

# LONDON WORK EXPERIENCE 2019/20

This project "Studying without borders VI" enabled the work experience of 38 students of the Business School, Secondary Special School for Librarians and Further Education College Brno to Great Britain and Ireland for two weeks (10 working days).



The winter term of this project was attended by 19 students: Veronika Zemanová (3. A), Anita Eclerová (3. A), Natálie Mazánková (3. A), Denisa Placarová (3. A), Adéla Kulichová (3. A), Barbora Doupovcová (3. A), Gabriela Kilianová (3. B), Adéla Mlčochová (3. B), Sára Vašíčková (3. B), Martina Horalíková (3. C), Jovana Blažková (3. C), Lucie Vyšatová (3. C), Lucie Janíčková (3. D), Terezie Žáková (3. AV), Andrea Smejkalová (3. BV), Michaela Rusmanová (3. BV), Kristýna Smolová (3. P), Martin Rozčínský (3. Q), Matěj Toman (3. Q).

We received the grant from the European Union project Erasmus+ and 19 students + 2 teachers could travel to London in December. There is another group that will go in April. We are the ninth group that was given this chance to live and work in the United Kingdom for two weeks. Everything was financed by the European Union. All we needed was pocket money.

During the time we worked in various London companies: The College of Haringey, Blue Ocean Homes, Let's Talk Property, JP Accountancy, Eleada Care Services, etc.

We became part of a team and were supervised at all times by at least one mentor. We participated in everyday procedures and developed new specialised skills in the field of our study. The managers prepared daily work tasks and monitored our progress together with our accompanying teachers. The managers evaluated our achievements at the end of the working experience.

Most of us worked in different companies. Those of us who are students of business school worked with business correspondence and with databases of clients, prepared presentations,



dealt with internet enquiries, answered phones, took messages, served and advised customers and supported senior staff. We did some market research, assisted in various computerized activities such as processing, data input, emailing. We worked with internal IT system, PCs, printers, scanners and other office equipment. We also had some general duties such as filling, faxing and photocopying. We assisted and communicated with customers on daily basis and thus improved their communication skills.

The typical tasks of students of information services and librarianship were answering reference inquiries, lending documents to the user via automatic library systems, creating catalogue records of documents and books, modifying records in the database of books, looking up relevant records and communication with clients.

Students of social services dealt with documents, clients and prepared their case history. Other tasks were preparing an analysis on the specifics of the particular minority according to the type of the organization, offer of services and intervention.

After working hours we had free time which we spent together or went sightseeing. We lived in host families which provided us with food and place to stay. Every once in a while we all met in the ADC College, which is the partner of our school in Erasmus+. If we had any problem we could consult it with our teachers or an ADC College employee.

It was great experience for all of us because we learned new skills and improved our English. At the end of the two weeks work placement project a ceremony was held at ADC College to celebrate our achievements – we received the certificates of completing our work placement.

We also received references from our employers and Europass Mobility. Some of us were offered a part-time job for summer.

### Our programme

On the first day when we came to London (Sunday) we were given Oyster cards and met our host families with whom we spend the evening to get to know them. On Monday we all met in ADC College and they told us details about travelling in London. After the meeting we had to find our way to our companies and take a selfie which we had to show in ADC College. Then we started working.

At the weekend we all went sightseeing. We visited e. g. Parliament, London Eye, Madame Tussaud's. From Monday to Friday we were working. In the end we met at the ADC College where each of us received Europass Mobility. In the evening our group visited Sky Garden with beautiful views of the city. On Saturday we said goodbye to our host families and travelled back to Brno.



We managed work in companies without problems and our employers appraised our communication skills, professional skills and work attitude. We improved our skills in contact with customers, administrative work and use of information technologies. We also learned to present their work to our colleagues or customers in a suitable way, which contributed to the development of our soft-skills. We broadened our professional English terminology. All these aspects will enable us to gain competitive advantage at the labour market. New experience from London companies will be used during our further education and practice.

Work experience abroad is nothing to worry about. If you doubt it read about our experience in this brochure. It can be your turn next year!



## Jovana Blažková 3.C - Business Academy

### Work

I worked at Blue Ocean Homes, which is an estate agents company providing lettings, rents and customer services. The company is located in Harrow, so it took only 15 minutes to get there including bus ride and walking.

It is a smaller company with 5 employees. My supervisor, Mihaela Dodi, was from Romania, and she was always willing to help me. All of them very nice, talkative and created a friendly atmosphere. I really enjoyed my time there. My working hours were from 9am to 5 pm.

My main tasks were working in Excel, sorting documents and I accompanied the boss when she showed a flat to the customers.



### Accommodation

I stayed in Stanmore with two other girls. Our hosts' names were Jean and Oliver, a retired couple. They were absolutely perfect. They lived in a small house, which was super clean and cosy. Oliver always saved us with his pieces of advice about the transport and Jean was an amazing cook.

Every morning we had a table full of cereals, toasts, jams, nutella, butter, fruit and orange juice. I will never forget how tasty her dinners were, it was my favourite part of the day.

They also had two cats, they were super cute and I miss them a lot.

### Free time

I spent most of my free time with the girls. We were shopping a lot, but we also saw a lot of interesting places. We visited Hyde Park, West Ham football stadium, Wembley Park, Soho... But there were also many interesting things included in weekend program such as Tower Bridge, Buckingham Palace, London Eye, Trafalgar Square, Sky Garden and a lot more.

Sometimes we just went to the city after dinner and it was breathtaking. London is a very busy but also magical city, and I think all of us kind of fell for it.



### Conclusion

These two weeks were amazing, I enjoyed every moment of it. Not every situation was easy for us, but I am very thankful for this work experience, but even more for an opportunity of exploring this city on my own.



### **Barbora Doupovcová 3. A- Business Academy**

Our trip began on Sunday 1st December. We flew from Brno-Tuřany to London-Stansted. We got on the plane at about 5 p.m. and landed at 7 p. m. (in the Czech Republic it was actually one hour more). I flew for the first in my life and it was great experience, something new, unique. An employee from ADC picked us at the airport and took us to the meeting point, where our families had to take us to our new homes. Was I nervous? I can't actually tell. In my heart I knew that our family was going to be great and our new "parents" really nice. And I was right, they were so generous and kind, they showed us everything around, the bus stop, the new ADC building. I felt safe with them.

#### Work

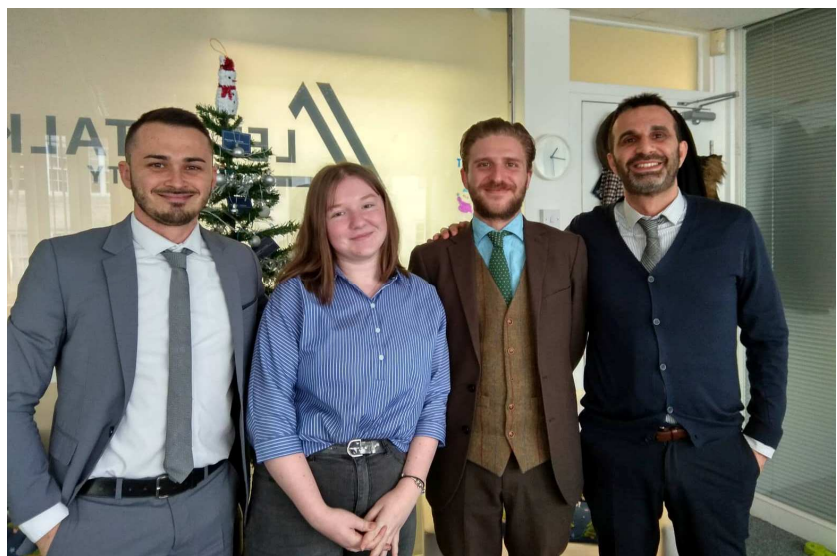


I was working in the real estate agency Let's Talk Property. This company was located in Bayswater, part of London centre right next to the Hyde Park. This street was actually quite calm, not that much traffic here.

When I woke up the first day when I went to work, I was feeling really relaxed and calm, maybe because of our great and really nice family. We spent the whole previous evening with our "English mom" and her son, talking about everything, about the Czech Republic, Prague and Brno, their Irish origin, our traditions, their traditions. As I return to it by writing this, I really miss them; they made our internship much better. But as I was going out of the house with my roommate, I started feel really stressed and I was so scared, because I didn't know what to expect of something so different and new. I was thinking about all that stuff that could go

wrong and I started to doubt every single little thing. Yeah, my mum says that I stress a lot.

Anyways, I got off my tube on the Queensway station and I was absolutely not ready to go to work. But I had to, obviously. So as soon as I got on the fresh air, I saw the building, where my office was located and was determined to just go there and be calm, because everything will be okay, right? I won't lie, I had some struggles with getting in the building, their doors had three locks and no, I did not have any access, key or code to any one of them. Yeah, pretty funny. But I was really lucky, because some woman was just going to work to the same building, saw that I was struggling and decided to help me. One of the things I was really enjoying in London was that everyone was so



happy to help you with anything and this woman was actually really funny, so for a second I thought to myself that I don't have to be so stressed and I don't have to worry about everything, things will just work out somehow.

But the problem was that she did not know anything about the company that I was heading to. So I just started panicking again. Wow. But I think that God or some higher being above us must like me, because I found the company, it was hidden pretty well, but I did it. I am still so proud of me about that. I opened the door and saw four strangers. I supposed that they had to be my future colleagues. Diana, one of the colleagues, has introduced me everyone, Alex – my supervisor, Martina and Omar. And then the day went on pretty quickly. Alex showed me



everything around, the kitchen, other offices and some other stuff, just so that I can orientate. By 12 pm I took a break, went for a little walk to Hyde Park and just relaxed. When I got back I continued with my work, the first day I was just finding addresses to properties, nothing really difficult or complicated.

Rest of the week ran quickly and actually the same, every single day after work we had plans with girls, some sightseeing, shopping, you know, just exploring the town. I can't even count how many times I have been to the Hyde Park, beautiful place, maybe little crowded, but when you choose the right time, there is nobody.

Free time

And weekend, finally. The whole week of shifts from 10am to 5pm was really exhausting and as I said we went to the town centre every single day. But we did

not get enough sleep at the weekend, as we thought. We had a really busy, but still beautiful and great, programme with our teachers and rest of the group. We visited the Parliament, Madame Tussaud's, London Eye (this was extremely cool) and Sky Garden. We also saw the Millenium Bridge, Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square, China Town. As I said, really busy and exhausting as well.

And the time flew really fast, it always does. The last day we visited ADC College and received certificates. It was a cute day, I would name it like that. The atmosphere was so sweet, everyone was moved, because they had to leave their companies and their favourite supervisors and co-workers. We shared our thoughts and our experiences. As I said, cute.

On Saturday me and my roommate (and I believe that every other student of our group), had real struggles with packing. I bought so much stuff, that I thought that it was





not going to fit in my luggage. But it did. I am a magician. As the day went on, I started to realise that my internship is over and in a few hours I would have to say bye to my favourite English mama, her son, husband and daughter, and our, their, house. I did not want to. I really did not. I was not crying, okay, I am not that sensitive, but I was sad, but also looking forward to meet my family and looking forward to Czech dishes. You can't even imagine how I was craving rohlík for these two weeks. I was talking about it every single day. Veronika, my roommate and great friend, could tell.

## Conclusion

At the end I just want to say that I am very thankful for this opportunity, I think that it really moved me forward in my social life. I met awesome people; I got to know great people. And I enjoyed this time at maximum. If I could, I would go back. I am still missing the family and beautiful London. I am going to come back in the future, for sure.

## **Anita Eclerová 3. A- Business Academy**

### Accommodation

In host family I stayed with my two classmates Adéla and Denisa in a big flat for two weeks. When we arrived to London, host families came for us and took us home and after that we had warm dinner. We lived in Eastcote lane in Northolt. We shared one big room with three beds and we had so much fun together. Our host mother Apri is originally from Armenia, but she was born in Iran. She lived in many countries like Cyprus, Germany,.. Now she lives in England in Northolt. She works with children with special needs from birth to 5 years of age. She lives on her own and she has one adult daughter who has grown up and left the home. Apri likes to do some creative work, like making dresses and baking. She was nice and helpful but sometimes we disagreed on something. We didn't talk very often, we were all tired after work and because we often spent time after work in the centre of London.

Her flat was really clean and meals were tasty and healthy. For breakfast we usually had several kinds of cereals with milk, fruit, toasts with my favourite peanut butter or nutela. We had the same breakfast every day, so we bought our own breakfast sometimes. We had money to buy lunch on our own so I usually went to nearest Tesco and I bought lunch there. For dinners we had meals such as pasta, pizza, salads, china with rice or baked potatoes with vegetable. She prepared warm dinners for us every day. If we wanted to stay a little bit longer in the centre of London, we just sent her a message to let her know and she didn't mind. So it was not problem to come home later. It was quite cold in





the house especially at night. Heating did not heat too much.

We walked to the nearest train station every day because the buses were late so it was faster to walk. The way from our house to city centre took about 40 minutes. The flat where we stayed was quite big, bigger than we expected. There was a kitchen where we could use microwave, toaster and fridge, living room, bathroom. They preferred us to have a shower in the evening because our host mother used it in the morning.

## Work

I spent my work experience in the company called Whitefield School. This school is located in the London Borough of Barnet. It is a secondary school with six forms. There are pupils and students of all nationalities and religions. It was originally a Secondary Modern School and opened in autumn 1954. In 2009 it came under new leadership and was in the top 1% most improved schools in the country in 2010. They invested over £3 million in the site renovation. They have a range of modern facilities like drama studio, fitness, sport pitches, the acorn theatre, and a music studio for students but people can also hire these facilities.

My working hours were from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The way to work lasted more than hour. I used train and double-decker but the bus was often late and then stood in traffic jam. First day I was so nervous about work but I was working with Excel and Word so it was not that difficult and my supervisor Ewa Micun helped me with everything I needed. She was so kind and helpful. Ewa is from Poland and she teaches Psychology at Whitefield School. My colleagues were so amazing; everyone was so nice, friendly and always smiling.

My main tasks were working with MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, writing emails, helping with research, working with databases, correspondence. I was also categorizing data and doing Christmas decoration. I was working on computer in office most of the time.

I had an opportunity to go to English and psychology lessons with other students. It was a really good experience and I really enjoyed the lessons. I met some pupils and I could talk with them. Ewa also took me to the Christmas party at school and I helped her with selling cupcakes to students for charity.

## Free time

Every day right after work, we went to the centre of London with other classmates. We visited really nice places such as Covent Garden, Oxford Street, Leicester Square,



Winter Wonderland and Christmas markets. I really enjoyed the Christmas decoration in the streets; it was so beautiful especially in Oxford Street. I also enjoyed shopping Christmas presents for my family and friends.

At the weekend we had program together with our teachers and other students from our group. On Saturday morning we met near Big Ben. First we visited Parliament, Westminster Abbey. Then we were walking toward Trafalgar Square. We also visited China Town, Piccadilly Circus, famous for big televisions with advertisements and last we visited Madame Tussaud's museum which I really liked but it was my third time in the museum. On Sunday we had meeting point at Trafalgar Square. We went to the Buckingham Palace and we saw the changing of the guards, St. James's Park, St. Paul's, the Tower of London and then we took a ride on the London Eye. We had an amazing view of night London. Next Friday we went to see Sky Garden. It was at night and the view was amazing.

### Conclusion

This internship was really great experience to me and I am really happy for that. I am very grateful for this opportunity. I would definitely recommend this programme to all students and I would definitely go again.

## **Martina Horalíková – 3. C, Business Academy**

### Work

I worked in FOCUS English School London. This school is mostly for foreigners to learn English. They offer affordable English courses for beginners, intermediate and advanced learners. Their high quality English classes focus on real life situations for students to be able to use English from day one - such as work, travel, study or for talking with friends and relatives.

I was there with Veronika Zemanová, but we did different tasks. In the first week I was working in a small classroom with my mentor Adrian and he taught me how to do quizzes for their students. Then I did some presentations and tutorials how to make the quizzes for Veronika for the second week. The next week I and Veronika switched and I worked in the room which was served as the reception. My mentor for this week was Mayara, because our supervisor Alexandre is a teacher in this school and he had to teach students. My main task was to create a new video, something like a promo for the school and then I was posting this video with some text on Facebook pages. Then I was programming new app with irregular verbs and doing other quizzes for students.



This school was very small, apart from me and Veronika there were only four other employees and about 10 students. Even the place was very small, but now they are already moved to another nicer and bigger place.

Our working hours were from Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with an hour break for lunch, but we could take only a half our break for lunch and then left at 4.30. On Fridays we worked only to 2.30 p. m. - I was really glad about it, because we could go shopping or go to the centre of London and we had lots of time till the evening. When we finished at 5 p.m., outside was dark and I was tired and went straight home.

Luckily my way home was not long. It was less than 10 minutes from work to the underground station, then I went for about 20 minutes by the underground or overground and then I walked for 15 minutes home.

I am very glad and thankful for the opportunity work in this company. Everyone was very nice to me and I think I learned a lot.

#### Accommodation

I lived in Woodcock Hill with two other girls from our group at Ms Dawn's. She was very nice. We shared one room - there were three beds, one bigger wardrobe and two other smaller cabinets. We even had a TV but we never used it.

Because we were there before Christmas, it was really cold there. I slept in sweatpants and sweatshirt and even had two blankets, but still I was sometimes waking up and shaking because of the cold.



In the whole house there was not just us, Ms Dawn had two sons who lived there, and three other students also from Czech Republic. We unfortunately did not have dinner together, so we didn't have many chances to even know Dawn, but we at least met these Czech students who were there for three months.

I did not like most of the meals, because I am used to eat something different, but I really appreciate that Dawn was doing vegetarian version for me, because I am a vegetarian. And it was also very nice from her that if we wanted be longer in the town or come home later; she kept our dinner for us in the fridge.

We had to prepare breakfast by ourselves because Dawn was working from 6.30 a.m. and we were getting up around 7 a.m. or later. We had some bread and jam in the fridge that we could eat, but after few days we bought hummus and some fruit and vegetable, because eating bread with jam every day is just not that tasty.



## Free time



The first day I went with my colleague Veronica and her classmate and roommate Barbora to our work and then we went to Burger King and I was pretty surprised that there are vegetarian meals even in fast foods. We bought some souvenirs and then we went shopping.

When we finished at work earlier we went also shopping or we went e.g. to the Hyde Park which was really nice, because we could get almost anywhere by underground

easily and quickly.

At the weekend we went to the centre of London and we visited some interesting monuments. I really liked the China town and a really beautiful view of the town from Sky Garden.





## Lucie Janíčková - 3. D, Business Academy

### Work



I spent my work experience with Natalie in a company called JP Accountancy which is located in Harrow. This company was established in 2010 and it focuses on accounting and tax consultancy, accounts preparation, business advice, bookkeeping services, financial planning and advice. The clients are sole traders, medium sized companies, franchises and start-ups. Our main task was working in QuickBooks, which is accounting software. Our work started at 9:30 a. m.

and ended at 5 p. m. My supervisor's name was Keith, he was really kind, funny, always in a good mood and he was helping us all those days when we were doing our tasks. This company was close to my host family's house. It was just 35 minutes far away – 25 minutes by bus and 10 minutes walk. Last day they gave us gifts. It was very nice.

### Accommodation

I lived in a family with other three girls from my school. We lived in a small house with an older married couple in retirement and with one of their sons, Mr. S. We stayed in two rooms and we had our own bathroom. For breakfast we usually had cereals with milk or toast with marmalade or ham and cheese. We bought lunches ourselves from pocket money. Dinner was always warm and very, very delicious – e.g. pizza, lasagne, pasta, burger, chicken with rice and so on.



## **Gabriela Kilianová – 3. B, Business Academy**

### Work

I worked in Outreach and Home library's central at Willesden, which is main central library for other Brent libraries in London where all the books are in stock. This library is preparing programmes for children and people in need for free. But it works like normal library.

There are about 50 workers mainly from India, Africa, Italy and just one from England and about 60 volunteers in Willesden library.

My supervisors were Kanta and Nala from India and they are bosses in Willesden library. At the beginning of my internship I worked with other 4 students from Czech Republic. They were there for one week with me so I met new friends and we are still in contact, they told me

what I needed to know about work in library. So it was easier for me to understand all things. They gave me some advices to facilitate the work. I made orders for hospitals and schools, worked with the library system, found books in the library stock and dealt with clients.



### Accommodation

The library is located in Willesden so my daily trip took about 30 minutes by bus to Stanmore station and from there by tube to the Willesden Green from Stanmore where I lived with Jovana and Lucka. We had a really nice house and rooms.

Our host family was amazing; they were super nice and patient. Jean (our host mother 😊) cooked every day best dishes ever. Her pasta was so delicious. Their house was always tidy and clean. There were two cats – Jip Jip and Dusty- we cuddled them every time we saw them. We had two rooms one for Lucka and one for me and Jovana. We had really good times together, every evening we just sat in our room and we were talking about everything.

### Free time

I saw nice places in London. For example Chinatown was super cool, we bought many and many sweets and drinks which we can't buy here. The Harrow School was breathtaking, I was



there with Ms Lojdová and because it was sunny we could just walk around and saw many animals there.



Shopping was also our speciality; we spent a lot of money in shopping malls, for example in Primark. Every time we went there, we bought something different and our purses were lighter and lighter 😊 TK Max was another shop where we came with money and left without them, just with many bags with clothes, cosmetic products and food.

## Conclusion

This internship gave me a lot – new friends, new experiences, I saw new places and new country. It helped me with my English and I know that I won't be shy anymore – I'm sure that we will remember these two weeks forever. If sometimes in future someone gives me a chance to do this again I know that I will jump into it and I won't be scared of anything.



## Adéla Kulichová – 3. A, Business Academy

### Work

I was working in English Studio Language School. They offer a range of courses (general English, exam preparation and business English) for different learning needs. You can choose from English courses in the morning, at midday and in the afternoon, with classes for all English levels from beginners to advanced. The courses are based on practical English that you can use every day. Conversation and speaking are the main focus with lots of grammar and writing practice.

First day I met my supervisor Will and he welcomed me to their school, explained what my work would be about and also introduced me to other colleagues. They were all really nice to me and always offered help when I needed it. My working hours were from 8:30-12:00 a.m., then I had free hour to go out for lunch. After that I worked from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

I was really pleasantly surprised with my working schedule. I had an amazing opportunity to attend morning English courses with other students. I went to advanced English class with about 9 other students. It depended, because new students were leaving and coming as their course dates differed.

My teacher's name was Stuart and he was really nice and his classes were interesting to be in. I also really liked people in my class. They were from all different parts of the world – e.g. Hungary, Italy, Turkey or Chile. I enjoyed the classes, since the main part were games. We usually



formed a few groups and conversed about many things. It was really useful to hear so many different accents and learn to understand them.

After lunch I went to office in the other building and I worked there. I usually worked with PC and Excel; I was making lists of textbooks in computer programme, scanning papers or hanging some posters in the building with classes.

Last day there was really pleasant atmosphere since it was some Christmas Weather day. So all workers in the office were dressed in Christmas related clothing and they were singing Christmas songs and playing instruments. I really liked that and I enjoyed my last day there.



English Studio Language School is located in High Holborn, 113 in the central London. I travelled there every day by underground for about 35 to 40 minutes, which was fine.

**Accommodation**

I was staying with two other girls - Denisa and Anita. We lived in Harrow, about 15 minutes by foot from the underground station. Our host's name was Arpi. She was living alone since her daughter had graduated from the college. Arpi lived in flat. She had really clean rooms and she prepared dinner every evening. For breakfast we could have either some fruit or cereals with milk or yoghurt or maybe eggs.

First day she showed us how to get to the underground and also where we can go for shopping near the house. There were many supermarkets like Tesco or Lidl and also some other shops which was cool. Then she showed us our room where we slept. There were beds and a closet and a big window so there was enough space for the three of us. The only unpractical thing was little time for shower because we were three girls there so sometimes it was difficult to be ready before it was late at night. But later on we made our schedule and it was fine. At night it was really cold and in general there was not the same warm temperature as we know from home. But I guess that it's like that in England in general.

While we were having dinner we were talking with Arpi about our day or our country so that was nice. She prepared good dinner every day. I liked that she tried to prepare meals from different country or culture so we tried out some new interesting meals.



We had good time staying there. Last day she called taxi which took us to the meeting point with our group.

**Free time**

I was glad that we had free time after our work so we could explore London by ourselves. That really taught me a lot. I learned orientation in a foreign country in a big city and travelling by

the underground. I also went by a double-decker for the first time. Almost every day me and my friends met and went shopping or we visited some famous places or streets.





I really enjoyed London. We did lot of shopping, we usually ate in fast foods. We were mostly in McDonalds and we spent a lot of money there. And I also really enjoyed all Christmas lights and decorations everywhere. London looks really magical around Christmas time.

Weekend programme was also really fun. We went to the Houses of Parliament, it had a really pretty interior and the visit was really interesting. Another day we went to see the crown jewels which were beautiful. I was so excited about the London Eye because it provided an amazing view of the night London.



One day after work I went to see Winter Wonderland with my friend and we enjoyed it a lot. I also visited places like Covent Garden or Oxford Street quite often.

### Conclusion

Overall I enjoyed this experience so much and I am so grateful for the opportunity I had. I learned so many new things such as not to be so afraid to talk to new people and to be on my own in a big city such as London. I gained so much useful knowledge which I will use in my future studies, work, but also life. I would go next time again if I had a chance.



## Natálie Mazánková – 3. A, Business Academy

### Work

I worked in a company called JP Accountancy. My main task was basically to work in an accounting program called Quickbooks. I worked with that program most of the time but sometimes they gave me different work to do, for example archiving bills to specific customers and then adding them to their account on Quickbook, sorting bills, etc.

The place I worked in was separated into three offices. One was used to keep the archived documents so I am not sure if I can count it as the office but they had a computer there so let's count it.

My co-workers were (and I believe they still are) really kind and were helping me with everything I needed. I guess there were 5 or 6 employees. I am not sure if one lady was not only just some companion. The boss

of the company was the sweetest guy. His name was Keith and we became really good friends. One day we spend like an hour and half talking about various topics and he invited me and my friend to visit him any time and also offered us a job. And also gave us contact to him so we can keep in touch. I appreciate it a lot.



My next favourite co-worker was Audrey, a very pleasant and lovely woman. I think she was a secretary. She took care of every call and always was the first who communicated with clients that came to office. She always asked if everything is ok, if I want a coffee or tea or something. She





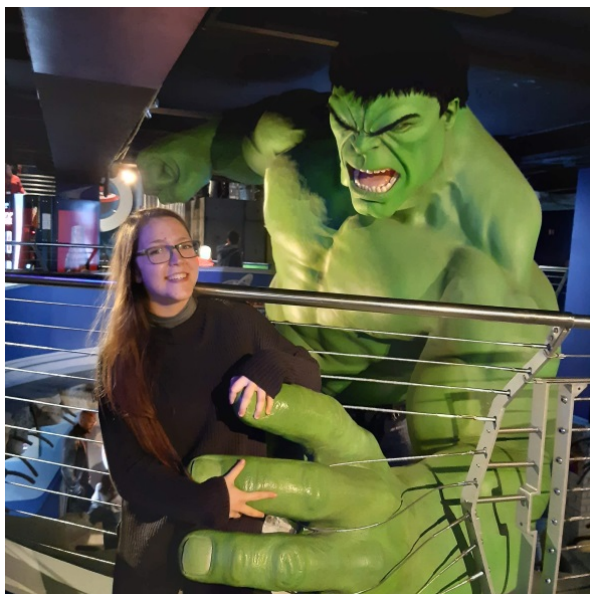
was like a mum of the office. My other co-workers were very nice too but the two of them were the most communicative (I mean like a small talk or something). There was only one thing that really confused me. It was how they worked - I mean their working hours, because there was someone different every single day. So I asked and they told me that they go to work only when they have work. So I guess they somehow figured out how long it takes them to finish their work so that is how they know how often in the week they have to go to the office.

### Accommodation

Now a bit about my family. I lived at Azra's. She was really nice and very kind. We also lived with the rest of her family, which means her husband, daughter and two sons. But mostly we talked with Azra. I stayed with one girl from our group who studied the higher education college (also very lovely person). We had one room together. There were two beds, one wardrobe and a rack. I am not really picky so in my opinion it was ok. But one thing I really did not like... and that was the cold. It was so freezing there. Our room was in fact the warmest room in the whole house. Even the heater was on from 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. In spite of this, both Kristýna and I caught the cold at the end of the second week.



Our dinners were delicious. Azra was Indian so she used to cook their typical Indian dishes, but we also had about two or three British dinners. The British cuisine is rather tasteless so I preferred her other dinners. But even the British dinners were good. For breakfast we usually prepared something by ourselves because all of us were getting up at different times. We had one shared bathroom. We had a bathtub, which was nice but it was impossible to spend too



long time there. Because when we were taking a shower we were supposed to keep the window open so the bathroom would not get foggy. When Azra told us we were like what? You want us to become icicles? Of course we showered with a closed window and then we opened it. We would have caught the cold at the beginning and not at the end of our stay :)

I was scared of the travelling system in London, because there're many kinds of transport (overground, underground, buses, trains etc.). But it turned out to be very simple. For travelling we were using Oyster cards (we called them "Oysterky" :D). We were able to use it for every type of transport, which made our transport really easy.



## Free time

At the weekend we were walking around London and doing sightseeing. It was really nice to relax after a week. We visited the main sights of London such as the Big Ben, Palace of Westminster, the Houses of Parliament, the Tower Bridge, St. Paul's Cathedral etc. I really liked the ride on the London Eye, it was my favourite.

We were there at the beginning of December so whole London was in Christmas mood. We were able to see very beautifully decorated streets, shops... actually almost everything was decorated.



## Adéla Mlčochová, 3.B - Business Academy

### Work

I worked in the company called Eleada Care which is located in Kenton. The company offers a comprehensive range of personal care and nursing services to vulnerable adults, people with physical and mental health or drug related problems and other forms of challenging behaviour in their environment.

It was really a small place; the company has only one small office. In the office there were a few desks and about 5 employees. All employees were the whole week really nice to me. They literally helped me with anything that I had a problem with or with tasks that I didn't know. They also offered me a job and told me that they would like to stay in touch with me. I didn't mind that the company has only one small office because I felt there more comfortable.

The whole week my supervisor was telling me what tasks I should do. When somebody else needed I helped them. My work started at 10 a.m. and ended at 5 p.m. I went to work by bus and it lasted about 20 minutes. Every day I had one hour for lunch from 12 - 2 p.m. The company had one small kitchen so I could eat my lunch there.



My tasks were creating the clients' files, I had to separate their criminal records, addresses and personal information which were printed and put them into the right files. In the end of the week I was working with Excel - I was making employees cards. I was also scanning documents, printing and communicating with clients.

The 2 weeks in the company gave me a lot of new experience. I am not as shy as I used to be and I really got used to communication with other people that I didn't know. I was surprised how people in London are nice to you and they literally help you with everything.

#### Accommodation



I lived in family with my classmate Sára. Our host's name was Annette and she was really nice to us. We shared one room but Annette made sure that we didn't mind it. The room was really cosy. We had our own bathroom. She always asked us if we have everything what we needed. She also recommended us some sights and nice places in London that we should visit. Annette lived with her son and husband. She also had one cat but it wasn't into cuddling.

#### Free time

I had a free time every day after work. I usually met my classmate Sára and we went to the centre of London. We were surprised how beautiful London is. The first week we were just looking around and did some shopping. At the weekend we spent time with our teachers. We visited a lot of sight e.g. Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, Trafalgar Square and the Tower.

Most of all I enjoyed Madame Tussaud's Museum because I had wanted to visit it for such a long time.





## Denisa Placarová – 3. A, Business Academy

### Work

I was working at Hamlets Training Centre which is located in Montefiore Centre. Hamlets Training Centre is a language school that provides English courses for students from all around the world. They have variety of courses from English course (A1, A2, B1 SELT), professional courses or functional skills.

My journey to work took about 55 minutes. Their office is in the building together with other institutions. I worked in small office with Mates. My main tasks were working in Microsoft Excel and greeting customers when they came into our office. Sometimes I had to do other thing that this such as washing mugs or helping my supervisor with papers or giving him papers from printer.

My working hours were supposed to be from 9.30 a. m. to 5 p. m. but my supervisor changed it so I usually started from 10 a. m.. That was awesome because I could at least sleep in.

I spent most of my time with my supervisor Mr Jamal Ahmed. He was such a good guy - he was really a talkative and



super positive person. And his secretary Munira Begum was even more talkative and positive person. She was really nice to me and she helped me with any problem I had.

I was little bit scared that I wouldn't understand my supervisor and his secretary but their English was very nice so I could understand almost everything they said.

### Transport

Before we got to London I was quite scared that I would get lost in London underground on my way to work or when we would go to the city but it was much easier than I thought. On our first day our country manager Adriana from the ADC collage explained to us how to use public transport and that was extremely useful.

Transport in London is really more difficult than in Brno. Everywhere there were lots of people, they were in a hurry. When I travelled to work I used only underground. We got Oyster cards so we could travel in London without problems with buying tickets. Also



travelling by bus was ok, but buses did not have stable timetable as in Brno, sometimes we were waiting for bus for about 20 minutes and sometimes two buses arrived in five minutes. But that depended on weather too.

### Free time

We had a weekend programme with our teachers and although it was rather cold outside, we really enjoyed it.



On Saturday, we met in front of the Big Ben which was unfortunately under construction and then we went to Parliament where we spent about 2 hours. Later we passed Westminster Abbey, went towards Trafalgar Square and then to China Town. To finish the day off we went to Madame Tussaud's which was very interesting and I had wanted to go there for such a long time.

On Sunday we met at Trafalgar Square at the lion, the nearest one to the tube entrance then we went to National Gallery. Then around 12 a. m. we went to Buckingham Palace. We also have been to St James's Park. After some free time we went to St Paul's and Millennium Bridge. Then we took bus towards Tower. Later we went to London Eye and even though I had already been on London Eye I really enjoyed it. The view was absolutely amazing.



### Accommodation

I was staying with my two friends Adela and Anita in a flat with Arpi Keshishian. She lives alone even though she has a daughter.

The flat was clean and very nice even though it had only 2 rooms, 1 bathroom, a kitchen and living room with dining room. We slept in a big room with two normal beds and one extra bed. We didn't have any problems the first week but then it got worse because we only had 1 bathroom for all of us. Also it was really cold in our room.

### Conclusion

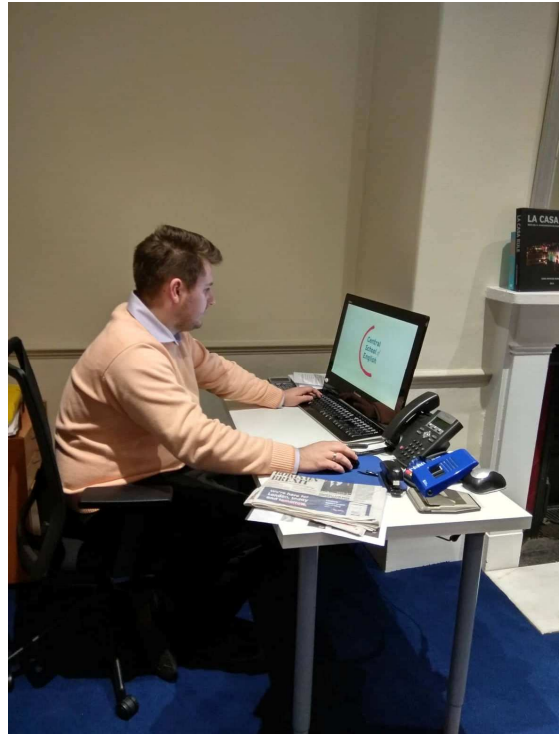
It was overall really good experience for me and I enjoyed it. I learned to travel by London underground which was not always the easiest thing for me.

And I am also used to different cultures now and I think that talking with strangers in English is no longer problem for me.

Everybody should give it a try, because this is a lifetime opportunity and you will not regret.

### **Martin Rozčinský, 3.Q – Further Education College, Economics and Enterprise – Foreign Trade**

I spent my internship in the Central School of English. The company is located in the centre of London. Clients of the Central School of English are foreigners who came from abroad to learn English to strengthen their language skills and experience the life in another cultural environment. The Central School of London was established in 1968. The school has been providing many types of English courses for 50 years.



My supervisor was David Mullany, he is from London. He was so polite, funny, and every day he communicated with me. He gave me tasks such as adding new clients into schools' database, copying and scanning of documents, checking the emails, sending letters to schools partners. I had even the opportunity to attend English language lessons every day for free.

I was travelling to my work ten minutes by walk and then one hour by tube. Even though the tube was much busy during rush hours the time always ran very fast.

I would like to recommend my placement company to other students because all employees and students were very friendly and communicate. I spend lot of good time with them.

#### **Accommodation**

I was living with our three friends from school (Matěj, Michaela, Andrea). We lived in North Harrow at Claudio and Hansa Menon. The very first day they welcomed us with delicious Indian cuisine. They had had almost 20 years of experience in these services. They were very friendly and kind, especially Claudio's cook skills were fantastic. They were very helpful. Every evening they helped us with our journey into London and they were giving as some tips and guides with transportation.

I had a solo room with one bed, one toilet, mirror and wash-basin. We could use Claudio's fridge, internet and washing machine. The bus stop was only a few meters from our home and tube was 10 minutes far away from our home.

In the end I would say that our family was the best we could have wished for.





### Free time

We also enjoyed the weekend program with our group. We saw those amazing famous historical buildings, some interesting places such as Parliament, Tower Bridge, Tower and many others. We enjoyed the shopping too. I really enjoyed this London experience and I am very grateful for this opportunity. I would definitely recommend this Erasmus + programme to all students.

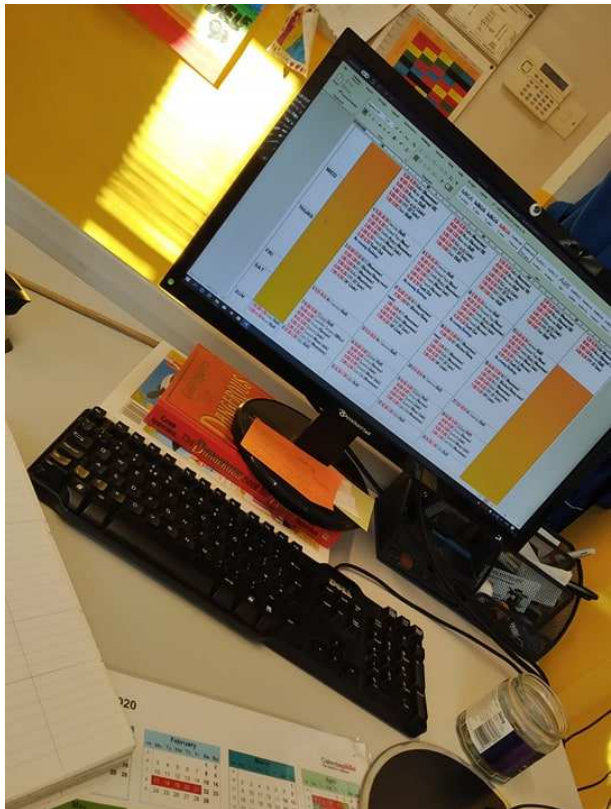


### Michaela Rusmanová, 3. SP – Further Education College - Social Services

#### Work

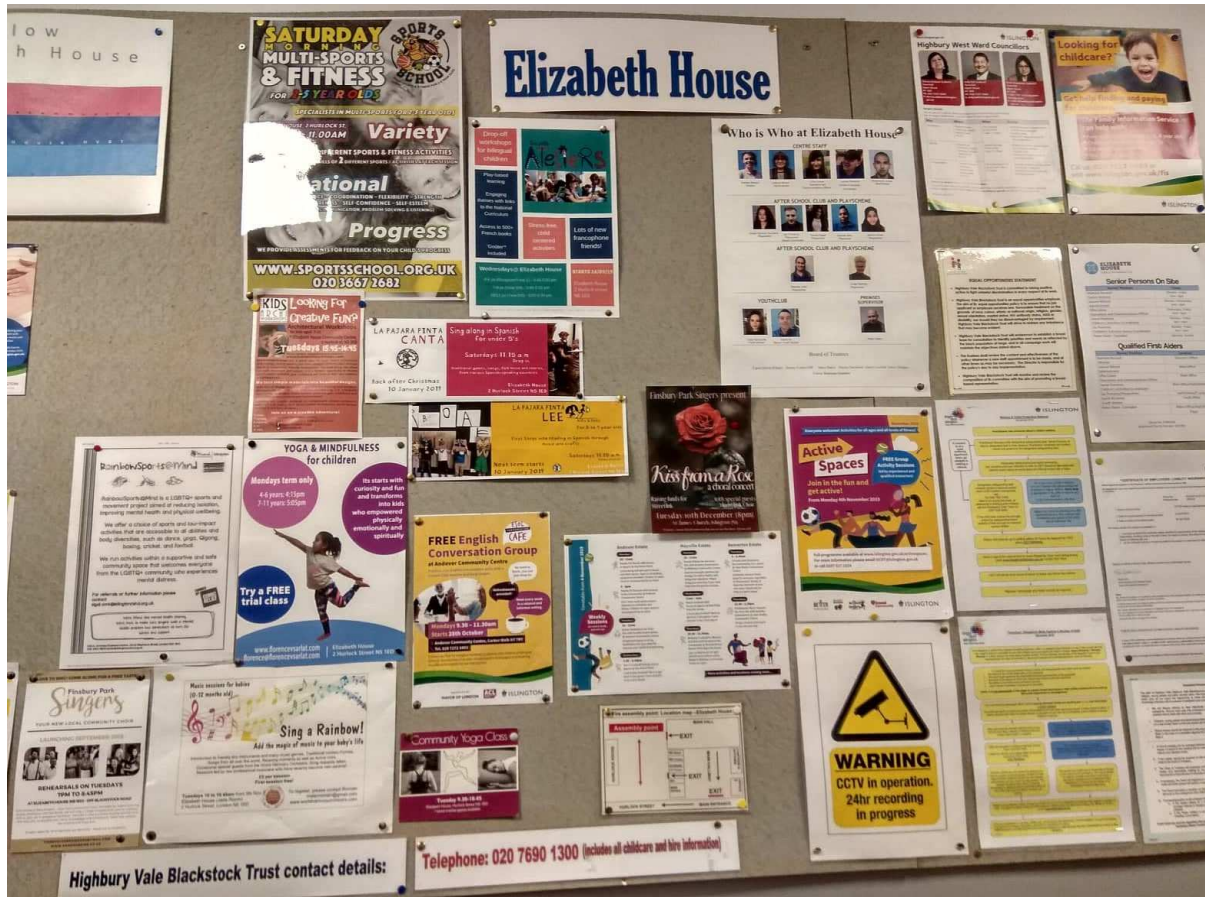
I worked in a company called Elizabeth House Community Centre. The community centre is for the local community and is used for everything from leisure classes and education, to after school activities, holiday play scheme and youth groups. My supervisor's name was Nathalie, but I worked in the office mostly with Joanne who supervised me too and she was there for me if I needed anything. There also worked more people, which I got to know over time. They all were really nice to me and it was fun to work with them.

The main task for me was mostly work on PC where I helped with some documents. I was also shredding or cutting papers, laminating, helping with decoration or I was picking up children from school. My working hours were from 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. I had an hour for my lunch, so I usually ate it in the dining room or when the weather was good, I brought it to the nearest park and ate it there.



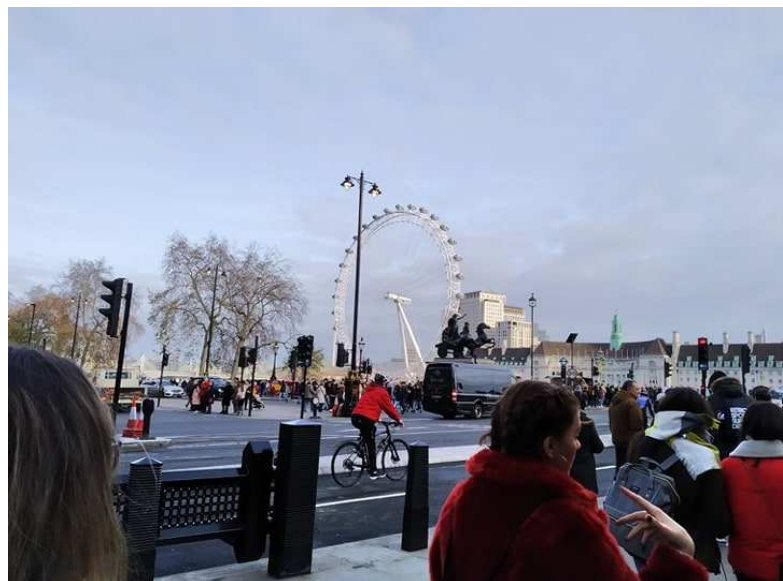
My office was situated in Hurlock Street, which was about an hour to get there. I was using the underground from North Harrow. I was using the Metropolitan line, and at King's Cross St Pancras I used Piccadilly line to Arsenal. And from here it was about 500 m by feet to get there.





Free time

I really enjoyed my free time in London. I had a lot of fun especially with my roommates. We did a lot of shopping, mostly in Primark or Morrison's. We tried local food and explored some new places. We also took a ride by double-decker which was a real fun. We also visited a lot of places at the weekend with our group. We visited places like Madame Tussaud's which was the most attractive one for me, Parliament, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square, Tower, London Eye etc.



## Accommodation

I was staying with my friend and two other boys, who we got to know really well over time and we all spend a lot of time with each other. Our host was called Claudio and his wife was called Hansa. They were really nice and they really took care of us. We loved spending time with them and the dinners which Claudio was making for us each evening were just fantastic. The house and accommodation were also really nice and cosy. Someday I would like to go back there, because it was an amazing experience.



## **Andrea Smejkalová, 3. SP – Further Education College - Social Services**

### Work

I spent my internship in the Community Centre located in Kayani Avenue in London. It is a Centre that provides services for clients living in the community. The centre provides room hiring for special occasions, parties or meetings. They also provide activities and projects such as cooking, yoga or activities for children. There is a big library which anybody can visit and borrow some books. The centre also gives any information needed.

Before we got to London I was quite scared that I would get lost on my way to work or that I wouldn't find the workplace, but everything was easier than I thought. The first day in London the ADC manager explained everything to us and we got a chance to explore the London Underground and find our workplace.



My main tasks were working at the desk reception of the Community centre and picking up the telephone. I was also greeting and giving information about the centre to visitors. I was working with the computer and doing tasks in Excel. I helped twice in the kitchen. Every Wednesday there is cooking from food that people or shops donate to the centre and people from the community can come and eat a whole meal for free.



It was Christmas time, so I got a chance to be part of a big Christmas party. I helped with the organization and preparation. I decorated a big Christmas tree and also helped with the Christmas cooking. We prepared turkey and mashed potatoes. It was delicious! My working hours were from 9 am to 5.30 pm but my supervisor was kind and let me go home earlier. That was awesome because I had more time to explore London. One day after work I went with my supervisor shopping and to a coffee shop. We got along well and chatted together a lot. She was like my friend.

#### Free time

We had free time every day after work. I spent it with my friends and we got a chance to explore London a little bit. I think that this was the best part of the internship. We tried Fish and chips and also had the best burgers at Five guys!

At the weekend we had a program with our teachers. On Saturday we met in front of Big Ben and we went to Parliament where we spent 2 hours. Later we saw Westminster Abbey and went towards Trafalgar Square and China town. The best part of the program was Madame Tussaud's. We got a chance to take pictures with the famous wax figurines. On Sunday we went to London Eye and even though I am a bit scared of heights I enjoyed the wonderful view. I was amazing.

#### Accommodation

I stayed with my classmate Michaela and two other boys from Economic school in a small typical English house in North Harrow. We lived at Claudio and Hansa's home. Claudio is Italian and is a retiree and Hansa is from India and works as a social worker. They love cooking, so we had fabulous meals every day. Their home was wonderful! But they are used to having colder temperature at home, so we put two pairs of socks on our feet and everything was okay. It was a great accommodation, but it was far from the work place. We had to get up earlier and travel almost an hour by train everyday to work.

## Kristýna Smolová, 3.EP - Further Education College, Law and Economics – Legal Studies

The two weeks we've spent in London were really special and interesting to me. It wasn't my first visit of London, I've already been there twice before this internship, but it was my first time being there during Christmas and also my first time staying there for a longer period of time.

### Work

I was working in a company called English Studio Language School. This language school started as a really small company, but providing courses for more than 800 students each week, it grew into one of the UK's biggest language schools. The English Studio is located in a centre of London on High Holborn Street.



My supervisor was Mr Will Tichener and I was working there with Adéla Kulichová. Our working hours were always from 9 a. m. to 4 p. m. From 9 to 12 we were able to be part of C1 language course with people of all age from all around the world. There were students from Hungary, Lithuania, Japan, Argentina, Chile, Italy and Colombia. Because it was quite small group of students (there were no more than 10 of us), I was able to talk to everybody in my group and it was really interesting to listen to their stories and why they had decided to travel

such a long distance from their country to London not only to learn English. Our teacher Stuart always prepared various activities for us and was always part of the activities, so he could listen to us and correct our mistakes. I think it was really helpful to me to be able to speak and listen to the others for three hours every day.



After the three hours of the course, we had an hour long lunch break. Because we were in the city centre, it wasn't hard to find different places to eat every day.

After the lunch break, we were given some administrative work – we helped with preparing and scanning studying



materials from books, scanning and organizing reviews about students and other administrative tasks.

Because I was living in the 6th zone and the English Studio was in the 1st zone, my every day journey from home to work was quite long – it took me over an hour to get there, but it was worth it. I was travelling by overground from Hatch End station to Euston station and then walked for about 15 minutes to the English Studio.

#### Free time

At first I was really worried about these two weeks, because none of my friends was going with me, but we quickly became friends with some girls from other classes and we were able to explore London together. We went shopping, exploring beautiful streets, cafés and so on.

I was also worried about the public transport in London, but it turned out to be completely fine after few days and at the end of my stay I was confident enough to go by underground on my own.

At the weekend, we had a programme planned by our teachers. On Saturday, we visited a lot of famous sights of London, such as the Houses of Parliament, Trafalgar Square, Leicester Square, China Town, and so on. We finished our day at Madame Tussaud’s museum where we could find some of our favourite actors, singers and other characters and take pictures with them.



On Sunday, we continued with visiting more famous sights such as Buckingham Palace, St. James’s Park, St Paul’s cathedral, Millennium Bridge and the Tower of London. We ended our day with something special again when we were able to see London from London Eye.

#### Accommodation

I shared a room with one other girl from our school Natálie and we were staying with Azra Saghir and her family. She had two sons, one daughter and husband.

Azra was always really friendly and kind to us – she was always willing to answer our

questions and explain everything. She was also asking about our day every evening.

It was quite cold in the house, but I suppose it's normal in England. However, Azra was so kind to put the heating on in our rooms, so it was much warmer than the rest of the house, which was a really nice gesture.

We usually had toast with jam or cereals for breakfast. For dinner, Azra always cooked us something warm. She said that cooking is her hobby and we could see that – the meals she made were delicious. My favourite meals were the Indian ones, even though it was really spicy, but she also cooked some traditional British meals.

### **Matěj Toman, 3.Q – Further Education College, Economics and Enterprise – Foreign Trade**

I spent my internship in the Hamlets Training Centre which provides high quality professional training. They are accredited by the British Accreditation Council (BAC) for Independent Further and Higher Education as a short course provider. Hamlets Training Centre caters for all students offering courses in Health and Safety, Food Safety, Food Allergy, Fire Safety, First Aid, Licensing, English Language (ESOL) and Life in the UK. The company has clients especially from India, but also international students on short-term or other people who wants to English language courses tailored to all levels to help improve their English language skills for professional development, for employment or to prepare them for further studies in the UK.



In the office where I was working there were two employees plus me, and other employees were in the other office in London. I was also working with my other colleague from our group.

My supervisor was Jamal Ahmed, he is from India. He was so polite, funny, and every day he communicated with me. He gave me tasks and mainly I was working on PC (Office, Word, Power point), copying and scanning of documents and I was checking the emails, doing research. I had even the opportunity to attend one of the training sessions.

I was travelling into my work about one hour. Even though the journey took so long it was very comfortable and it always ran very fast.



I would recommend my company to other students because there was a very friendly and pleasant environment.

#### Accommodation

I was living with our three friends from school (Martin, Michaela, Andrea). We lived in North Harrow at Claudio and Hansa Menon. The first day they welcomed us with big dinner. They had had almost 20 years of experience in these services. They were very friendly and nice, especially the food was delicious. Their house was big a clean, and it was not problem to agree with Claudio on moving the dinner for late hours or on coming home later - we just had to send her SMS.

I shared room with two beds, one toilet, a mirror and a wash-basin. We could use their fridge and internet. The bus stop was only a few meters from our home and underground was near too.

In the end I would say that our family was the best and we couldn't have wished better. Once I think we will visit them.

### **Sára Vašíčková, 3. B – Business Academy**

#### Work

I spent my work experience in the company Let's Talk Property. It is a real estate agency, which is specialized in sale and rental of flats or houses in some specific areas of London. It is a smaller company, at the time of my internship there were 5 employees. The first day I was really afraid of finding my new job address, because it was about one hour far from the house of our host family. But I found it just fine. My supervisor was Alex Fabrizio, he was really nice to me in every situation. Every employee in this company was very helpful and especially kind. I was there with my friend Barbora Doupovcová. Our working hours were from 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. We worked with business correspondence and with databases of clients.

#### Accommodation

My host family was Annette Phillips. She was London born with an Irish background. She



lived at 25 Talbot Road, in a wonderful suburb called Harrow. Annette was always very nice and she always gave us advice about where should we go. She had a cat called Missie, who was a little bit naughty. She wasn't into cuddling much but she was so cute.

Annette's cooking was amazing. She prepared for us food - some pasta, pizza and lasagne. For breakfast we could choose and take whatever we wanted. I usually ate some toast with butter and ham or cheese or jam and coffee. Annette's house was nice and modern. Annette had very nice Christmas decorations. She was a hairdresser and she works from home. She showed us some photos of her children and from vacations. She helped us with everything we wanted and she always asked us when we came from work, how our day at work was. That was really cool of her. I was living with my friend Adéla Mlčochová. We had no problem at all, the only thing which was really bad was cold in our room at night, but everybody had the same experience as us with this, so I think it's normal for them.



Free time

In my free time I had chance to explore London a little bit. At first, I was really worried about the transport in London but it wasn't so difficult. It was a good opportunity to do Christmas shopping but everywhere there were so many people that in the end I was glad to come back to Annette's place. What I really enjoyed was Christmas mood everywhere. Decorations and lights look magical at the night time. Generally, I fell in love the city. Architecture is amazing and everyone was so nice to me. I had free time every day after work. I always spent it with my friends. Every day we went somewhere – for example shopping, eating, or just visiting some interesting places and London. We often visited Primark, which is probably visited by every student coming to London. In the weekend, our teachers prepared a great programme for us. We had a meet point at Big Ben and then we went to the Houses of Parliament. It was genuinely interesting to see such a place. After that we went to Trafalgar Square, then China Town and finally Madame Tussaud's. At Madame Tussaud's we took some pictures of us and wax figurines of our favourite celebrities. We also visited Tower of London, London Eye, Tower Bridge and many others.





## Transport

I really enjoyed travelling to work and back. From our house, it was only a five-minute-walk to a bus stop. Travelling by bus was ok, but buses did not have stable timetable as in Brno, sometimes we were waiting for bus for about 20 minutes and sometimes two buses arrived in five minutes. But that depended on weather too.

I went to work by a double-decker and then by tube, it took about an hour. When we decided to go to city centre, we went by tube or train. Transport was very easy especially because of amazing phone applications designed for transport in London. You don't have to even know the name of bus stop, you just type place where you want to be and it guides you.

## Conclusion

After two weeks in London, I got a lot of experience. I am proud of myself because this whole trip was kinda stepping out of my comfort zone for me. I'm no longer afraid of talking with strangers in English. Everyone should give it a try, because this is a lifetime opportunity. I am really grateful for everything what we have in the Czech Republic. And I want to thank our teachers for this amazing opportunity.



### Lucie Vyšatová, 3. C - Business School

It all started on May when the teachers told us we got an opportunity to visit London for two weeks with Erasmus.

We had to take an exam to prove our English skills and right after we were good to go. The trip began on 1st December. I had everything packed and I was nervous because of the new adventure. We were going to London from Brno. My family and my best friend came with me to the airport and we had to say goodbye for two long weeks.

Our flight took about two hours. We landed in London about 9 p. m. at Stansted. A driver from ADC College picked us at the airport and brought us to the main building of ADC College where our families waited for us and we were given Oyster cards for travelling. I was really nervous to meet my new Mom for the next two weeks. I hoped she was going to like us. When I am talking about us I mean my classmate Martina and Terka from Further Education College. When Ms. Dawn picked us she was really nice and kind. She brought us to her big lovely house. The three of us shared a room in our house for two weeks. Later when we got a bit comfortable in our new room Ms. Dawn introduced us to other students that had been staying at her home for three months – three Czech students as well! We had so much fun together at our dinners and they recommended us cool places to visit.

The next day was our first official day. I prepared myself for the day - and actually for every morning on so - with British breakfast: a warm toast with jam and grey tea with milk. We had to go to the ADC College for greetings and instructions for our two weeks internship. I enjoyed the ADC College premises. They even had biscuits in glass jars.



After our meeting we got a mission to find the way to our new job and take a picture in front of the building and when we were done our journey truly began.



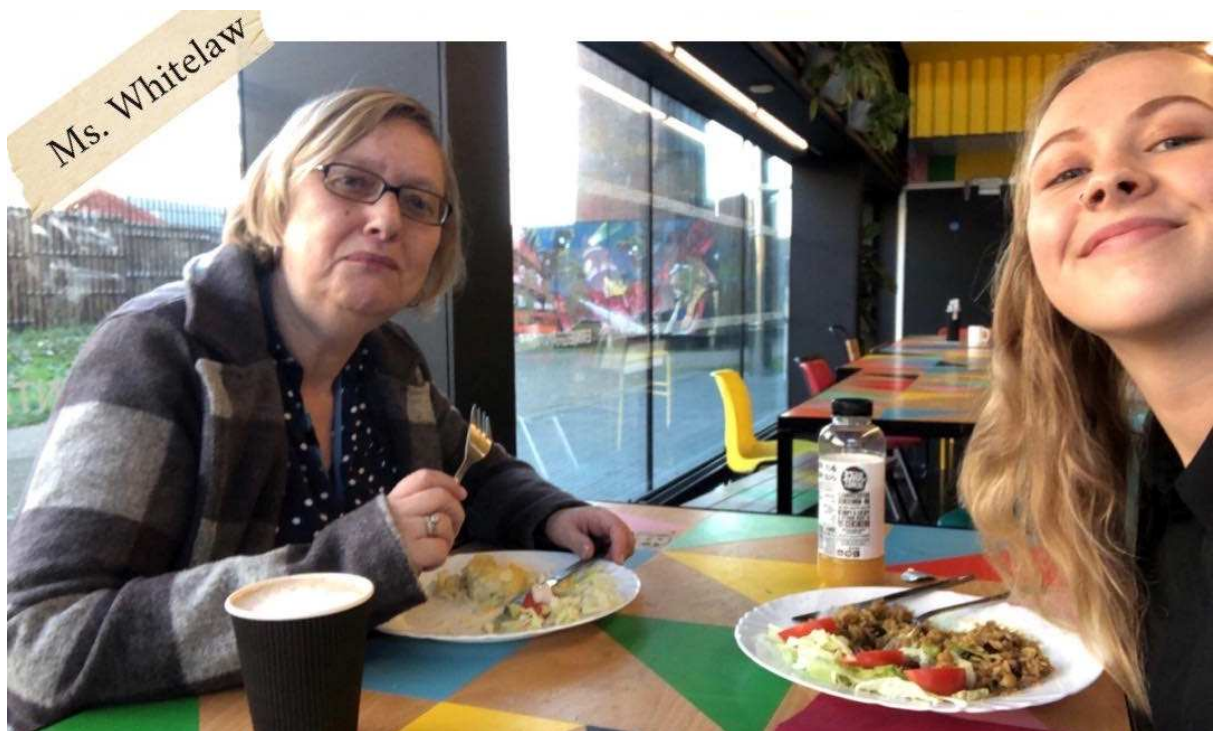
I remember the first day we made it to Oxford Circus and I was amazed by the lights, those beautiful big sparkling angels hanging around, the people and massive buildings. I fell in love with London straightway.

The next morning was our first day at work. My work placement was at The College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London. My working hours were from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. I have to tell that I was really nervous. Following our teachers' advice, I brought Czech candies from hometown as a nice meeting gift and I hoped for good atmosphere.

When I met my supervisor and my new colleagues I was so relieved. They were so nice and helpful. I didn't have to worry at all. My work assignment was to help my supervisor with everything she needed to have done and could not make it by herself. I worked on her schedules and tables in Excel and so on. Ms. Wendy Whitelaw is a teacher at health and social care department and her classes were absolutely amazing. She is really smart and outgoing woman. I found her really inspiring and she taught me a lot. I am grateful for the opportunity of meeting someone like her.

My co-workers were just as amazing. Although I couldn't spend so much time with them I found every one of them amazing people who love their job and are trying to do as much as possible for their students. I miss them very much.

Ms. Wendy showed me a place right next to the school where I made friends and was filled with so much love. The place is called Bernie Grant Arts Centre and inside there is a bistro with the most lovable waitress from far away who I call my Auntie now. I made it my safe place in London and I miss it unconditionally every day. The rest of my week went just as good as the first day.



Finally the weekend came. Our group had a plan to meet and see the beauty of London. On Saturday we started with tour in Parliament and continued towards Trafalgar Square. Later we

moved towards China Town and continued to Piccadilly Circus. The best part was the last one. We went to Madame Tussaud's Museum. It was incredible!

On Sunday we headed first to Buckingham palace and we watched the famous changing of the guards. Then we went to St. Paul's and from there to Millennium Bridge or as I call it – the Harry Potter Bridge. We continued to the Tower which was pretty nice. I enjoyed the tour a lot because I learned a lot about the history and especially because we saw the crown jewels. Our last stop was the famous London Eye. I was surprised by the view. Everything seemed so small from above. It was amazing we could see the whole London under us. Just wow.

Then Monday came and it went just as fast as the week before. Everything was alright. I had my lunches at my safe place and sometimes dear Wendy joined me in. I get to know my colleagues more and we had much more small talks every day.

But everything comes to an end and I had to say goodbye. I wrote a letter for Ms. Wendy to show her I appreciated her so much. They thought of me too. All the staff gathered and they gave me a big gift box with soft Christmas jumper in and lots of British candies I wanted. It touched my heart and it is one of my memories I will never forget.

I went to my safe place to have my one last lunch and said my goodbyes too. They gave me a cake and all the bills for my last meal were on the nice waitress. She gave me food so I wouldn't starve on the plane and wished me everything best.

We had a meeting place in ADC College where they gave us certificates and we talked about our thoughts and how we liked London. Later we ended our trip in the Sky Garden. Again - we had a beautiful view on London. In moments like this I feel infinite. As if I could stop the world and focus on myself only.

London you are infinite for me, infinite of possibilities.

I met lots of people of different cultures, skin tones, appearance, preferences, and minds. I made new friends I never thought I could have been friends with. I explored and improved my travelling skills. I gained lots of knowledge that is so important for me in my wellbeing now.

I am more than grateful for this experience and I will happily cherish it my whole life.

London, you will see me again. Soon.





## Veronika Zemanová, 3. A – Business Academy

### Work

I worked in the company Focus English School (formerly CCLS English School). It's a language school providing regular English courses and also e-learning courses mostly for foreigners in London, who would like to stay there, but can't speak English. I worked here with Martina Horalíková (3. C). In the company there were 4 employees and no one came from England, there were 2 teachers, one man from Brazil and one women from Asia. We were working with a woman who was from Brazil too and with a man from Spain.



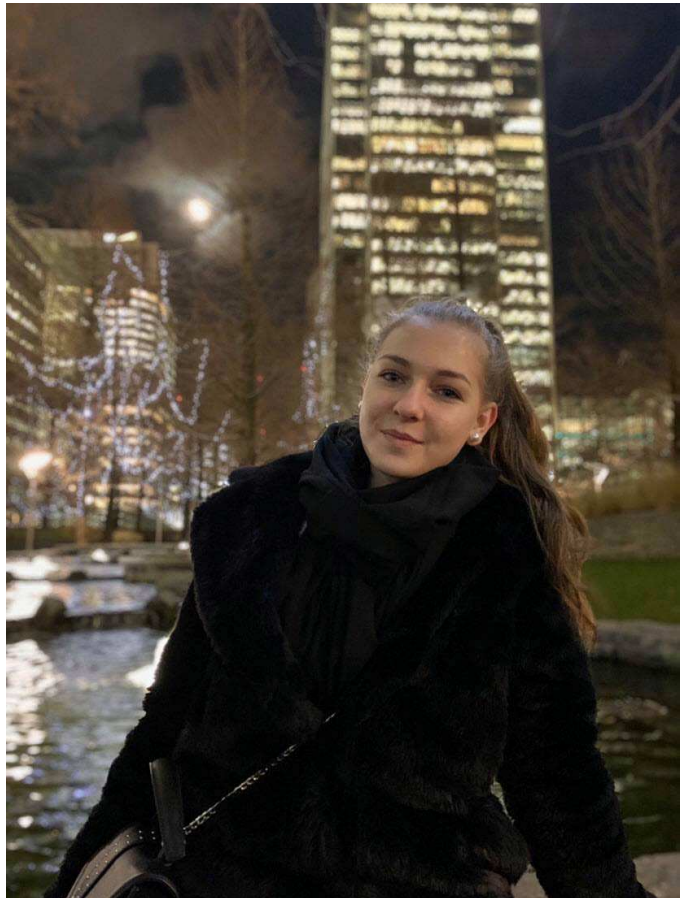
I worked in the office with one of our colleagues and Martina worked in another office with another colleague, the second week we swapped. My main tasks were posting on social media, sending promo messages, working with client databases or finding potential students. I did these as a daily routine and once I had them done, I helped them with their teaching material in form of presentations like adding some pronunciation, pictures and anything what they wanted to or my supervisors sent me to deposit money to the post office. The other week I was preparing some teaching material too but now in form of quizzes.

My working hours were from Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Friday from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. I had the opportunity not to have the lunch break and to go home at 2 p.m. Commuting to the workplace took about 30 minutes, which is shorter than my daily way to school in Brno so I was satisfied. When I travelled to work I used overground and double decker. But when I wanted to travel to the city centre I used fast train and underground. I liked this company, the atmosphere was nice, and colleagues were always very helpful and

friendly. The only problem was that everyone from the company was from a different country and has their accent so sometimes it was difficult to understand them.

#### Free time

I had free time after I finished at work so I went to do some shopping or see some nice places in the city or I went to the centre to meet my friends and to have some meal together. It was great that we could do pretty much everything we wanted. I liked people in England – they are very nice, helpful and kind to each other. At first, I was really worried about transport in London and everything, I am from a small village so I was not used to a crowded city like this but the first day I managed it and it was great. Every day I had a meeting with my roommate Bára somewhere in the city and then we were going mostly shopping. We visited places such as Hyde Park, Wembley Stadium, Winter Wonderland, Oxford Street or the biggest mall in Europe Westfield. What I really enjoyed was Christmas atmosphere everywhere. Decorations and lights looked magical in the night time. At the weekend, our teacher prepared programme for us. On Saturday we visited Parliament, Trafalgar Square, China Town, Madame Tussaud's museum and passed by Westminster Abbey. On Sunday we saw changing of guards in front of the Buckingham palace, crown jewels in Tower and took a ride on London Eye. We had really amazing view of night London from there.



#### Accommodation

I was staying with my classmate Barbora in Harrow in one really friendly family with Irish origins. They had 2 kids, a boy who had already finished university and was looking for a job and the girl who was 16 years old so she was our age. The house had 3 floors and we stayed on the middle floor. We stayed in one nice and cosy room. There was also a bathroom on the floor.

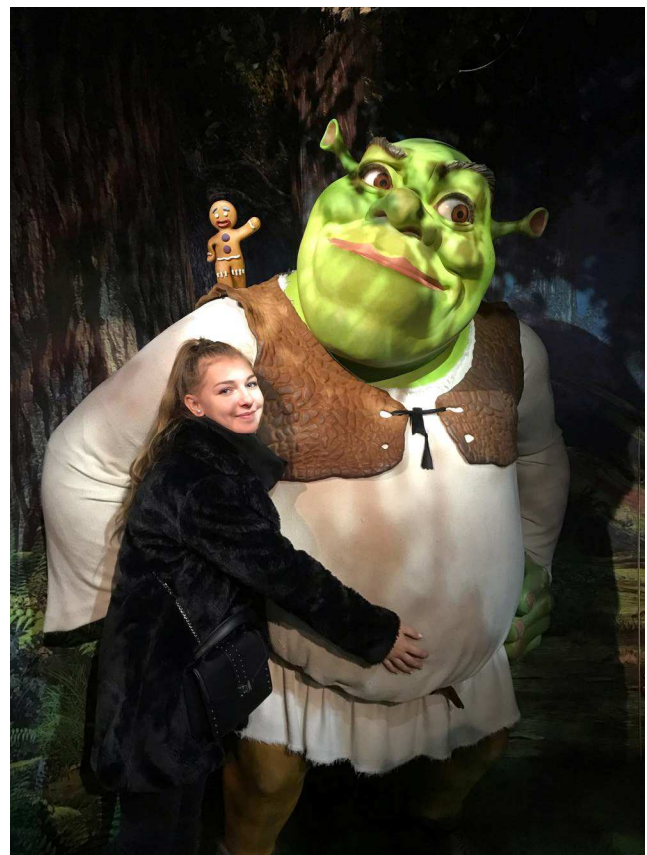
We didn't have any problems with our family. They were really kind to us for example the boy was playing cards with us almost every day. The food was nice too. For breakfast we had bread with marmalade or with chocolate spread every morning so at the end of the stay I couldn't see toast any more. We had money to buy lunch on our own and the dinner was prepared by our family. She cooked meals such as spaghetti or fried chicken with potatoes or rice. We also had a benefit of a flexible dinner time, because they left the food for us in some heat keeping pot, so when we came home, we could eat. The bus stop was 5 minutes away



from the house and the overground station was about 15 minutes away. First day we get lost when we got on the wrong train and got to the station from where we were looking for a way home, and after 30 minutes of wandering, we finally found our house. It was a nightmare, but luckily we found the right way.

### Conclusion

After two weeks in London, I got a lot of experience. I'm no longer afraid of talking with strangers in English. Everyone should give it a try, because this is a lifetime opportunity. I am proud of myself that I made it, because this whole trip was kinda stepping out of my comfort zone for me. After we got our certificates we went to Sky Garden, where you can see the whole London from the bird's eye view so it was the great conclusion of our stay.





## Terezie Žáková, 3. SP – Further Education College - Social Services

### Work



I worked in the Birchwood care home near to Harrow on the Hill. It is the care home with nursing for elderly people from different ethnic communities across North London. It's privately owned, registered for a maximum of 150 clients (there're 150 single rooms with TV). Registered care categories are dementia, old age, younger adults. Specialist care categories are e. g. Alzheimer's disease, cancer care, challenging behaviour, epilepsy, hearing impairment, multiple sclerosis, etc. The care home offers palliative care, respite care and convalescent care. There's also a separate specialist dementia care unit. Clients can have their own furniture if they wish so. Gardens are accessible for residents (with wheelchair access).

My way to the work was by foot. I lived close – 20 minutes far from this organization. This care home was amazing. The attitude of all employees was very kind and individual. Every client is different and employees respect it. There were three supervisors, I was working with all of them. The social work in Great Britain is quite different from the Czech Republic. The social workers focus on doing shows and fun. For example we prepared Christmas parties, we went to school and kids did a show for the seniors. It was an amazing experience. I learned a lot. I improved my English skills. Many Czech social workers should also be so kind to clients and make the care home a beautiful place just like a home for elderly people!





## Accommodation

I lived with two students of secondary school Kotlarska - with Lucka and Martina. We lived in a huge house close to the tube station Northwick Park. Our host family consisted of three people - the mother and two sons. The sons actually did not talk with us a lot, but the communication with our host mother was very good. I could not get used to pre-packed food there. I really prefer fresh food and Czech meals. The dinners were quite late about 9 or 10 p. m. I know that was because they work till the late hours. It was so cold inside the house, I was freezing every day there – but it's the same everywhere in Britain. The host family accepted us and they were kind to us. We all still in touch.

## Transport

I was mostly using the underground. I was lucky because I lived close to my work. So I didn't have to use any transport to work. After work I usually went to the city. I was shocked first time I saw the map of London's underground. It seemed so difficult to understand this system. But after the first meeting with our lector I understood quite quickly. I also used buses, enjoyed double-deckers and trains.

## Free time

I spent my free time with my roommates or with the girls from my class in the centre of London. We were buying presents and stuff like this. We were going out, because we wanted to learn how to find our way round in a big city. One day we were in Winter Wonderland, it was something like our Christmas markets but also with some attractions. And another day we were in Hyde Park. Then we took LDR train. It is a train without the driver and you can see the whole city. I bought all the Christmas presents for my family too. I went shopping many times - there are so many shops there. Shopping is much cheaper than in the Czech Republic.

The first weekend we spent with other students together. During our trip we saw many interesting sights. Mrs Koudelkova told us interesting information about each sight we had seen. We saw for example the Parliament, Trafalgar Square, Westminster Abbey, the Big Ben (but it was under scaffolding), the museum of Madame Tussaud's where we could take amazing pictures with the celebrities, singers from England even from the USA, the presidents of USA, the Queen and the Royal family... the London Eye where we were inside of one huge cabin and saw the London from bird's eye view, the Tower of London where we could learn the history of the castle and London, the London Bridge, the Buckingham Palace and many others....The second Friday after the last meeting in ADC we went to the Sky Garden at the top of a tall building (37 floors above London). It was at night and the view of the city was beautiful and amazing.

## Conclusion

I am really glad for this experience. I worked in the care home in London also in the Czech Republic so now I can compare the main differences between them. I also improved my English skills. I met a great host family and I made new friendship with other students. What an experience! And we were there in the most beautiful time in the year. The Christmas in London is amazing. I love all the decorations over there. The celebrate Christmas different then we do. And during the Christmas parties in care home I tried the Christmas dinner and sang all the Christmas music.

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