

# EC UK TRIP

May 3 - 9, 2016.



<http://ec-trip.tumblr.com/>

# CULTURE

This trip was a wonderful experience and I would particularly like to point out its cultural dimension. I really appreciated to discover the cities of Cambridge and Oxford where one can visit two of the most prestigious universities in the world. The atmosphere was paradoxically laid-back and busy because of the students who were revising for their upcoming exams. London was amazing too, we got to discover the City by ourselves and went to cultural venues like Tate Modern and Shakespeare's Globe.

IMMERSION IN  
BRITISH  
CULTURE

CHARLOTTE B.

*We visited Tate Modern on Friday, 6th. There, we had the opportunity to gaze at some really famous pieces of art such as the Marilyn Diptych by Andy Warhol. Housed in the former Bankside Power Station, this museum offers a large number of artworks even If the entry is free. This kind of places allows us to confirm that London is a global city. Indeed, the cultural offer is impressive and complete.*

GAIDIG C.



What is striking culturally

speaking when you visit the UK is that most national museums offer free admission. The National Gallery, Tate Modern or Oxford's Museum of Natural History are all famous museums that both tourists and locals can enjoy without any budgetary or time constraints. It seems that "Free entry makes British museums successful" (N. MacGregor, manager of the National Gallery).

SARAH L.



# CULTURE(S)



As I am extremely interested in other cultures, I decided to get involved in this project which consisted in organizing of a five-day trip to the United Kingdom for all my classmates. All year long, I was in charge of communication via a blog, trying to efficiently report on the EC trip team's actions, decisions and difficulties before, during and after the trip.

I would like to encourage anyone who wants to take part in this type of projects in the future because this is, to my mind, the first step to what awaits us after graduating from a business school.

Indeed, during our trip to London, Cambridge, Oxford and Canterbury, the visits to different galleries and art or science museums were part of the program in order to improve our general culture. This was for me one of the most interesting things in the trip because I was able to see, with my own eyes, some paintings that I had already studied. It enabled me to develop my critical thinking which will be useful in the future, as I would like to work in cultural management.

**MANON BEUDAIRE**

# Modern Art and Feminism

The **Guerrilla Girls**, an anonymous group of female artists and art-world professionals, made these posters in 1989 in order to denounce a shocking situation: not even 5% of all artists represented in modern art galleries were women, whereas 76% of the nudes in those same galleries were female.

Almost 30 years later, has the female role in art evolved? Actually, it has not changed much... Not only are women artists still underrepresented in modern art but also in all other cultural fields such as literature, theatre, music...

These observations are quite surprising, as women are more prone to studying art than men. Outdated perceptions are still prevalent. Undoubtedly, changes are required in the years to come.

CLEMENCE N.

Thanks to the visits to the National Gallery and Tate Modern, we were in contact with different forms of art. London is a cultural capital where everyone can discover a multitude of masterpieces from different centuries, but also the very particular - more rational than aesthetic - universe of contemporary artists (and all this for free!). We have been able to appreciate world-famous paintings and to feel curious and amazed in front of each work of art that was unknown to our eyes.

AURORE F.

FOCUS ON  
ARTISTIC  
CREATION



Who owns what ? What a relevant question ! Who is who and what is what ? How can we answer this ? Maybe no one owns anything, or maybe everybody owns everything. But let's be realistic : few people own everything and sometimes, what they own includes those who owns nothing.

HADJA D.



# INEQUALITIES

LONDON:A  
CITY FULL OF  
CONTRASTS

The UK cannot escape inequalities. The EC1 class experienced it during their trip to England. From our host families in Cambridge, who mostly belong to the working class, to the City of London, where immoderation in all things and irrational excess are obvious, to some of the poorest districts of London that we passed by, we were all made aware that many people cannot escape the trap of poverty. Undoubtedly, we live on the same planet but unfortunately in parallel worlds.

VINCENT D.



On this picture only a bridge separates the City and Tate modern even if they are totally opposed worlds. On one side of the Thames, people go to museums and shows, they enjoy their time, while on the other bank, executives have to deal with stress and tremendous amounts of money in one of world's biggest financial hubs.

We visited both sides and it is easy to notice that only tourists connect those «**two tales of the same city**».



HICHAM Y.

# THE WORLD OF WORK



The EC UK trip was a very good experience to get a foretaste of team effort! As I had never had the opportunity to travel abroad with my parents, I decided to join this daring project in order to enable my classmate to have a nice trip! I was in charge of the cultural program. Thus we decided what sort of activities and visits would be interesting as part of our studies and personal enrichment. We had some difficulties meeting the deadlines but without major aftermath.

Once my assignment was over, I could take part in the different activities in order to subsidize the trip and reduce its cost. I also had to edit this very pressbook for the whole EC Team, which was both a challenging and satisfying experience.

All in all, I found that this trip was very interesting from both a cultural and a professional perspective, notably during the visit of the City. What has impressed me a lot is the contrast between different areas in London. It is as if, only by crossing a bridge, we changed universes. This symbolizes all the fantastic opportunities and incentives in our future professional careers.

**MATHILDE SERROT**

# PERSPECTIVES



What interested me in the first place in the project was the fact that we could, as members of the EC Team, make the trip our own. It was not a regular school trip but something that we created and supported throughout the year. I was in charge of communication with Lucie D. from ECE1. We had to design a brochure in order to present the project to all parents and write up a code of conduct to make sure everyone in both classes was going to behave. I was excited by the brochure since I feel attracted to what involves creation, design and aestheticism. Therefore, we tried to make something both efficient in terms of information and elegant but the result did not look great because of the incompatibility of softwares.

In the years to come, the EC Team must involve the other students in the fundraising activities better than we did, I think our communication was not always very effective. To finish, I enjoyed being a part of this project as it gave me a glimpse of professional life through team work, the development of organizational and motivational skills.

CAROLINE OYONO

**AN ELITIST  
SYSTEM  
REOWNED IN THE  
WHOLE WORLD**

# EDUCATION

The UK provides a great array of the most renowned universities in the world, after the USA. Thus, «Oxbridge» illustrates the excellence promoted in the country which boasts the highest percentage of inhabitants with a college degree in Europe. On this picture, you can see one of the 31 most famous colleges of the University of Cambridge, King's College, where 6 Nobel laureates have basked in the sun on the perfect lawn during their studies. There might be yet another laureate in the years to come thanks to the EC trip !

**OMID A.**

In England, education is not only a matter of "learning off by heart," it is also about building yourself a personality. Through personal reading, experiences or societies, university is about choices, as well as about gaining independence: it houses its students on campus, offering them a new home and family by creating a strong sense of community.

**JEANNE B.**

## TRINITY COLLEGE: the dining hall

The dining hall welcomes students to formal dinners. Decorated with portraits depicting famous scholars, this prestigious room reveals an attachment to the traditional values of the school. The latter are embodied by the High Table, reserved to teachers and fellows, which is placed under the portrait of founder Henry VIII, the dress code (a gown), and grace, recited by the senior fellow before each meal.

**ALEXANDRA P.**



## To what extent should we envy the British education system ?

Walking through Oxford streets, it is difficult not to marvel at the architecture of these world-known and full of Nobel Prize winners colleges. However, we must remember that studying in the *Harry Potter* film locations is costly, from £9,000 a year if you are British and up to £22,000 if you are an overseas student (excluding meal and accommodation), whereas most universities in France are free or cheap. We also must admit, that even if the model of Oxbridge is expensive, it works. The question is : does the will to perpetuate traditions in British universities mainly account for their success?

**QUENTIN B.**



This trip was an opportunity to discover England through its culture and especially its educative system. During the visit of various colleges among the 31 belonging to the University of Cambridge, we could see and feel the historical and cultural importance of these buildings that are less testimony to the prestige of the site than to the worship of Cambridge's elites.

Pembroke College is thus proud to have had William Pitt, the youngest Prime Minister in British history, as part of its members.

**SARAH L.C.**



I want to talk about the atmosphere that emanates from the city of Cambridge. Indeed, when we were given a tour of several campuses, everything felt different from the cities I had visited before : very few cars, only calm people riding their bicycles or strolling down the alleys...

**LOUISE B.**



By visiting several prestigious colleges in Cambridge and Oxford, while talking to students, what was very striking was the low number of school hours (only 3 per week in some colleges!) despite the high cost of their tuition fees. Moreover, they study a few subjects whereas we study many different ones. Education in England is definitely focused on self-discipline...



**DAMIEN C.**

# EDUCATION



During our trip to the United Kingdom, we were able to learn about higher education through tangible examples. We realized that a single city such as Cambridge hosts over 31 colleges, where thousands of students who attend classes in scattered schools are housed. We also visited London School of Economics in London, which we can compare to our top-notch French business schools.

As a member of the organization of the trip, I was in charge of the cultural program. With other students, we had to plan the different activities we would do to submit a schedule to several travel agencies. Consequently, we had to take into account our classmates' wishes, the teachers' requests, but also a tight budget.

What is more, we contacted various business schools abroad that we wanted to visit and faced several refusals, so we constantly had to change our plans. It ended in a rewarding experience, in which I have involved myself a lot. I have experienced the breadth and difficulty of achieving an entire project such as a trip abroad for a hundred people.

**CHLOE GRIVEAU**

# COMMUNICATION

*The EC UK trip project began in September 2015. I wanted to participate in it since I found the proposition rewarding and interesting. I was interested in learning how we could organize a trip for 100 students.*

*I was in charge of the administrative tasks for my class, I had to check that every student had a valid ID card or passport and an up-to-date European health insurance card. However, one student did not have any French ID or passport and had to go to Paris to be interviewed by the private company that processes visas to the UK. This administrative procedure was somewhat both complicated and expensive, as our classmate had to go there a second time and pay twice because her application was first refused for some obscure reasons...*

*In the end, the trip went very well even if some visits have to be improved in order to be more enriching. I have experienced how difficult it can be to observe a deadline and I have understood that good communication is essential to move this type of project forward. I hope it will carry on because it is very instructive and edifying for us.*

**VALERIE LERAT**



# Frontier(s)

According to the dictionary, a frontier is an imaginary line that separates two different territories. The English Channel has always separated France and the United Kingdom until 1994 and the historic building of the Channel Tunnel. Praise to the human genius, thinkers and politicians that have worked to abolish the distance and gather these two peoples!

Today, even though Customs control passengers before they can enter the Tunnel, it still allows to develop the economic, financial and human relations. At a time when Europe is closing its borders, where walls are built all around the world, where globalization increases inequalities, mankind must come together to build a better future, to take down all barriers and to discover a new frontier.

*"Beyond that frontier are uncharted areas of science and space, unsolved problems of peace and war, unconquered problems of ignorance and prejudice, unanswered questions of poverty and surplus", JFK.*



**ADRIEN G.**



As part of a school trip, we went to England for 5 days to discover its culture and monuments. We had to cross many borders, the border of the state and the border of the language. We had to overcome many controls of our passports to get to England and once there we had to adapt and speak English. We noticed that it was easier to leave England than to get in.

**PAMELA D.**

# ENGLISH CULTURE



The main reason why I committed to working on this project was to discover English culture. Indeed, to my mind, having travelled during the last two years before entering a business school is a real asset to develop open-mindedness to other cultures, which is essential to do such studies.

I was particularly interested in dealing with the financial part of the project due to the necessity of preventing the price from being an obstacle to students from each class, which was the aim of the whole EC trip team. Thanks to the students' efforts, we succeeded in collecting about €6,000.

Finally, I hope this initiative will be renewed in the years to come. For instance, I definitively believe it is an undeniable opportunity for students to conduct a project of such scale by taking care of each aspect of the preparation. Furthermore it was really wonderful to spend a week fully immersed in English culture !

# LENAIG ROUILLE

# Multiculturalism

Today multiculturalism is prominent in London: more than 1 in 3 Londoners was born abroad and the coexistence of differences seems to bring about mutual recognition and intercultural dialogue, which permits to live harmoniously in the same place.

The election of Sadiq Khan as mayor of London while we were there is a case in point. However some people from different origins do not always mix with others and some ethnic groups live next to each other without necessarily sharing anything, such as in Banglatown or the Turkish quarter. Have times really changed?

In the 17th century, the Globe Theatre gathered people from different classes who yet remained in separate areas, on different levels. Isn't it still the case?

MAELISS V.

Multiculturalism is very specific to England and especially to London. The mother in my host family was Polish. She takes care of Polish children by speaking to them in English. If they do not understand she translates in their native language. It is a different way than school to develop a second language for very young children, something which is very important in a more and more globalized world.

MARINE C.

LONDON : A COSMOPOLITAN MEGALOPOLIS



I will certainly remember my first trip to the UK. What really struck me was multiculturalism in London. Indeed, when I entered the city, I had the sensation of being at the very heart of the world. It seemed to me that London is not driven by one specific culture, but by dozens, and most likely even more than that.

VICTOR D.



# FUNDRAISING



When our teacher announced the project of a stay in England, I immediately wanted to participate in it because I like everything which is linked to organizational skills. I chose to join the "fundraising team" so as to set up projects to try to decrease the cost of the trip and to allow each and everyone of us to take part in the adventure.

I thus took the initiative to contact the EFS (Etablissement Français du Sang) to set up a partnership. This project consisted in leafleting and collecting blood donation pledges. I beforehand organized 2 meetings with EFS employees in order to train 40 students who had volunteered. In exchange for this service, EFS financed a part of our trip. I was highly involved in this project, which also allowed me to endorse responsibilities and to better assess the amount of work required to collect funds. The balance sheet was encouraging because we finally collected €6,000, which allowed each of us to join the EC UK trip (as is shown on the photograph).

CHARLOTTE GAUTHIER

# ARCHITECTURE

AN ELABORATE  
AND DIVERSE  
ARCHITECTURE

During our stop in London, we discovered its amazing architecture. Indeed, marked by a long tradition of kings and queens, the Royal Society, and the roots of the Industrial Revolution, it is not surprising that there is a rich collaboration between historical and contemporary architecture in London.

CANDICE M.



This photo shows the cultural wealth of London. Indeed, in the center we can see old buildings and step by step the more we look away from the center the more we see modern ones. That is, to my mind, the real charm of London, i.e. the mix of various historic landmarks : strong cornerstones like the Monarchy and a very dynamic actor like the City.

GUILLAUME M.

Saint Paul's cathedral can be seen as a symbol for many reasons. First of all, the current cathedral is actually the 5th one : it is a symbol of the resurrection of London and the beginning of the building of Modern London. It is also a symbol of resistance, standing between the bombs during the Blitz. Finally, this cathedral is a symbol of modernity and changes because it mixes Classical and Baroque architecture.

TOM C.

The "Walkie Talkie" is infamous : prizewinner of the "Worst new building in the UK" Award, guilty of melting a Jaguar's wing mirrors in a nearby street with a "death ray" due to its reflective glass. *The Guardian* and many Londoners described it as follows : a "pint glass, blotting out its elegant neighbours". Is this the continuation of London's reputation for architectural freedom ? Or is it the true achievement of many spectacular architectural projects : money first and art next ?



Known as the financial center of the world, the City is characterized by a compromise between modern and ancient architectures. Indeed, from the outside, we can imagine it as actually modern solely by reference to skyscrapers, each one of them more revolutionary than the other. However, on the streets, traditional architecture has not disappeared and that is what makes the charm of the City: a bridge between past and future.

MAGALI L.M.



ANTOINE L.B.

# ARCHITECTURE



*When teachers told us that we could organize a class trip to England, I seized this amazing opportunity straightaway : organizing such a trip just by ourselves seemed to me like a real challenge to take up.*

*As a group, we had to create a program for the visits, then to select a service provider... It sometimes turned out to be complex since we had to make decisions for the two classes and coordinate our individual tasks during our (bi)monthly meetings.*

*My mission was mostly focused on collecting information about the students (nationality, diet, health, scholarships...) in order to take the necessary steps. We had to overcome many obstacles, however we managed to take up the challenge since everything went well during the trip and everybody enjoyed the stay.*

*This experience has enabled me to comprehend the potential and the capacity we had despite "just" being students.*

*An interesting and surprising point of this trip was the City of London. The Square Mile is a melting pot of architectures. The meeting of such old buildings as the magnificent St. Paul's Cathedral, the historic St. Andrew Holborn made of stone and those brand-new and dizzying skyscrapers made of steel glass such as the Gherkin create an impressive skyline and surrealistic atmosphere.*

**CAROLINE LIGNEAU**

# Symbols

Last year, I studied Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion* in Literature class. It tells the story of a poor flower girl from Covent Garden who dreamt of, one day, owning a flower shop in a prestigious area. The play opens in the Covent Garden vegetable market. And this is the very place we visited during our EC Trip. Thus, it was truly interesting for me to observe the evolution of this place over the last century as I was then able to compare the 1913 Covent Garden with the 2016 one. First, the place is no longer a poor area of London, and even less a vegetable market. The transformation has really impressed me, as nowadays the market hall is full of luxury boutiques and gifts shops. It may symbolize, to a certain extent, the phenomenon of "gentrification" that London is experiencing, with an exodus of the poorer classes leaving central London.

MICHEL M.



## ORDER

There is no need to stay in England for a long time to notice that order is ubiquitous. The lawn is perfectly mown, people stand on the right-hand side of escalators, politeness is fundamental, many people wear suits and even young children wear uniforms.

One may think that all these rules could kill creativity but on the contrary, they prove to be stimulating. The Brits, who must obey rules most of the time, express a particular form of creativity during their free time. That may explain the originality of the outfit of some British when they are not working, or the mess in their (usually) tidy houses over the weekend.

TITOUAN B.

## Coal, kings and football...

More than twelve kilometres separate Sunderland and Newcastle, two former coal cities fighting for survival. In the middle of the 17th century, Sunderland became a Parliamentarian stronghold, opposed to the royalist city of Newcastle. Time could have plunged this rivalry into oblivion but football resuscitated it, so much so that I have never seen my host as excited as when Newcastle was relegated from Premier League .

HUGO G.



## A trip is a library

The hardest may be to choose: between flipping through the last volume of *Harry Potter*, or just chatting with the librarian, sharing your thoughts on the evolution of literature. Or choosing between visiting Tate Modern, or just allowing the place to drive you. What's better? During a trip or in a library, you may be surprised in every instance...

**BENJAMIN N.**



## The Corpus Clock

When we went to Cambridge, we were introduced to the Corpus Clock. To me, this piece of art, albeit scary, is a call for praising the value of time and seizing the day... Not only because the object itself is worth several million pounds but also because this golden clock is so "striking" that each second, which could be considered unimportant among billions of others, is highlighted in all its perfection.

**MAEL Z.**



## Humour

During King's College visit in Cambridge, the guide drew our attention to the lawn, which had been dutifully mown in only one direction. He explained that such bitterly discussed gardening rules, added to the elitist courses, were an inspiration for Monty Python - former Oxbridge students - and British humour in general. That is to say, a satire of the absurdity of everyday life in a very traditional society, a deadpan kind of witticism deprived of smugness, but with a sense of subversion.

**HUGO B.**

# UNFORGETTABLE



Is there anything more beautiful than an evenly striped green lawn for a Brit ? A perfect lawn is really prized in British society, so much so that in universities such as Cambridge, you mustn't walk on the grass unless you are a Fellow of the college.

The omnipresence of lawn and green spaces shows the importance of nature across the English Channel, with a lot of parks and majestic trees... We had the opportunity to observe it during our great trip, after a long preparation in the course of which I had a mission : finding ideas to collect funds and lower the price of the trip for all participants. Thinking about nature, I suggested that we should sign a contract with a company specialized in plants in order to make students sell flowers so that we may get a percentage of the sales and thus raise funds. I was in charge of the collection of all purchase orders, which forced me to develop organizational skills to input data and make sure that each buyer received his or her order. The project was a success and permitted to significantly lower the price of the trip

Right from the start I have believed in the success of the UK trip project and the proof of the pudding was in the eating : our stay was fantastic. I am proud to have taken part in this unforgettable journey.

**GUILLAUME LE GUERNEVE**



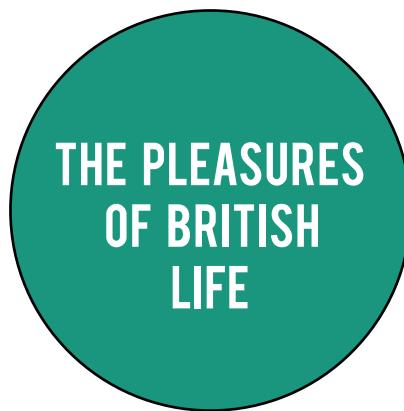
## Friendship

There is something I have learnt from travelling. A great trip means great friends. If you travel with people you do not like, wherever you go, you will not have a good time.

On the contrary, if you travel with people you feel comfortable with, whatever the place you visit, you will have a fantastic trip.

In the end, the destination does not matter that much, but the company of your fellow travellers does.

**VICTOR B.**



Lying on the grass in London, hearing the tree leaves shiver: it is easy to suppose we are in communion with Nature. But these are parks, gardens, islands of "tamed nature" confined between buildings. Even the Thames is oppressed by the city surrounding it. And what a strange idea to capture pieces of Nature and lock them into a Museum.

The city is unnatural, so is Nature there. Hopefully, it is not the case of human nature.

**LUCILLE T.D**

## Et in Arcadia ego

From whence cometh this mysterious beverage? Inherited from Irish, British, German and French customs, this awakening of taste buds gathers the rich and the poor for a moment of plenitude. From the City to a Scottish pub in the Highlands, this mixture of hop and malt brings pleasure, happiness and friendship. As a means of socialization, beer is undoubtedly a gift from the gods.

**YANN M.**



# TEAM WORK



This year, I was surprised to see how much projects were valued in CPGE. I did not hesitate one second when the opportunity of organizing a trip was offered. And I have not been disappointed with this achievement : indeed, the « EC UK trip » turned out to be a wonderful experience, for numerous reasons.

First, we faced several difficulties. For instance, there were tensions regarding the funding of the trip for teachers, which slowed down our preparation of the activity program in England. Despite a few misunderstandings within the team, we managed to fix the problem by asking the school to pay for them.

The trip itself, in spite of a few wrong notes, has been appreciated by both students and teachers. And I truly think it will be beneficial both to the organizers, for various interviews, but also to the next EC1 class, which will be able to learn from our mistakes.

PIERRE SALAUN