

MY TRIP TO LONDON ENGLAND, JUNE 30TH TO JULY 22ND.

My trip started off with a 11-and-a-half-hour flight from OR Thambo international to London Heathrow airport. I must admit this was the most uncomfortable flight I have ever taken. Once we landed at the Heathrow airport we were under the impression that someone from Kings College would be there to pick us up as we were informed that this is what would happen. However, after about an hour of waiting for someone to show up we decided to call kings college and ask them what was happening. We were then informed that we had to get ourselves to the residence as well as the campus. Several thoughts flooded my mind and I started to panic but the guys I was with managed to calm me down, I honestly have no idea what I would have done without them. We then decided we would take the tube to the Great Dover Apartments. We were told that we had to take the Picadilly line and ride it straight to green park and once we get there we would have to disembark the train and then take the jubilee line and ride it to the London bridge station where we would then find Great Dover street. All of this sounded simple enough until we had to do it, there was so much walking involved and when we got off at the London bridge we had to walk about 20 more minutes with all our heavy luggage until we finally found our apartment building. As soon as we got there we had ourselves checked in but then we had to leave again as we had to find our way to the Kings College waterloo campus where we had to complete our enrolment. We were told that we had to walk to the Boughrough station and take the tube to the Waterloo station. We did exactly that but when we got there no one knew the way to Kings College. I was surprised just how ignorant the people were. After about an hour or so of walking and asking around we finally stumbled across Kings College. However this was not the correct campus, this was the Strand campus which was another 15-minute walk away from the waterloo campus that we were supposed to be at. We eventually found our way to the waterloo campus and was able to successfully complete our enrolment. We then headed back to the strand campus where we had to attend our first lectures for our course and attend our welcome event for the summer school. The above was basically an explanation of our first day in London.

Seeing that getting around London was so expensive on the first day alone, we decided that we would walk everywhere we needed to go. We used to take a 50-minute walk to campus in the morning and then another 50-minute walk back home again in the evenings. However, our evening walks always turned out to be a lot longer than it needed to be as we would go exploring and end up getting lost on the way back home again. These adventures were both exciting and torture at the same time, but I don't regret any part of it. I believe that if we didn't

get lost as much as we used to, we would never have stumbled across most of the iconic places that London is known for. On our second day alone, we managed to see the Trafalgar square, Big Ben, the Houses of parliament, Westminster abbey, the London eye and Cleopatras Needle amongst other things.

This entire three weeks was an amazing and extremely exciting experience, I got to see and learn so much. My human anatomy and physiology course was absolutely brilliant, it challenged me and made me grow on so many levels. My favourite part of the course was when we did our practical's, we spent time in the dissection room working on several cadavers getting a hands-on experience of learning about the human body and all its functions. The other exciting parts was when we did lung and heart function tests on ourselves using instruments that doctors would otherwise use in a hospital on a daily basis. The experience was extremely exhilarating. The global leadership course was just as good, we got to learn about what it takes to be a leader, we also learnt how important it is for us to network and what it means to be a leader in all its forms. The classes were definitely an eye opener for me as it made me realise that I have so much potential to become a better person and to help so many other people more than I already have been doing. It made me aware of some of the qualities that I already had but at the same time it showed me that there is still so much more out there that is waiting to be explored.

Overall the trip was absolutely amazing, a major learning curve in terms of figuring out how to get around London, and how things are done there but I wouldn't change anything about it. We can safely say that we now know London like the back of our hand. The staff and students at Kings College are extremely friendly and tend make you feel right at home. I think the only thing I actually missed about SA was the food. The food in London tends to be quite bland, shows that the people there are very health conscious. They hardly have any salt and their sodas have no gas and hardly any sugar. The one thing that fascinated me the most about London was the fact that there were actually more people either walking or taking a bicycle to get to where they needed to be as opposed to using cars or public transport. I was astonished to see people all well-groomed, wearing pin stripped suits and briefcases but as soon as you look at their shoes all you see are sneakers I found this quite odd, but it clearly doesn't bother them, its almost like no one cares what they look like as long as they're comfortable while walking or cycling. Apart from all the good stuff, London is actually a really expensive place to live in especially if you not from there. We really needed to be careful and think twice about what we spent our money on. Nonetheless I really would like to thank the International office for

granting me such a wonderful once in a lifetime opportunity. I was able to explore a whole new world, make some amazing new friends, and work alongside some really exceptional people. I look forward to seeing and exploring a lot more places in the near future.

Below is a little trip down memory lane.















