



Hello!

I grew up in Orange County, California and recently moved to San Francisco where I've attended university for the past four years. Currently, I am studying sociology at Cardiff for 9 months as an exchange student, and the experience of observing the different lifestyles of British students and in addition, a completely different perspective of my own American culture has been unbelievable.

At San Francisco State University (SFSU) I took advantage of studying a 3-part segment in Human Sexuality Studies, which will contribute to completing my degree in Sociology. SFSU is the only university in western United States to offer this program addressing the changing role of sexuality in today's society and advances in understanding sexuality across all ages and cultures. In addition to my studies, I am also apart of the International Education Exchange Council (IEEC) and participate in several activities in our Cesar Chavez Student Center. I am also very busy working in the Cheesecake Factory restaurant located in the middle of Union Square.

Getting involved in activities on and off campus always is/has been a learning experience teaching me various people skills and new ways of looking at things. But living in San Francisco alone, with its diverse culture, free spirits, and population from around the world, I often feel as though I am never more abroad than I am at home.



I chose to come to Cardiff for a number of reasons, the main one being Cardiff's reputation as one of the top research and teaching-intensive universities in the world in the social science department. I was required to choose a university that does the same program as my home school and I also wanted to visit a country whose primary language was English. I have learned that although we speak the same dialect, our cultures are very distinct from mannerisms to studying and social life. I have even learned a lot about families and found that growing up and life at home must be very different as well.

On campus, I am involved in Erasmus and International Societies, which have been the most memorable parts of Cardiff. The international student body consists of nearly twenty percent of the students, and studying, living with, and being involved with peers from around the world has made my experience so much more enriching.

The professors and tutors are great and the campus really does offer something to each individual student. Lots of opportunities to succeed and become more well-rounded are always available from academic and social societies to the significant

number of staff, seminar groups, and more than enough helpful information provided online and on-campus activities.



I have one more year in San Francisco till I graduate with my bachelors' degree. After graduation I hope to teach sociology, travel, or apply to grad school. I can tell that this opportunity has already affected me academically, socially, personally and professionally, and will beneficial me for the rest of my life. And whatever direction I decide to go, the rewards gained and benefits I've seen in the students who've studied abroad has gave me an incentive to experience as much as possible and the confidence and motivation to apply.