

Report of stay abroad in Brighton, UK

30th March - 27th April 2019

1. Facts about myself

My name is Michelle Garbe, I am 22 years old and currently I am absolving the second year of my apprenticeship as a business woman for insurance and finance at the Westfälische Provinzial Versicherung AG in Münster. At the moment I'm working at the building and household insurance department for business customers.

In the first week of my stay in Brighton I will do a language course at the ELC (English Language Centre) and in the other three weeks I will do a work placement at the World Cetacean Alliance.

My expectations for this internship are first of all to improve my English skills, to become acquainted with the culture of Brighton and to meet new people.



2. The stay abroad

Brighton

Located at the south coast of England, 76 km away from London, Brighton is one of the UK's most popular destinations. An important fact is that Brighton is actually formally known as the city of Brighton and Hove. These two towns have about 230.000 inhabitants (2011).

"Brighton is the happiest city in the United Kingdom."
(housebeautiful.de)

This is the result of a survey which I totally agree with. During the four weeks I explored Brighton a lot and met so many new people from all cultures, ages and styles.

I visited for example the Seven Sisters cliffs, the Brighton Pier and Brighton Marina. There is also a huge shopping centre called Churchill Square Mall but across nearly every street in the centre you find popular shops like H&M, GAP, Primark,... but also small beautiful boutiques. Brighton offers a wide range of pubs, clubs and bars which are opened 7 days a week. This opportunity is also ideal to meet new people from all over the world.



The inhabitants of Brighton are unbelievable kind and helpful as distinct to German people. People in Brighton seem to be much happier (I mean: who can be unhappy when he/she lives at the beach?!).

Host family

My host family, Angie (50) and her 13-years-old son Oliver are very friendly and courteous. They are very lovely and friendly people and they have done their best to make this stay the best possible for me. On the first day they for example told me which buses I have to take and asked what kind of food I (don't) like.



The food in England is different to the food in Germany. For breakfast I usually got cereals, coffee and orange juice. The dinner was always different and sometimes I got typical English meals like fish pie for dinner or bread pudding as a dessert.

There was also another student Angie and Ollie were hosting. Her name is Marina, she's 22 years old and from Spain. Like to everyone else I had a very good relationship to her.

The language course

In the first week I did a language course at the ELC (English Language Centre). Based on a short test in advance we have been divided in different groups which were adapted to our level of English. Our morning group was different from our afternoon group.



The course is very helpful to improve your English skills because you learn the pronunciation of British people and grammar.

You also meet a lot of new people from so many different countries. My classmates were from Turkey, Italy, Korea, Spain, France, Columbia, Japan, China and Switzerland.

The internship

After the language course, I did a three-week internship at the World Cetacean Alliance (WCA).

The World Cetacean Alliance is the world's largest partnership working to protect whales, dolphins and porpoises.

My tasks included:

- Research for possible cooperation partners
- Organisation of Skype conferences
- Creating Excel charts and PowerPoint presentations



- Creating an invitation for the conference in Florida and inviting our partners from all over the world

We were a small team so it felt very familiar. The best thing about my internship was that I directly worked at the beach near the Brighton Palace Pier, so I always had the possibility to have lunch at the beach. To be honest I liked the language course more than the internship because at the company you don't improve your English skills as much as at the language school. But all in all it was a nice experience to work in a different country and I can



imagine working abroad.

3. Conclusion

My stay in Brighton was the best experience I could have abroad. My expectations got definitely surpassed. I got the chance to meet so many new people from all over the world and I improved my English by speaking with all the others. My English got from a B1 before the stay to a C1 after my stay.

My host family was very friendly and lovely and we spend so much time together. Another important part is that it's very relaxed and that you can go out whenever you want. They also cared about you by asking how your day was or when you're coming home. I felt comfortable.



Another fact is that Brighton is such a beautiful city with so many nice and always happy people. You can go shopping, go out or just relax at the beach.

My internship was interesting but not the best part to be honest. At least my colleagues were like a family to me and we had a lot of fun together.

I would really recommend this adventure to everyone who wants to gain experiences. But I also think that it's good to improve your communication skills if you're a shy person for example.

To sum it all up, I would like to say that this month was one of the best months in my life and if you get the chance to travel to Brighton, make use of it!