2010-11 Spring Study Abroad Evaluation
Norwich, England

Page 1, Q3. Major
1 History

Page 1, Q4. Program (City, Country, Program Sponsor)
1 Norwich, United Kingdom, UEA

Page 2, Q2. To what extent did you succeed in accomplishing your goals? Why did you succeed or not?
1 Academically, I chose to take classes on Shakespeare, the British Empire, and 19th century American fiction for very specific reasons: I was curious to learn about these subjects from a distinctly British perspective. The result of this choice was very satisfying. I loved all my classes and my professors, and I feel like I learned about these topics in a way that would be difficult to replicate in America or elsewhere. As far as personal growth and gaining a better awareness of England, I most certainly think achieved this. I think the person I am after living there for 6 months is evidence that if a person is open to personal development and learning about a different culture, the growth happens naturally and with a great deal of ease. I also think that fact that I actually lived and studied with British people was an essential aspect of becoming more aware of British culture. I am glad I was not in a program that separated international students from the rest of the student body by way of separate living accommodation or classes.

Page 3, Q1. How many students were on the program?
1 I am not sure how many international students were there.

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Page 3, Q1. How many students were on the program?
1 I am not sure how many international students were there.
Page 3, Q2. How many Oxy students?

1 4  

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Page 3, Q3. Please comment on the goals and academic abilities of your fellow students. How were they similar/dissimilar to yours?

1 I cannot comment on the goals of my fellow students, but I would say our academic abilities were on a similar level.  

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Page 3, Q4. Describe the background of your classmates, e.g., all Americans, all Oxy students.

1 Because the program was more of a direct enrollment, almost all of my classmates were British students. I had one lecture with an Oxy student. The few other Americans in my classes were from other universities.  

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Page 3, Q5. Describe your housing situation.

1 I lived in a flat with 9 other students. Except for Violaine, all my flatmates were British. Each room had an ensuite bathroom and shower, which was cleaned once a week. We shared a kitchen, which was often very disgusting. Then again, the kitchen in most uni flats is rather dirty. Most of us kept to our rooms for the most part, but the kitchen acted as the communal place. We would chat and hang out together in the kitchen, rather than in our rooms.  

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Page 4, Q2. In which of the following did you participate:

1 I joined the American Studies Society. Most of the people in the society were either Americans doing a term abroad or students on an American Studies course.  

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Page 4, Q3. List any courses and/or professors you would recommend.

1 I loved all my courses and professors, so I would recommend: 19th Century American Fiction with Tom Smith, Shakespeare with Peter Womack, and The British Empire with Larry Butler. All the professors were both engaging and  

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**Page 4, Q3. List any courses and/or professors you would recommend.**

helpful.

**Page 6, Q2. Did you contact Oxy alum living abroad as part of the Alumni and Study Abroad Partnership Program (ASAPP)?**

1  No, I did not.  

**Page 6, Q3. What strategies can you recommend for meeting locals and making friends?**

1  I think I had an easier time of if because I both lived and studied with British people. I suppose I would say don't be too overly friendly and don't be an obnoxious or loud American. I did hear that British people often find it off-putting when an American comes up to them and says, "Hi, my name is such and such." There would be times when I would chat with a person several times before we actually exchanged names. Other than that, I would say making friends with British people isn't much different than making friends with Americans.  

**Page 6, Q4. Were there aspects of the culture with which you were not comfortable?**

1  no  

**Page 6, Q5. What suggestions do you have for future participants for engaging with the culture?**

1  The only suggestion I might offer is to be willing to go to the pub on any night, not just the weekends. Uni students don't usually care if they have 9am lecture the next morning. They will go out to a club or to a pub anyway.  

**Page 7, Q1. How much did you spend on airfare to/from your program?**

1  $900  

**Page 7, Q3. What was the approximate exchange rate during your stay?**

1  1.70 dollars to 1 pound
Page 7, Q3. What was the approximate exchange rate during your stay?

Page 7, Q4. How much did you spend on books and supplies?

1 I didn't buy any books, and I probably spent less than 10 pounds on notebooks and pens. Sep 20, 2011 11:20 PM

Page 7, Q5. How much did you spend on local transportation to/from daily class?

1 I walked to class, but the bus fare to get into town was 4 pounds for a return ticket. Sep 20, 2011 11:20 PM

Page 7, Q6. How much did you spend on personal travel during your time abroad? Please specify length and nature of your personal travel.

1 I took the train to Cambridge for a few weekend trips, which cost around 15 pounds each time. The train to London from Norwich. Sep 20, 2011 11:20 PM

Page 7, Q7. Describe how you took your meals, e.g., groceries prepared in kitchen, dining hall etc., and how much you spent on meals weekly, not including, bars, clubs etc.?

1 I cooked almost all my meals in the shared kitchen, and I tried to spend 10 to 15 pounds a week on food. Sep 20, 2011 11:20 PM

Page 7, Q8. What would you recommend as a minimum monthly budget for incidental expenses, excluding travel? Please include recommendations for such items as: local transportation to/from daily class, telephone calls, internet, laundry, museums, concerts, movies, cafes, restaurants, pubs and clubs.

1 A very minimum budget would be 130 pounds a month. That includes spending 15 pounds a week on food, going into town once a week, doing laundry twice a month, and going out for drinks once a week. Sep 20, 2011 11:20 PM

Page 7, Q9. How do you recommend taking your money abroad? Did you open a local bank account?

1 I would highly recommend opening a local bank account. Bank of America has a Sep 20, 2011 11:20 PM
**Page 7, Q9. How do you recommend taking your money abroad? Did you open a local bank account?**

| 1 | sister branch in the UK called Barclay’s. The fee for withdrawing money was 5 dollars each time. | Sep 20, 2011 11:30 PM |

**Page 8, Q2. What did you take that you found most useful?**

| 1 | I brought a lot of long sleeve shirts that I would wear by themselves or under sweaters. I also brought clothing that was versatile. For instance, I brought two black dresses, both of which could be worn as dresses or as skirts, if I wore a sweater over them. Oh yes, and tights! I wore my tights under dresses, skirts, and even jeans. | Sep 20, 2011 11:30 PM |

**Page 8, Q5. In general, how would you describe the weather in the area in which your program was based?**

| 1 | The weather was not as cold as I thought it would be. I had a heavy coat and a waterproof trench coat, both of which I wore all the time. It didn't rain as often as I thought it would, but it also wasn't sunny very often. When it was sunny, it didn't get particularly warm, either. Even in the warmer months, I found that I usually needed to wear tights with my dresses and skirts. | Sep 20, 2011 11:30 PM |

**Page 8, Q6. Did you have access to computers and/or email? If so, please describe what type of computer services you used. Did you use your Oxy email?**

| 1 | I took my laptop with me. Using the internet in my room required a cable, which UEA provided, but there was wireless in the library. I used my Oxy email regularly, in addition to using a UEA email address. | Sep 20, 2011 11:30 PM |

**Page 10, Q1. Any suggestions to the IPO for improving Occidental’s on-campus orientation or other services?**

| 1 | I did not find the general orientation particularly helpful. Because of the number of different programs and the vast possibilities of experiences in all the different countries, I don't feel there is much to be said that can apply to all the study abroad programs. I would suggest focusing more on the small group orientations and providing students with as much information as possible about their particular country of study and of their particular program within that country. | Sep 20, 2011 11:43 PM |
### Page 10, Q2. What information about your program could be emphasized more to prospective applicants?

|   | I would emphasize the direct enrollment aspect of the UEA program. I think living with and being in class with British students, as opposed to being part of some larger group like IES, was a unique aspect of the program. | Sep 20, 2011 11:43 PM |

### Page 10, Q3. Describe the overall strengths and weaknesses of the program.

|   | I would say the biggest strength of the program was that I was directly enrolled as a student at UEA. Being constantly surrounded by British students in my living situation and in my classes gave me a lot of opportunities to learn about the culture and make friends with Brits. I certainly see the strength in programs like IES for foreign language programs, but I don't think I would have learned as much as I did had I been in a separate program for international and American students, as opposed to just being a UEA student who happened to be American. | Sep 20, 2011 11:43 PM |