

Georgetown Summer International Relations Institute 2016

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As I stepped out of the taxi cab towing my bright blue suitcase behind me, I marveled in Georgetown University's lively atmosphere as students from nearly all 50 states and over 30 international countries scurried into Darnall Hall. My stomach churned with excitement and nervous jitters coming to a realization that I would be spending one week learning about International Relations at one of the best Foreign Service schools in the nation. Awaiting this program almost all summer, I anticipated the electrifying discussions that I would take part in during the program throughout one of the most pivotal periods in our world's history.

Professor Arend, the director of the International Relations program, developed one of the most exciting and engaging atmospheres within the Intercultural Center auditorium during the week as we jumped from enlightening lectures to captivating trips to embassies. The speakers varied from every day Georgetown professors to iconic political figures. They incorporated their past experiences in order to provide very informational talks. One of my favorite topics that was discussed and one that was unique to the second session of the international relations program was BREXIT, the decision of Britain to emancipate themselves from the European Union. BREXIT proved to be a very significant referendum that if gone through with in the long-run could alter the relationships built within the European Union. Along with BREXIT came other controversial topics including terrorism as well as the refugee crisis.

The beautiful city of Washington DC greatly complimented my newfound curiosity for International Relations. The historic area awarded a fast paced ambiance that brought together people from all over the world. Nearly a few blocks outside of the campus, was a charming town that was also very energetic. Strutting down M street, I made some of the best friendships with people from different ends of the world. My roommate from Houston, Texas and I would also bond over the sweltering heat from our southern states as well as our found love for juicy burgers and well-known cupcakes.

This pre-college experience offered a great preview of what college life would be like in the future. Being immersed into the International Relations field for a week widened my interest in the extraordinary career path. I am very thankful for the opportunity that the Naples Council on World Affairs allowed me to have and although my summer at Georgetown University came to an end, surely the lifelong memories and passion to learn more will continue in my future endeavors.