La Trobe study tour to historic UK – video transcript 23/7/13

Narrator:

Over 40 La Trobe University students from our Bendigo, Mildura and Melbourne campuses travelled around the world to the city of Sheffield in South Yorkshire, England. The international study tour to Sheffield Hallam University was the first of its kind, as it included students across a number of disciplines within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science.

Associate Professor Trevor Budge:

The goal was to see how we could put together a multi-discipline group of students and learn from each other from the different disciplines but also to use a city like Sheffield as a representational case study of what happened in industrialization over the last two centuries.

Narrator:

The rich history of the city of Sheffield can be traced back over one thousand years. Its history is steeped in mining and steel production and at one stage produced up to 40% of the world’s steel requirements. With a population of over 550,000 Sheffield is now a progressive modern city on the cusp of regeneration. Closer to home Victoria’s European settlement can be dated to just over 200 years. This major difference was set to be a big learning curve for the students.

Cloe Timperley (student):

Coming from a town where its astonishing if a building is established in the 19th century, walking on roman built walls established in 300AD, I had to check myself it was really happening because it was so amazing.

Narrator:

The study tour focused on a number of themes ranging from class, industrialization, culture and community, through to urban regeneration.

Dr Trevor Wood:

This subject is intensive learning in the field, developing their capacities for observation and critical analysis by encountering a different culture in a different city.

Narrator:

The nature of the tour meant study areas were linked and students learnt from a study experience that was inter-disciplinary in nature.

Associate Professor Trevor Budge:

Much of what we talk about in class in Australia comes to life, you can tell people about you know, or this is what happened in industrialization, and this is what the British aristocracy was like but there is nothing like actually seeing it, feeling it and experiencing it.

Dr Tony Taylor:

Well I think the visiting students on this tour, they can experience something of Britain that they’ve never visited before, it takes them out of there own environment, it gets them to think a little bit about the overlaps and the compatibilities between British and Australian history.

Narrator:

Sheffield Hallam University hosted a number of experiences for the students including a series of lecturers and field trips. They visited Chatsworth House, an upper class mansion in Yorkshire, the township of York and Haworth a typical English village founded in the early 17th century.

Alice Crellin (student):

Chatsworth House definitely was a big highlight, it made me feel like I was on the set of ‘Pride and Prejudice’, which it actually was. It was definitely great to see the grand buildings and all the paintings, the statues and to see the expanse of the grounds and gardens, it was beautiful.

Narrator:

A number of students attended the Future Cities Exhibition in London, where they took in some sight seeing and soaked up the city experience. The study tour has allowed for a relationship to be developed between the two universities, allowing ideas and experiences to be shared and will open up for more student exchange between the two countries.

Dr Emma Robertson:

When they are really engaged in a place or in a topic, and when they are given a bit of creativity in terms of the way in which they are taught, they can come up with some really amazing stuff really in terms of their assessment. They can really show you the kind of skills and creativity that they bring which isn’t always immediately obvious in a more standard approach to lectures, tutorials, and assessment of essays and exams.

Associate Professor Trevor Budge:

The students actually bond together in a way that perhaps you don’t see in the classroom, you know you put them together in a cocoon if you like and you travel around together and you build that friendship and that bonding and I’m sure that some of these students have made friends that will probably last a life time, and they never would have had the opportunity to do that before.

Narrator:

The students involved in the study tour will be able to their experiences and observations back to Australia, where they will now see things in a new light.

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