

Study abroad a challenge

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entire stay and included weekends with Scottish families as well as other weekend trips to Scottish sites.

After the five days, Anne went to her flat with other Scottish students from the university. What she found was three out of four girls had moved out and the fourth was considering the same. Within two days the abroad program rectified the problem and she was moved to a flat with girls from Spain, Italy, Japan and Virginia; a much better situation.

Anne loved her classes. Initially, she wondered if she had to take four since most her friends were only taking three. She worried because many of the students from Scotland told them that the University of Edinburgh was as difficult as Harvard. In hearing that this was Scottish humor, she settled down. She liked the classes. The format of one large lec-

ture followed by small tutorial classes worked for her.

Classes went from early January to the end of March, followed by a three week break before the month of exams. Anne chose to travel with two other girls. They asked their parents to acquire a Euro-pass allowing them the opportunity to travel cheaply throughout Europe. They reserved occupancy at youth hostels.

The three weeks went well. They saw the Netherlands, Germany, France, Italy and Spain. They ran into snags along the way and had to make choices based on feeling safe. Although in many instances they did not speak the native language, between the three of them, they knew enough to get by.

The history, countryside, Easter at Norte Dame, the French Riviera and many of the new experiences and sights were spectacular and will long remain in her memory. They navigated the trains well and, until London, experienced few problems. In London, one girl had her pocketbook stolen. They managed this setback well without further mishap.

In returning to Scotland, Anne and the others faced a month of final exams. The schedule and format was more rigorous than what they were accustomed to at their home schools.

In summary, studying abroad challenges students in many new and exciting ways. Students gain an increased level of independence while being exposed to the diverse people, viewpoints and cultures.

The student's foreign study experience is considered beneficial beyond graduation. Often employers perceive these students as more confident and well rounded than their peers. They often have more of a global perspective. Employers and graduate schools tend to favor students who have firsthand familiarity with other parts of the world.

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