Multicultural Histories and Legacies of Rome and London

Description

On May 5th, 2018 I left Columbus, Ohio and headed east to spend a month abroad: 14 days in the UK and 10 days in Rome. Through MUNDO’s Multicultural Histories and Legacies of Rome and London Study Abroad, I was able to truly engage with the abundant cultural diversity that both England and Italy have to offer, while also diving into both countries’ rich histories. From meeting with the British League of Muslims in London, to volunteering for a Catholic program that combats homelessness in Rome, I think my study abroad experience was truly unique.

My Motivation

I chose this program to supplement my history major. Unlike other history programs, however, this trip also engaged with present social issues too, which I found to be exciting. Four days of our trip were spent engaging with service-learning, which allowed me to engage with British and Italian culture in a unique way.

My Transformation

This trip impacted me in many ways. I was able to see history come to life in a way I never thought possible, while also learning about present-day life in Rome and London. By volunteering for organizations such as Caritas in Rome, I was able to talk to individuals about the real impact of social policies (such as the welfare system and social housing) for example.

Highlights

- Churchill’s War Rooms
- Hiking Arthur’s Seat in Edinburgh
- Meeting with University of Sussex’s Interfaith Chaplain
- Lunch with the British League of Muslims
- Tour of the Black Cultural Archives in London
- Service-learning at Caritas in Rome
- Exploring Naples
- Visiting Herculaneum’s archeological digs