

In the first of our 'Where are Reach Cambridge alumni now' series, we hear from Alvaro, now a Masters student at a top UK university!

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Alvaro is a Masters in Astrophysics
at the University of Birmingham



Alvaro's Reach Cambridge Summers (Plural!)

Five years ago, I had my own Reach Cambridge experience as a **Medicine and Life Sciences** student. I was coming from **Belgium** and I had always wanted to visit Cambridge and the United Kingdom, because I had heard a lot about the universities there, but I never imagined I would find myself studying there. Over the two weeks that I was there I was able to get to know a **beautiful city**, live in the university colleges and attend classes like I would in university; but most importantly, I met an **amazing group of people** from all over the world, with whom I shared a lot of great experiences.

I then returned the year after as a **Physics [now Physics & Astronomy]** student and it was there that I found out that I wanted to study **Astrophysics** at university.

Where is Alvaro Now?

I am now about to start my **Masters in Astrophysics at the University of Birmingham**, and I honestly could not have done it without my Reach Cambridge experience. Being given classes by people who are genuinely **passionate** about their subject really helped me realise that it was a subject worth pursuing for the next four years. The **style of teaching** really resonated with me, and as I knew that I did not want to stay home to pursue my university studies, the possibility of **studying in the UK** became a very tempting option. After doing some more research on universities in the UK, there was no doubt in my mind that I wanted to study there.

How Reach Cambridge Shaped Alvaro's Future

During my time at Reach Cambridge, I also learned a lot about the university life, and what being **independent** and **self-sufficient** meant; **being in charge of going class or getting lunch** were

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the first steps to becoming the adult that I am today.

In conclusion, Reach Cambridge was a **life changing experience** that got me to where I am today, not only academically, but also in the general sense of growing to be an adult and becoming independent. I would recommend it to anyone in my family and my entourage, as I have already done when I was a student as a Reach Cambridge ambassador.



Alvaro at Warwick Castle in 2013

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