

MY STAY ABROAD

Hi fellows,

I am Jon Gallati and I'll be telling you bit about my first five weeks in Great Britain. Unlike the other candidates I am staying in London, more specifically Wimbledon. The time I arrived the UK suffered from a severe drought and for the first weeks I never used my umbrella once. It was unexpected to be experiencing average temperatures of 35°Celsius in a Country where it is said to be raining all day long. I could hardly imagine the skies to be overhung with clouds or the occurrence of foggy weather, as would be the usual. But change ought to come, as autumn is due to arrive.

On Saturday, 30th of July, one of these warm and soggy days, my Eurostar train from Paris arrived at London St. Pancras International. After nine hours of travelling, I was very tired for one thing. However, I was proud of my self-confidence and self-responsibility allowing me to manage this journey all the way on my own. And of course, I was looking forward to meeting my host family. Certain moments during the trip were horribly stressful, such as getting from one railway station in Paris to another in the short amount of time given. Nevertheless, the travel through the Eurotunnel, more than a hundred metres below sea level was a thrilling and exciting feeling.

Delighted of my achievement I took the next train to my new homestay in Wimbledon. There the host family made a very hearty welcome and in no time, I felt included and confident. My host father is from Pakistan and my host mother from India. I also have two host siblings, Zarah and Ibrahim. They family lives in a big newly refurbished house overlooking the common, a big natural conservation area. At dinner the food varies from "simple British" to traditional, authentic Pakistani or Indian dishes. At the beginning it was sometimes a bit spicy. But in the meanwhile, I got used to it and I appreciate them sharing their culinary culture with me.



Then, on Monday my intensive course at Centre of English Studies kicked off. Luckily the school offers loads of social programs in the afternoon, so I quickly got to know some students and made soon a lot of new friends. Together we began to explore Wimbledon and London. When I think of this first two weeks, there's one highlight that comes into my mind, which is the visit of the Madam Tussauds Museum with two other students. We were so excited for the exhibition, that we even booked the ticket for the additional Marvel 4D Experience. We didn't regret spending this money at all. It was magnificent!

Time flies, the two weeks passed, and the start of my internship at Schindler UK was ahead. From now on I would be working at the branch in the mornings and studying in the afternoons. Unfortunately, around this time there were strikes, so I had to do two days of remote working in my first week. Don't use the saying "working in Home Office", the Brits will be confused, assuming you work for the Department of Home Affairs, whereas in fact you're just working from home ;-). I really enjoy my work as a trainee at Schindler, as I am within the common environment. My duties consist of assisting the controlling team in reporting and helping in the Customer Query Team.

Moreover, I can join the regular meetings reviewing the ongoing contracts. These meetings are not only beneficial because of the involvement in all processes, but offer also in a way applied listening comprehension, as my colleagues come from all over the UK and Ireland.

On to other adventures

A next big event was the “Notting Hill Carnival” taking place for three days in mid-September. The atmosphere, the music was gorgeous, you stepped into the Caribbean world and immediately one didn’t want to leave it anymore. Parades of overwhelming joy and colour followed each other. Then the other moment, glancing around the corner you found yourself amidst a lively street-music performance.

Throughout the last weeks I had the opportunity of exploring the rich culture of my friends. I was invited to a Chilean and to a South-Korean Restaurant, being as different from one another as you could possibly think. But the best yet, was an evening in a Saudi restaurant together with our Saudi classmates, introducing us to their way of life and letting us have part in their meal, sitting side by side on the on the ancient carpet.

One thing, which is a speciality of living in London is the people’s mindset. Everybody is so open-minded. Just this weekend I could join some guys playing beach volleyball in Hyde Park and afterwards ended up in their WhatsApp chat of around ten avid volley fans regularly meeting up on the weekends to play together. Thanks to my spontaneity plus a bit of luck, I secured me a free training opportunity for the remaining months here in this amazing city.

Places to visit



China Town



Harry Potter Shop at Kings Cross Station



Notting Hill Bookshop
One among many ...



Vauxhall Market



The Tate Modern Museum

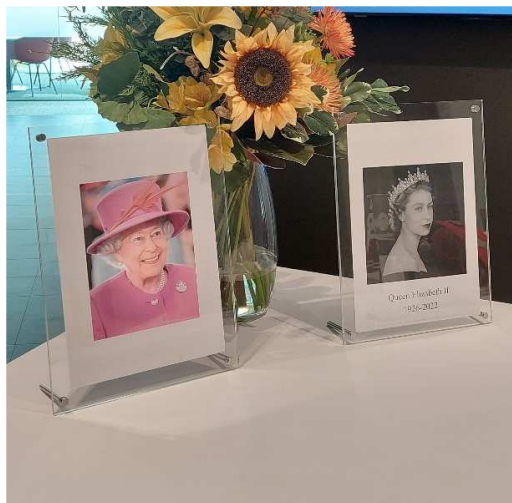


Camden Town



NOW SOME SAD AND TRAGIC NEWS

As all of you may have heard by now, assuming the news have spread quite quickly, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. has died on Thursday, the 8th of September in Balmoral, Scotland. The whole Country, all the oversea realms, well the whole world, is saddened by her death. All the headlines are dedicated to her loss. From then onward the public spaces around Buckingham Palace were crowded – and still are - with innumerable citizens mourning for the death of the country’s marvelled and admired personality. Her longevity and legacy were a miracle indeed. Even though it was to be accepted due the recent statements regarding her worsening health condition all over the news, the official announcement was still a huge shock. Nobody can fully grasp it. In the Parliament everything aside from speeches of condolence and tribute is put on hold for the



duration of 10 days. The procedure is called “London Bridge Operation” ending Monday, 19.09.2022, which was officially announced as a bank holiday.