

Student Story

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Course Studied:	BA (Hons) Education Studies: Early Years Education



I really enjoy my student life in the UK because I have learnt the cultural differences between the UK and my country. It has a huge impact toward my personal goals and lifestyle. It was so funny because I studied in a campus that was full of local students and I am the only international student in my course and the campus when I was doing my foundation course in Manchester. I was totally shocked and lost because the people, culture, language etc is totally different compared to the things that used to happen around me. I also did not expect that my course mates would be all British. I was scared to speak with people or do anything! I became very negative and anti social. Luckily, I met a friend. She is very helpful, and encourages me to talk to people. She also invited me to her church's events and introduces me to her church members. I remember the first time at the church's event, I had a great time and people were very friendly and open-minded towards other religions. She also was my "force" of working hard. My English has improved a lot because I speak it everyday. I am confident to communicate with people better at the end of course.

When I stayed in Bristol, I sign up with the international office to meet up with a local family, to experience the lifestyle of local family. The upbringing of my host family's children has inspired me - an environment full of many opportunities and positive encouragement is able to maximize children's ability of learning and social skills. They encourage children to try out different sort of activities, so they are able to find out their ability or interest and to produce an excellent result. They are also very friendly and they make me feel that I am at home. They cooked English food for me and they made different types of food like cheesecake, and roast dinner. I learnt to organise my thoughts and explain it properly to them when I was cooking with them. It has given me opportunity to experience activities that I never did before in my life. I remembered one of our parks' outing, they climbed a tree and asked me to join them, but I was scared because I had never climb a tree before. I was terrified and told them that I cannot, but they got down and helped me to climb up the tree. I struggled to climb up but the moment that I succeeded, I felt so happy and satisfied. I never had the feeling before, I felt so good. It has taught me to never back off when facing a problem! It has encouraged me to become a risk taker, and I have gained a lot after trying out things that I never did before. Signed up with this host family, I was able to have the chance to meet my host family and experience such fantastic outing activities.

I also did voluntary work with the National Pyramid Trust for children under South Gloucestershire Council. It was very hard for me because of language barriers and it was my first time to interact with children. I worked in a group of 3 and my group mates were very helpful because they have worked in schools before. Then, I got better relationship with the children because I changed my perspectives of them and explained myself properly and learned to speak slowly. It was a good experience to work with children in UK. It has allowed me to have a better understanding of children and not be judgemental. I did a lot of personal development courses, such as essay writing, academic writing, seminar skills, and presentation skills etc. It has given me the opportunity to find the learning method that is most suitable for me and I now do better in my studies. It also allows me to have chance to know how to meet my students' need when I work with children in the future. I came to Bath Spa University to further my studies and it has provided me with a lot of opportunities to work with children and given me more resource of children development. For example, when I go to the local school for my placement – I am able to learn the differences of my learning experience back home and the structure of a school. Besides, I also learn how to read the map because I need get around in Bath for placement or shopping. From the UK's experience that teaches me to know about myself better and to be independent, so put me in the better position to help children in their development.

From the learning experience in Bath Spa University and UK given me more ideas to manage nursery school in the future. I can provide a fun and exciting school. I still have one more year to finish my study, and hope to maximize the resources in the UK to improve myself, so, I am able to share my experience with people when I start my career. If you want to further your education, I think the UK is one of the best countries because their education has a long establishment for education system.