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# FOREWORD

**“EDUCATION IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON WHICH YOU CAN USE TO CHANGE THE WORLD.”**

**- NELSON MANDELA**

**“THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY”.**

**- PAUL MCCARTNEY**

Firstly I would like to acknowledge the contribution of all educators at UID for the successful launch of the Bachelors in Design ( Hons ) - Global Design program ( GDP ) as an unique, unparalleled & one of its kind programme in the Indian subcontinent.

The Global Design Programme has been curated after deep research and in collaboration with four reputed International Universities. A key feature of this program is the intensive seminar style & project based learning which prepares students with a global outlook by providing interactive, student-centered education taught by accomplished global academics and seasoned industry professionals from four countries.

The first Foundation year is delivered at UID while every alternate semester, thereafter, students spend 14 weeks as study abroad and global experiential learning in top institutions across 4 countries in Australia, Italy, UK and the USA .

Design in a very multi-disciplinary domain influencing the growth of an individual as well as society. The curriculum emphasizes application of creative thinking, problem solving, analytical thinking and leadership, with effective communication skills and understanding cultural diversity. GDP is delivered across all semesters using an interdisciplinary and practice-based approach with an international style of learning in a global class room with world renowned faculty in a multi-city/ country learning model in vibrant design capitals of the world to give a student a career edge.

GDP students gain from global design perspectives & learn from stalwart faculty while navigating advanced curriculum borne through research, collaboration and communication to foster leadership, innovation and strategic thinking, with the objective of infusing progressive ideas in this rapidly changing and highly competitive industry. They get access to globally benchmarked higher education systems, state of the art & cutting edge infrastructure facilities & thus discover different design methodologies to hone their creative talent in the development of innovative projects in different areas of design.

The goal of the programme is to impart students with competencies that aid opportunity mapping, strategies for transformational design, innovation management and development of new businesses across sectors, enabling them to contribute as leaders and team players in an increasingly entrepreneurial professional world whilst establishing and implementing best practices.

In conclusion, I would like to highlight that as a premier institution, we aim to present a balanced blend of theoretical knowledge, practical skills, and interdisciplinary exploration, which allow the students to delve deep into their chosen fields while fostering collaboration and cross-pollination of ideas from the diverse design disciplines. Ultimately, we at UID believe that this curriculum will provide a valuable, enriching experience in design education for our students.

**By: Col. Surojit Bose, Head of Institution, UID.**





# A JOURNEY OF EXPERIENTIAL AND CULTURAL LEARNING AT NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY

I am excited to talk about how my time at Nottingham Trent University (NTU) has changed me. Every step of my academic journey has been a tapestry of learning, engagement, and cultural exploration. Not only has my time at NTU helped me do better in school, it has also given me chances to grow as a person and go on experiences I will never forget.

NTU's Global Experiential Learning and Academic Writing program, designed for us, was a one-of-a-kind academic journey. We were able to write our own study papers thanks to this creative curriculum, which made learning not only fun but also very educational. Because of Professor Jonathan Gratton's guidance, I not only found a great teacher but also a caring person who was very important in shaping my study.

In addition to classes, NTU organized trips to important cultural sites. When I went to London, I was able to see well-known museums like the British Museum, The Design Museum, and the Victoria and Albert Museum. My trips to Chatsworth, the Museum of Making in Derby, and the famous Oxford added a layer of cultural depth and learning in life.

I used Nottingham as a place to explore when I had free time. I immersed myself in the city's lively atmosphere, finding cute bookstores and cafes and enjoying a wide range of foods, especially the delightful world of bubble tea.

My trip to London over the fall break was one of the best things I will ever remember. Walking around the city's historic streets and taking in its lively energy changed the way I understand other cultures forever. Any of these events, inside and outside of school, have helped me grow a lot, both personally and academically.

Nottingham Trent University has been more than just a place to study for me. It has been a life-changing journey that has changed my views, made me love learning and given me a chance to learn about other cultures. When I think back on my time at NTU, I am thankful for the amazing chances it gave me and the supportive setting that helped me grow.

In conclusion, my time at Nottingham Trent University has been a time of emotional and academic growth that I will always treasure. Because this trip was one of the best times of my life, I want to thank the university, my professors, and all of my fellow students.



*Pictures that talk about my multiple experiences at NTU, from museums to coffee shops to our Research project with Angolan Women Voice. Picture Courtesy: Kashish.*

**By: Kashish, B. Des Global Design Program, Year 4, UID.**

# EMBRACING CREATIVITY AND CULTURE: MY UNFORGETTABLE JOURNEY AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT IN MELBOURNE

Starting my journey as an international student in Melbourne was like stepping into a world full of exciting experiences beyond just studying. Arriving in this lively city, we discovered that Melbourne was not just about learning; it was a place buzzing with diverse cultures and adventures waiting to be embraced.

The approach to teaching in this vibrant city was unique, providing an incredibly systematic and meticulously organized framework. What stood out was the preparation beforehand, offering us a clear plan of what we were about to learn. One of the most liberating aspects was the design freedom we were given to explore our ideas in whatever manner we deemed fit. This liberty enabled creativity and individuality.

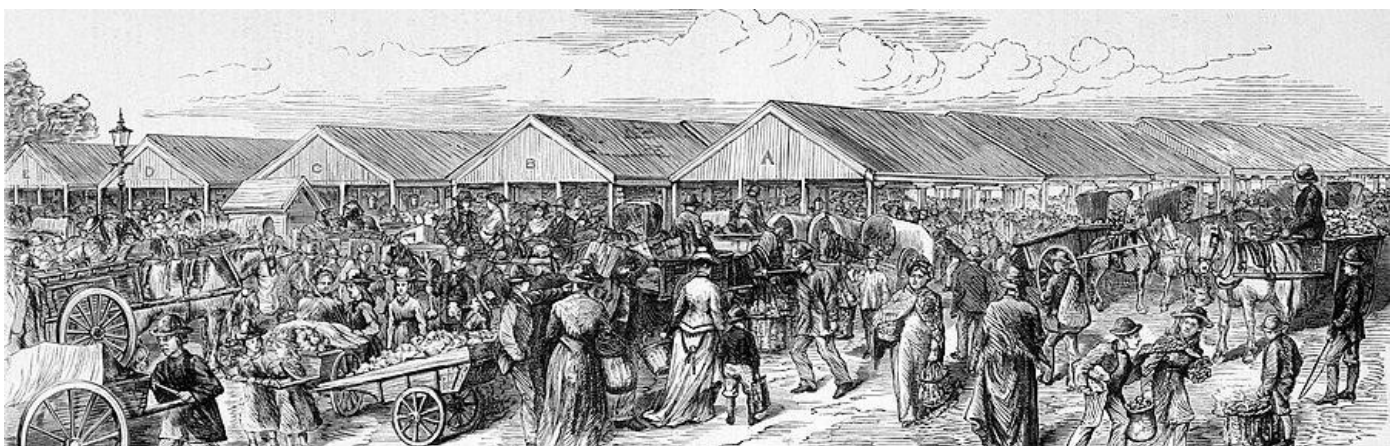
A factor that resonated with me was the invaluable one-to-one feedback sessions embedded within each class. This personalized attention and guidance significantly benefited my learning process. Additionally, the requirement to maintain process journals for each assignment was instrumental. It facilitated detailed documentation of our design processes, emphasizing the journey and not just the outcome. This emphasis on the process itself rather than only fixating on the result was truly helpful.

The adaptability of the faculty, changing their teaching styles to cater to students' needs, was admirable. The availability of diverse courses across disciplines allowed for an interdisciplinary approach, catering to the interests of students with interdisciplinary academic interests.

Melbourne was not just about academics—it was a city full of warmth and friendliness. Even during early morning coffee runs, the cheerful and welcoming nature of the locals was a delightful contrast to my sleepy state. Melbourne offered many cultural experiences that were good. The city is known for its excellent arts and entertainment scene, with numerous museums and galleries highlighting local and international talent. The food scene in Melbourne is also diverse and vibrant, reflecting the city's multiculturalism. From trendy cafes and restaurants to bustling night Victoria market, there is always something new to try. There were many freebies for us to enjoy.

The Victoria Night Market was our favorite spot for everything—food, fun, local goodies, you name it! It had many different cultures and was a fun spot to hang out.

The city's exceptional public transport network made exploring Melbourne and its surroundings effortless, from the bustling urban areas to the serene rural landscapes. Despite its vibrancy, the city gradually winds down around 5 pm. In addition, the safety of night travel offered a reassuring sense of security.







*Queen victoria market 1878. Picture Courtesy: State Victoria Library.  
Victoria market now. Picture Courtesy: [www.visitvictoria.com](http://www.visitvictoria.com).*

As an international student, Melbourne provided a unique opportunity to immerse myself in a new culture and gain a global perspective. The friendships and experiences we gained during our time in Melbourne will be treasured for a lifetime, and we are grateful for the opportunity to have lived and learned in such a remarkable city. Indeed, Melbourne lived up to its name of being the most livable city in the world.

**By: Laxmi Dokhale and Riddhi Thakur, B. Des Global Design Program, Year 2, UID.**

# ESPRESSO, EXPERIENCES, AND EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN: A CULTURAL JOURNEY IN MILAN

Studying in Milan was quite an adventure, and I consider myself fortunate to have gotten this opportunity. Before visiting Milan, I had a mental image of the city as being unsafe, scary, and hostile. I was warned that I would face discrimination and could expect to be mistreated just because of my ethnicity. After spending the previous year's semester abroad in Melbourne and having a pleasant time, I was certainly nervous about heading to Milan. It is sad that everything I was warned against came true in varying degrees, but each of those situations taught me an important lesson: it's the people who make the place.

Right from the moment I stepped out of the airport, people would talk to me in Italian, expecting that I understood the language, and when I could not respond they would click their tongues or shake their heads in disappointment, the motion solidifying my status as an ignorant foreigner.

Ordering my first espresso in Italy had me wishing I never had to do it again. It took me a week of practicing basic Italian words to muster up the courage to walk into the nice looking bakery on the corner of the street where I lived. It took me two visits to become a regular at the place. The people who worked there were kind, welcoming and accommodating of the language barrier. The barista said to me, "Sorry, my English not so good", and I said to her, "Sorry, my Italian not so good", and that was the beginning of a four month long exchange of basic phrases in each other's languages. There were other such places too, and these places, where I felt welcome, became little pockets I would reach into throughout my time there for a burst of warmth and joy.



*The lively staff of Guendalina Panificio. Picture Courtesy: Priya Gondhiya.*

These initial interactions gave me more confidence and reasons to be social. I made it a point to talk to people, at other stores, on the metro, while in trams, and it has taught me so much about people, about culture, about the city- all sorts of topics. Talking to people broadens your perspective, and doing so abroad gave me insights into their culture and the way they live their lives.

In NABA, students of the graphic design department were given an assignment wherein they had to create a printed product of our choice that showcased what we thought of or saw in Milan that stood out to us. I took this opportunity to document some of the things that happened to me, and the exchanges I had with people in an illustrated picture book. Here are some spreads from the book:





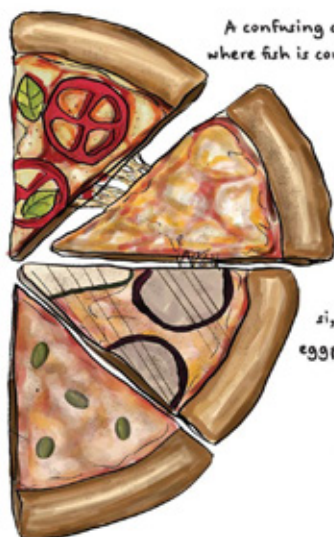
We were told to "follow a pigeon for a day", so we tried.  
As expected, we failed miserably.  
Pigeons don't listen to us.

Milanese pigeons are scared of nothing.  
They are stubborn, pesky creatures.

We found ourselves saying "scusa piccione",  
trying to shoo them out of our way.



Our teacher, while giving us this assignment, told us we had the freedom to do whatever we wanted as long as it was related to Milan, and suggested that we may even follow a pigeon around for a day. It was quite comedic



A confusing conversation at a pizzeria,  
where fish is considered vegetarian food

scusa, vegetarian?

si, margherita, marinara  
eggplant, potato, zucchini  
and anchovy

anchovy like the fish?  
si, pescare

The promise of every pizzeria in Milano



"My pizza number one in Milano"

This is a conversation between me and the funny, charming man who runs a franchise of a famous pizzeria chain.

At 11:30 pm on our way back from Lake Como



"Oops! We took the WRONG train!"

We didn't have coins for the laundromat



"potresti per favore darci delle monete da 1 euro?"

On the left, a drawing of four of us friends who made a terrible mistake at the time, but in hindsight is something we laugh at. On the right is one of the baristas at Guendalina bakery, who used to give us precious 1 euro coins in exchange for our 5 Euro bills so that we could do our laundry.



"CIAO! istruzioni su pulizia, prodotti per la pulizia e manutenzione, nessuna delle quali puoi capire!"



Language translators are our best friends

A collection of things I hardly get complimented on in India, that I'm surprised I get complimented for here in Milano

"Such pretty eyes"

"love your skin"

"Such unique dresses"

"Indian Rapunzel!"



*On the left, the woman who cleaned and kept our apartment building in order, we couldn't speak each other's languages and so when we'd see each other we'd immediately pull out our phones to translate. On the right is a collection of sweet things I've been told in Milan.*

I know that in the future when I recall this semester abroad, I'm not going to look back and recount in detail all of the times I've felt like the odd one out, but I'm sure I'll always remember that somewhere in the northern part of Milan, there lives an Italian Nonna who taught me how to bake focaccia and somewhere in the southern part of Milan there's a barista who knows how to make kheer because of me.



*The Nonna who taught me how to bake focaccia. Picture Courtesy: Priya Gondhiya*

**By: Priya Gondhiya, B. Des Global Design Program, Year 3, UID.**

# LOST AND FOUND: MY MELBOURNE ODYSSEY OF SELF-DISCOVERY AND ACADEMIC EXPLORATION AT SWINBURNE UNIVERSITY

Melbourne was not just a study-abroad destination; it was a portal to a world of personal and academic growth. A portal into quirky classrooms, endless unplanned adventures, and even learning Japanese from my friends at the accommodation while we stumbled around the kitchen in our pajamas.

Swinburne University's emphasis on self-directed learning allowed me to explore design concepts at my own pace, while insightful critiques from faculty helped refine my ideas. Sure, it meant figuring things out on my own, but hey, that is part of the creative process, right?

Their emphasis on learning by doing resonated deeply with me, where education emphasizes a holistic approach. This blend instilled in me a deep appreciation for both the journey and the destination; the process and the product. Being in a class full of people from around the world helped me learn so much! Their ways of ideating, going about a process and overcoming challenges were worth learning from. I even collaborated with a Japanese artist on a photoshoot. This not only helped me get some stunning pictures of her but also discuss and appreciate our cultural nuances.

From impromptu conversations with shopkeepers at charming Fitzroy thrift stores to skating in our neighborhood, every interaction felt like a warm embrace from Melbourne's multicultural tapestry. We thought being there throughout the festive season would not be easy, but it turned out to be a unique experience. My friends and I celebrated Diwali at a public cultural event at Fed Square where we danced to Bollywood songs, devoured Indian food at the stalls, and ended the night watching fireworks!



*Working in the Lab at Swinburne University of Technology.  
Picture Courtesy: Srusti M.*



*A group picture with Dr. Chris Waller from the Department of Communication Design & Professor Anahita Suri from UID.  
Picture Courtesy: Srusti M.*

During spring break, we decided to travel interstate to the Gold Coast. I had heard so much about the beautiful beaches and the vibrant nightlife, and I was eager to experience it all. We booked a hostel close to the beach and spent our days soaking up the sun and exploring the city. We went to several theme parks and even went scuba diving!

I also went solo traveling to Sydney. It was a daunting prospect, but every challenge turned into a tiny triumph and every hurdle cleared a confidence booster. I booked a hostel in the heart of the city and set out to explore. I visited iconic landmarks like the Opera House and the Harbour Bridge, but what really made my trip special were the connections I forged with new people on park benches and in cafes and we bonded over our shared love for travel. They showed me hidden gems around the city and introduced me to their favorite local restaurants.

By the end of my trip, I had discovered a newfound sense of independence and self-reliance. Traveling was not just about ticking destinations off a list, but about pushing my boundaries, discovering my inner resourcefulness, and forging deep connections with new places and people.





Our journey was about stepping outside our comfort zones in all spheres of life. Within those four months, I developed and explored my visual sense a lot by collecting movie posters, business cards, postcards, maps, packaging, and being a part of various creative projects in and outside university.

**By: Srusti M, B. Des Global Design Program, Year 2, UID.**

*A vintage store in a garage. Picture Courtesy: Srusti M. With my batchmates in Melbourne. Picture Courtesy: Srusti M.*





# PAVING THE WAY FOR GLOBAL DESIGNERS: NTU NOTTINGHAM'S INAUGURAL STUDY ABROAD COHORT FROM UID.

Nottingham Trent University (NTU) recently played host to the first batch of students from the Global Design Program. This unique study abroad program witnessed 28 students from Year 4 embarking on an enriching journey that blended academia, community engagement, and cultural exploration in their study abroad programme. The program marked a significant milestone as it represented the inaugural edition of the Global Design Program at NTU in the United Kingdom.

## **Collaboration and Pedagogy Development:**

One of the distinguishing features of this study abroad program was the collaboration between faculty members from Nottingham Trent University (NTU) and the Unitedworld Institute of Design (UID). The pedagogy for the Global Design Programme was meticulously developed to align with the standard of level 6 in the UK through a collaborative effort between Dr. Jonathan Gration and Dr. Vanessa Brown from NTU with Timcy Mehta, head of the department-GDP at UID, and the dedicated team of GDP professors including Rudrajit Bose and Bhavin Shukla. This partnership brought together diverse perspectives, ensuring a comprehensive and enriching academic experience for the participating students.

## **Course Focus: Participatory Design and Academic Research:**

The coursework for the Global Design Program was designed to provide students with a holistic understanding of design principles, focusing on two key areas: participatory design projects and academic research. The participatory design project was centred on the Angolan community, where students applied their design skills to address real-world challenges and create meaningful solutions. This hands-on approach allowed students to engage with the local community and gain practical insights into the impact of design on people's lives. The outcomes were presented in an exhibition at NTU, which was appreciated by academic, local and Angolan community in Nottingham.

Simultaneously, students were involved in academic research, preparing for a conference hosted by NTU at the end of the course. The conference provided a platform for students to present their research findings, fostering an environment of intellectual exchange and collaboration. This dual focus on practical application and academic rigour ensured a well-rounded educational experience for the participants.



*Representatives from the Angolan Women Voice group and GDP Students on their presentation day. Picture Courtesy: Jonathon Gration.*

### Cultural Exploration:

Beyond the academic aspects, the Global Design Program encouraged students to explore the rich cultural tapestry of the United Kingdom. A highlight of the program began with the 'Robin Hood tour' in Nottingham, immersing students in the legendary tales of Sherwood through exploring the lanes of Nottingham by visiting the fort, churches, and the famous historical Lace market. Additionally, students embarked on study visits to prominent cultural institutions, including various Nottingham council house, National museums and the Design Museum in London, Nottingham Fort, Oxford University, and many more. These cultural excursions provided students with a broader perspective on design, allowing them to draw inspiration from historical artefacts, innovations, and diverse design approaches. It also allowed them to witness first the evolution of design in different contexts and eras.



*Students on their visits to Victoria and Albert Museum in London. Picture Courtesy: Jonathon Gratton.*

### Impact and Future Prospects:

The success of the first batch of the Global Design Program at NTU in Nottingham reflects the effectiveness of the collaborative pedagogical approach and the well-balanced curriculum. The participating students not only gained valuable insights into the practical applications of design but also developed a global perspective that will serve them well in their future endeavours.

As the program paves the way for future SAP visits, UID aims to continue refining the curriculum, incorporating feedback from both students and professors. The success of the Global Design Program underscores the importance of international collaborations in education, fostering a cross-cultural learning environment that prepares students to navigate the complexities of the global design challenges in future.



*Students in their class rooms at NTU. Picture Courtesy: Timcy Mehta. Orientation Day photo of the students with Dr. Jonathon Gratton, Senior Lecturer and Course leader for UID-NTU course. Picture Courtesy: Jonathon Gratton. By: Timcy Mehta, HOD, Global Design Program, UID.*



# STUDY ABROAD IN MELBOURNE: AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY

In July 2023, the students of 2nd year of the Global Design Program of UID, headed to Swinburne University of Technology, Melbourne, Australia for their 4 month Study Abroad semester. I accompanied them on this journey, helping them navigate their way across this new university in a new country. Studying overseas is an amazing opportunity as it provides not just academic experiences, but also life experiences.

Multiple briefing sessions prior to departure helped orient the students to life in Melbourne. But nothing prepares one enough for the independence & the responsibility this experience brings.

At university, students had to opt for their subjects and adapt to a self-directed mode of learning. The pedagogy at Swinburne University of Technology encourages individual creative development through discussions, debates and study groups. The classrooms are a good mix of students from various nationalities & cultures, contributing to a well rounded education, a deeper understanding of global issues & the ability to collaborate efficiently towards solving complex problems. The students had to take responsibility for their learning, helping them develop an open-minded approach & an inclusive world view.



*Students participating in Orientation Day activities at Swinburne University of Technology. Picture Courtesy: Anahita Suri.*

Various activities organized by the university, like Race around Melbourne, Orientation Mixer, Study Abroad Mixer, Visit to Art Gallery, etc., exposed the students to the Swinburne campus & the city of Melbourne, providing nodes of interaction with other exchange students from around the globe. This fostered new friendships and appreciation of cultures other than their own. Some of this newfound awareness made its way into classroom projects, enriching the design sensibility of the students.

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*Students at the Melbourne Museum. Picture Courtesy: Anahita Suri.*





*Students at Hosier Lane and Melbourne Central Station as part of the Race Around Melbourne with other exchange students. Picture Courtesy: Anahita Suri.*

Living away from home, in a hall of residence brought its own share of challenges. The students had to learn to cook their meals, clean their rooms, buy groceries & manage their finances. After the initial struggles of stepping out of their comfort zone, the students learnt to navigate this foreign environment leading to self-discovery, personal growth & independence. Students became more adaptable, resilient & capable of handling diverse challenges.

This opportunity to study overseas has allowed the students to develop an international network of friends, mentors & professionals. These connections can be valuable, both personally & professionally, opening doors to global collaborations. This firsthand experience has enhanced cultural sensitivity & the ability to navigate diverse environments. Studying in Melbourne has been a rewarding experience that goes beyond academic achievements, offering a platform for personal, cultural & professional growth.

**By: Anahita Suri, Assistant Professor, Department of Fashion & Lifestyle, UID.**

# YOU ALRIGHT?

"You alright?" It is the common Brit greeting which took me a lot of time in getting used to and I can still recall myself processing various possible answers while questioning as to why I am being asked this question all in a matter of ten seconds to finally awkwardly responding, "Good, I guess..". Additionally, conversing with Brits is very refreshing as they are very satirical, yet polite, in their responses. My first impression of Nottingham City was an urban place with celebrated history. Our academic journey at Nottingham Trent University was absolutely splendid! Each and every mentor, we were lucky to get ourselves acquainted with, were very erudite. Their constructive feedback, fresh perspectives and supportive personalities succored in developing innovative outcomes in our respective course work. Above all, I loved how the respective authorities at NTU designed our course schedule, wherein it was a perfect work-life harmony. The most memorable one would be the visit to Chatsworth House, where we got to attend the exhibition called Mirror Mirror: Reflections on Design. It helped us gain knowledge from the curated panel discussion. I was fascinated by the enigmatic and elegant works of Joseph Walsh and Michael Anastassiades on furniture and lighting design.



*A collage of the works by Joseph Walsh (left) and Michael Anastassiades (middle and right) at the Mirror Mirror: Reflections on Design at Chatsworth House. Picture Courtesy: Kalavala K.*

Apart from the study and out-of-class learning exposures, I had my own share of fun in the city of Nottingham, the most exciting activities being the Annual Fairs with varying themes, Christmas Lights and Winter Wonderland. The Goose Fair which is a fun event had so many exciting rides and stalls with prizes to win and carnival food. I went there with the sole intention of riding the Air Maxx, which was the most thrilling and fastest ride, and one of the best I have ever experienced.



Additionally, a trip to the UK is never complete without visiting the popular attractions of London. The most memorable one of them all was witnessing the opening and closing of the Tower Bridge. Furthermore, the afternoon tea at The Clermont London, the chocolate- covered strawberries at Borough Market, the installation called Museum of the Moon at Southwark Cathedral, watching Macbeth at Shakespeare's Globe, the Stonehenge and Bath tour (our guide was the best at narrating insightful anecdotes with a good sense of humour keeping us engaged and curious), Christmas Lights at Regent Street and the walking tour featuring the royal and iconic sites of London such as the Buckingham Palace, Elizabeth Tower (famously known as the Big Ben) and so on. The highlight of this tour is experiencing the Changing of the Guard ceremony. My favorite tour was from Belfast to Giant's Causeway where the guide and bus driver were very friendly and hospitable and upon arriving at the Giant's Causeway, the Red Trail hike from the top of the cliff to the bottom where the beautiful, golden-like basalt columns lie at the Causeway coastline was worth the effort. I visited this attraction twice as it was tranquil and scenic to get rid of any kind of stress or hardships.

PS: The Guinness Storehouse in Dublin had the most amazing experience of its multimedia narration of its history.



*A collage of the fun activities and places explored in the United Kingdom during the semester abroad. Picture Courtesy: Kalavala K.*

**By: Kaivalya, B. Des Global design Program, Year 4, UID.**





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