available – in that case, just ask to speak with someone else until you get what you need.

Laptops are not necessary at tutorials or lectures, but they are essential to making sure you get your papers on time. Make sure you have a removable media drive (CDW or floppy drive) to transfer your files to public computers for printing).

Oxford is only an hour from London and it is rather affordable (about \$15) to take a bus roundtrip into town. I highly recommend getting in as often as you can as London has great restaurants, theater and museums. Additionally, because Oxford shuts down so early in the evening, an early afternoon trip into London and late night return is never a bad idea.

Finally, the Oxford program is a great opportunity to study with some very skilled and intelligent professors and students. You will have the chance to meet some very talented students and an opportunity to understand not just how things work, but how they can work differently. In law school, we tend to get caught up in how the system operates, but tend to lose sight of the fact that it could operate differently and be just as (if not more) efficient. Whether you are planning to work in international law, or simply going to be a U.S. litigator, this is a very valuable lesson to learn.