

Returning student testimonial.

Rebecca Scott from UNB

I got to spend the 2015-2016 school year at Bangor University in Wales. I participated in a study abroad program called TRANSFOR-M, which allows Masters students to get a Masters in forestry or environmental science from a Canadian University and a European University. Participating in TRANSFOR-M is the best decision I have ever made. I got to experience and be a part of a different culture and university community. I will be leaving Bangor University with a lot more experiences, memories, knowledge, and self-confidence than I thought I would have when I applied to go.

My time abroad has increased my employability. Not just by allowing me to complete two different Masters Degrees. I now have experience in how the United Kingdom and the European Union manages and conserves their lands, plants, and wildlife. Their approaches are different from Canada. Knowing different perspectives and approaches to similar problems and situations increases my employability because I can adapt and use different ideas from another country that have not been used in Canada. My employability has also increased because I have broadened my horizons. I have experienced many things in Wales outside of my schoolwork that are invaluable experiences.

While at Bangor University, I was able to join several social groups and meet people outside of my classes. One of the clubs I joined was the University Mountain Walking Club. Through this club I got to explore Snowdonia National Park and hike a lot of mountains. I met a lot of different people from the UK and all over the world. I have made friends from all around the world that I would not have if I had not decided to study abroad.

While abroad I got to travel around the UK and Ireland. I did several day-trips to places near Bangor. I went to Edinburgh, Manchester, and Liverpool with friends I met at Bangor University. I went to Ireland for five days on my own. Even though I went alone, it was one of the best trips I have ever taken. I have seen and experienced places and sights I would never have without going abroad through UNB.

I have changed for the better by studying abroad. I am more employable. I have gained a lot more self-confidence that I did not have before I left UNB. I have proven to myself that I am adaptable to other cultures, ideas, and ways of life. Before I studied abroad, I had never travelled on my own. I am now better at managing my time so I am able to go out with friends and explore new places. I now have the confidence to take risks and deal with unexpected challenges. I have changed in for the better in so many ways that it will be some time before I truly realize how many ways I have changed.

If I had not studied abroad I would not be the person I am today. Whether I had gone for one semester or for the full year I would have changed just as much. I did have my share of problems but they were worth going through because of all the great experiences I got to have. Spending the 2015-2016 school year in Wales was a once in a lifetime opportunity that has been amazing.

