

EXPERIENCE REPORT VSB FONDS

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In 2016 I was one of the four nominees from Tilburg University for a scholarship from the VSBfonds to realize my master's degree in neuroscience at University College London (UCL).

In the meantime, I finished this training a few months ago, and am applying for my first job. The thirteen months I spent as a student in London has been incredibly instructive and special times and in which I have had classes from top scientists, have walked among Nobel Prize winners, have new inspiring friends and got to know the metropolis of London from the inside. Because of this I have developed both academically and personally. That is why I am extraordinary thankful for the VSB Funding in making this opportunity possible.

Top 10

The adventure started for me on September 19, 2016 when I moved to the city by Eurostar when I thought I was only going to continue headlong into my studies. UCL is among the top 10 universities in the world and is the number two in the field of neuroscience.

Explore London

However, the way in which this master is arranged ensured that there were major fluctuations in the intensity of the study, so I had a lot of time in the beginning to reap the benefits picking everything else that London has to offer. For example, I attended a live at the Royal Albert Hall interview which was also attended with Tim Kopra and Tim Peake - two of the three astronauts arriving in 2016 had returned from their mission to the International Space Station (ISS) - and also danced tango with Argentinian professionals under the stars in Borough Market.

Neuroscience community

Being part of the neuroscience community in UCL also means being able to regularly attend all sorts of seminars in different areas of expertise and make use of all facilities that UCL offers. This way I was able to supplement my study material with knowledge about its new state-of-the-art research techniques and developments in genetics and artificial intelligence. Eventually I followed five courses for a full year and worked on my graduation research into the assumed relationship between an anatomical phenomenon in the brain, and a specific sound perception disorder with which I have completed this master with Distinction.

Expectations

Even though a few things in my study turned out differently than my expectations and the drinks in London are sometimes more expensive than the average IKEA furniture, it has given me crucial insights in the practice of top science companies and the challenges for both myself and on a social level in the future.

Conclusion

Experience the contrasts between the Dutch culture and a place like London, really shows what little bubbles people often live in, and also what opportunities are available once you puncture that bubble. I can therefore highly recommended to everyone to study abroad for a while, and constantly challenge yourself with these kinds of experiences. With fantastic funds such as the VSB funds this is possible. Even if you are, like me, not exactly from a millionaire family, your ambitions and developments have the highest priority - no Brexit or Trump will stop that!