

Honourable Company of Freemen of the City of London of North America Scholarship

Stewardship Report October 2012

Peter de Vooght (2010)

Copy of a letter of thanks from Peter de Vooght (previously shared):

My exchange in London, England was an incredible experience that allowed me to develop both academically and personally. It is quite truly the highlight of my University career and I will forever be thankful to the Honourable Company of Freemen for helping me participate in such an opportunity. In terms of academics, I found it very interesting to be exposed to another country's educational system. The UK's approach to education fit my personality and learning style wonderfully and I was able to prosper in such an environment. Due to this educational structure I became engaged in my studies and as a result, was able to refine my study skills and become a more successful student. I thoroughly enjoyed my studies in England and am seriously considering London for any future graduate studies.

The student experience of going on an exchange to a foreign country is unparalleled in terms of personal growth. Putting yourself in an unfamiliar environment, adapting to a new culture, learning how to live completely on your own; these are situations that a student faces every day while on exchange. Having experienced such struggles I have grown as a person and developed skills such as interpersonal communication, financial management and independence to name a few. Living in London, England, being able to travel to some of the most beautiful countries in the world, all the while gaining an international education, is an experience I will not soon forget.

For the past year I have been working as the Marketing Coordinator for the International Exchange Program at Western. I have been working alongside a fellow Marketing Coordinator and the International Exchange Coordinator to promote our program to Western students. We created various promotional materials such as posters and pamphlets, held presentations for first year students and put on many general information sessions, as well as hosting the International Exchange Fair. At the Fair we had tables set up to represent every country where we have an exchange agreement. Current exchange students at Western from our partner Universities, as well as Western students who had previously been on exchange, would sit at the table representing their respective country and answer questions of students walking by while promoting their country and school. At each table was an array of promotional material that we procured from our partner universities. The event was an enormous success with hundreds of Western students attending, and as a result we saw an increase in exchange applicant numbers compared to last year. With our success in 2011/2012 we have set the foundations for growing the exchange program at Western. Specifically for next year there is new promotional material being professionally printed. As well, there is new experienced management being put in place at Western with bright ideas for the future.

Sincerely,
Peter de Vooght