

AC4308 Europe Study Tour Journal

DAY 1 26/5/2019



After a long examination period, my first visit to Europe began with 24 good schoolmates and a wonderful professor. I have never been to Europe before and am looking forward to having a great and unforgettable time during this journey with all my schoolmates, who come from the same department.

DAY 2 27/5/2019



On the first day in Munich, our group visited different sites, including famous tourist attractions. The experience was new for me, as many buildings in Munich look old, traditional and beautiful, which is completely different from the modern, new and stylish buildings in Hong Kong. We were tired after a long flight to Germany, so we went to the hotel earlier than planned to prepare for the next day in Munich.

DAY 3 28/5/2019



On the second day in Munich, we went to several different places, including the Town Hall, Technical University of Munich, BMW headquarters, and the BMW Museum. It was a unique experience for everyone, including me! I liked BMW World the most, as I am a car-lover. I was excited, as BMW World had so many different types of cars. We also went to BMW headquarters to listen to their sustainability developments and we asked some questions about their sustainability policy and plan. It was a great chance for us to learn more about BMW's sustainability policy. At night, my group and I went to a famous German restaurant to have some beer and German cuisine, which was delicious.

DAY 4 29/5/2019



After a two-day enjoyable visit in Munich, we took a morning flight to London. It was my very first time in England, and I had been looking forward to going to the UK for a long time, as I really appreciate the culture and the environment in the UK. After we landed and settled in the hotel, our group was guided to see some famous attractions in London. There are many places to visit in London, and it was important to start early.

DAY 5 30/5/2019



Our group took a city culture tour from the morning until the late afternoon. We went to different places only previously seen on the news or in television shows, like Buckingham Palace, Westminster, Big Ben, Downing Street (where the UK Prime Minister lives and works), Hyde Park, the London Eye, and more. I felt excited and happy when I was able to go to these places directly. It felt very different compared to seeing these places on TV. In fact, we walked for more than 25,000 steps (15 km) that day! It was worth it, as we don't know when we will come back to the UK, and we may not have time to visit these sites next time. Although I was very tired from walking so much, the experience more than made up for the pain and tiredness.

DAY 5 30/5/2019



On the third day in London, we went to International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) to learn more about how IASB set their accounting standard and the recent developments of the IASB. The one-hour presentation by a board member was a great opportunity for us as Accounting students to understand more about recent developments, and the process of setting a new accounting standard for different economies around the world. After visiting IASB, we took a boat trip along the River Thames, and took photos at Tower Bridge. In the afternoon, all of us were given some free time to visit London by ourselves. As we did not visit the British Museum the day before, I went there during our free time. Then I had a great dinner and a beer with my high school classmate, who studied in Oxford for three years, and we had a wonderful chat. It was a good opportunity for me to talk with friends who I had not seen since high school graduation.

DAY 6 1/6/2019



Today, we moved to our next stop—Hamburg, Germany. We took a very early morning flight from London. After we arrived in Hamburg, we dropped off our luggage and then our Professor, Alex, guided our group to see several famous tourist attractions. He explained each place in detail and taught us more about Hamburg. Alex had worked at the University of Hamburg for a long time and knew Hamburg very well. Under his guidance, we had a very good time on our first day in Hamburg. We visited the University of Hamburg's campus, the Town Hall of Hamburg, and other sites. We took a boat to watch the sunset, which was fantastic and beautiful. After we finished the city tour, we had some free time at night, so our group went to a beach restaurant to have some German food. The food was tasty and the harbor view from the restaurant was beautiful.

DAY 7 2/6/2019



On the second day in Hamburg, we were given a whole day to go anywhere we wanted in the city. I had already done some research online to find out where in Hamburg I should go during my free time. I found a place called “Miniatur Wunderland,” where everything is at model scale, including different German city scenes, airports, train stations, Swiss skiing mountains, and more. It is an excellent place to go, where you can spend a lot of time. I stayed there for more than four hours because everything there caught my eye. The entrance fee is not expensive, just 11 Euros. I will recommend this place to my friends and schoolmates when they go to Hamburg in the future. At night, I had dinner in a steak house and it was a good quality steak with an acceptable price.

DAY 8 3/6/2019



After our free day, we had something important to do on the third day in Hamburg. In the morning, we went to the University of Hamburg and met with PhD students. We were separated into two main groups and went with them to an afternoon talk with the Hamburger Hafen und Logistik AG (HHLA) Management Team. We spent the whole morning at the campus with the PhD students, and then had our lunch in their canteen. After we have finished our lunch, we went to HHLA by coach. At HHLA, we were shown around and

attended a presentation about their sustainable development policy, which was delivered by HHLA's manager on sustainability. We had a good conversation with him and few of us also asked him some questions. It was a very meaningful and good visit, which helped us learn more about different sustainability policies in different companies.

DAY 9 4/6/2019



In the morning, we took the ICE from Hamburg to Berlin, the capital of Germany. After we had settled down in the hotel, we walked around the different famous places in Berlin, like the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag building, and the Berlin Victory Column. In Berlin, we could feel the difference between the East and the West of the country. It was a great experience to visit Berlin and explore during the morning and afternoon. After the city tour, my group had a final dinner featuring German cuisine and went to some shops to buy souvenirs for our friends in Hong Kong.

DAY 10 5/6/2019





On the last day of the Europe Study Tour, I woke up very early in the morning. After I finished breakfast in the hotel, my schoolmates and I visited the Reichstag building. We could not go the day before, as there was no available time slot for us to visit the roof so we reserved another time slot and went there in the morning on the last day. We had a wonderful view of Berlin from the building, including the east and the west parts of the city. It was a great feeling. After we finished visiting the city, we went back to the hotel and tidied up our luggage in preparation for our return to Hong Kong. In the afternoon, we went to the **Deutsches Rechnungslegungs Standards Committee e.V. (DRSC)**, which is the accounting standard committee for Germany, and had a talk with the Director to learn about the different accounting standards that are not applied in Hong Kong. It was very useful to us, as Accounting students, because this knowledge cannot be easily obtained from a university lesson. After we finished the seminar at DRSC, we headed to the airport and before we boarded the plane, I took a selfie with Alex. I really appreciated his support throughout the journey. Without him, we would not have been able to see everything. We all hope that we can see Alex in Hong Kong next time.

DAY 11 6/6/2019





After a 12-hour flight from Berlin, we arrived safely back in Hong Kong. Before we were dismissed, we took a last group photo with our professor, Prof. Kerstin. She is a really good professor and a good person, and like Alex she put in a lot of effort into this study tour. She guided us to different places in the four cities, and it is a very difficult task to take care of 25 students at the same time. I also wanted to thank her and express appreciation to her for planning this journey. Many of us had not been to Europe before and this study tour let us enjoy our travels, expand our horizons, and gain new knowledge by learning outside CityU. We all agree that we had a wonderful, unforgettable time with Prof. Kerstin and Alex, and we hope we will have a similar journey next year!