



British Chamber of Commerce Foundation

Report from:

Elisabeth Zschorlich - Scholarship 2009



Studying in the UK

It was not my first time in the UK, but the first time in Oxford and the first time leaving Germany for one year when I arrived in the end of September 2009. I knew that it would be a great experience but I didn't know that it is so challenging and a huge pleasure at the same time.

After my introductory week in the Mathematical Institute of the Oxford University I had a first impression of the challenging part of this Master degree. Starting studying for the MSc in Mathematical and Computational Finance I quickly realised that this would be a lot of work awaiting me. Simultaneously, I attended very interesting lectures with excellent lecturers where I acquired knowledge at the cutting edge. And exactly that was the reason why I was anxious to join this course. Especially after the financial crises financial mathematics becomes more and more important. To study this field in the European country, where the financial sector is the economy's driving force, is a unique opportunity. Academically, I really enjoyed the first term at the Oxford University and I am looking forward to the next one.

Not only do I enjoy my course, but also the social events in my college and with the people of my course. When I first got the offer of Wolfson College I was a bit disappointed because actually I wanted to join one of these charming, antique colleges. But after the fresher's week I recognized how many advantages my in the 1960s in concrete style built college has. Wolfson College is very relaxed and liberal: For example Formal Halls (formal dinner), where the other college's students have to wear the gown, are only occasionally and therefore something special. Another nice place in my college is the college's bar run by students. There, one can meet friends and just relax and now and then serve the other students. Besides, there are also many events organised by the college's community. For instance, I could enjoy the atmosphere of a German Christmas market in Birmingham last December. Right after this trip to Birmingham there was the Wolfson Winter Ball, the college's annual ball, with many activities and good music.

Apart from my academic commitment and the involvement in my college I can extensively indulge my passion for music in Oxford. I joined the University College Chorus in October last year. We will perform Brahms' German Requiem in March 2010. The rehearsals are great fun. Not only is the density of excellent choirs in Oxford immense, there are also many orchestras and soloists. So, I could enjoy some very good concerts and operas.

In general I really like the mentality of the British people. They are all very friendly and helpful. Although queuing in front of the bus was quite strange for me, I enjoy the life in Britain. Another thing which is very British in my opinion is the diversity of the people. I have never met people from so many different places of the world. Especially these new friends from all over the world make my experience much more interesting and valuable.

Thank you very much for your support,

Elisabeth Zschorlich