

As I arrived at my accommodation in Cambridge, I was instantly made to feel at home, as I was shown to my room and got a first look at my surroundings for the coming week. Though the grounds and buildings were beautiful, I was still nervous about meeting my course mates. It was as we were given an initial tour of Cambridge that I first began to meet the other students, all of whom were friendly, positive, and exciting. As I met my roommate we laughed and throughout the week became, and still are, great friends. The first evening held a wealth of activities and icebreakers; by the time it was finished I felt comfortable among many new friends.

One of the most interesting academic activities I enjoyed was a guided discussion about Gender and Power. I was able to discuss women's right to wear the clothes they wish, the possibility of Hillary Clinton becoming the first female President of the USA, and the different pay rates between men and women. What made this particularly stimulating was the range of (often conflicting) views which students brought, likely driven by the variety of backgrounds and experiences. We were able to hold different positions yet still listen to what each other had to say. Other stimulating classes included Anthropology, and a creative workshop with SABRE Charitable Trust, to produce a video promoting fundraising efforts for education in Ghana.

I participated in two great excursions. The first was a trip to Hampton Court Palace which had much to offer to us all with its stunning gardens, architecture, and history. We also went to London where I saw the Houses of Parliament for the first time, bringing the Houses of Commons and Lords to life. We were able to see where laws are made.

The evening talks I found entertaining and challenging. The first, on leadership, made me reflect on the attributes and qualities I hope to develop. As I am interested in law, and this lecture was given by a barrister, I found the unusual legal perspective especially thought-provoking. The debate on the refugee crisis asked whether Britain's response to the refugee crisis was adequate. Our general consensus was that more could be done if we put our creative powers and will into dealing with this humanitarian crisis.

Finally the week helped my future applications to University. Activities included practising interview skills and clear demonstrations of the difference between a good and bad interview. We also looked at the nature of applications to University and the UCAS system. Examples of strong personal statements I found particularly useful in helping me to see how best to structure my ideas and

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information about myself.

All in all I had a delightful experience at Reach Cambridge both academically and socially, and would jump at the opportunity to do it again - I would highly recommend it to anyone. It has given me an opportunity to explore new ideas in a new format, gain valuable new skills, and meet a number of incredible friends from all around the world. I am very grateful for the opportunity to attend.

Written by Trinity, Reach Cambridge student 2016

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