

## A little impression on our international week in Bournemouth (England)

„Contemporary Social Work Practice“



In the following paper we want to give you a short impression upon our amazing international week in Bournemouth, which we really enjoyed. We had a lot of interesting discussions, workshops and awesome trips with great people from all over Europe!

All of us arrived in Bournemouth on Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, and the next morning a student from the Bournemouth University picked us up at the Travelodge Hostel where we stayed the whole week. Now the great week started...

...and we would like to give you a short overview about our week:

**Monday** → getting to know each other and Bournemouth, keynote, welcome party

**Tuesday** → greeting the mayor, workshops, beach party

**Wednesday** → trip to the Jurassic Coast

**Thursday** → workshops, visiting a museum and the beach, farewell party

**Friday** → getting our certificates, saying goodbye and departure

On Monday, the day began with getting picked up from our hotel. Lisa, a student from Bournemouth University, got all of us together. After checking who is staying in which room we started to walk to the Bournemouth University. At the university, we got our big breakfast. The university was very courteous with the meals. Vegans and vegetarians got special meals and in general every meal consisted of a big portion. After breakfast we were officially welcomed by Elizabeth Rosser, a representative from the university. Everyone got a little bucket with little presents for the sandcastle challenge. The following event was well-structured and gave us a good first impression



on the student life on campus and in Bournemouth. During the welcoming event we were able to make first contacts among the students from the different universities. Professor Jonathan Parker started the workshops with a presentation on the Brexit and its consequences both for the UK and the EU. He also drew a connection to the

field of social work and the concomitant changes in the profession due to the Brexit.

After that each university gave a short presentation of itself to get to know each other. Each university brought some delicious specialties like chocolates and beverages. When every university had finished their presentation, we all went to have a nice lunch at the university cafeteria. Afterwards the university offered a walking tour through Bournemouth's city center for those



*Presentation of the Danish students from Odense*

who were interested. The stops included the beach nearby and the grave of Mary Shelley, the author of "Frankenstein". During a short break we got ready and went to meet up at the old fire station for a welcoming party that was organized by the university of Bournemouth. This location was very popular among students. At the pub, we got to enjoy some snacks and drinks for free. The evening was a great opportunity to get to know each other even more.

The next morning (Tuesday), all international students got separated into two groups to meet the mayor of Bournemouth at the town hall. The mayor gave all of us a warm

welcome. Again we got little presents, this time from the city of Bournemouth, and we were allowed to ask a lot of questions about the history and the particularities of Bournemouth.

Furthermore, the divergent seminars and presentations started in the morning. The week's program had already been distributed the day before and everyone had been able to sign up for the activities. The range of topics was diverse so that everyone was able to find something that he or she was interested in. Topics that were particularly popular were sometimes offered twice so that everyone could enjoy the seminars despite the limits of participants of each activity. In the evening we did not have an assigned program, but the student coordinator of the IUW offered an evening activity at the beach. This way, we could (voluntarily) participate and go to the beach. Some students bought the traditional fish and chips, others played a game which turned out to be a mixture of baseball and "Brennball". None of the non-English students knew this game, which made it very exciting, as no one had advantages or disadvantages. First friendships were made during this game and the cold English temperatures did not bother us as we simply enjoyed the moment.

Wednesday was a very exciting and adventurous day. We went on a daytrip to the Jurassic Coast and Corfe Castle. The Jurassic Coast is a section in the south east of



Great Britain. UNESCO has declared the beautiful natural landscape a World Heritage Site in 2001. At the coast we went for a hike to a lookout, from where we were able to see the whole coastline. It was a warm day with around 26 degrees and we spend one hour at the coast and exploring a small village close by. Afterwards we went

up the country to visit another village - called Corfe. Corfe is a village located in the county of Dorset. Here we had the opportunity to visit the old ruins of "Corfe Castle", which the village is famous for. A few of us used the time to explore the village, eat ice cream or write postcards. On our way back, we had another stop on the coastline. We took a break in a town near the Sea, where we could try local food, buy some souvenirs or walk along the beach.

It was one of the best days of the international university week and because of the nice weather our day trip almost felt like a short holiday.

On Thursday, we had more exciting, diverse seminars. For example, a seminar for memory training, and some yoga on the beach, where the participants even reflected



on their own biography. Overall the seminars were very interesting because of the international contexts. It was very valuable to discuss the challenges of social work in the international context, because we could get to know the advantages and disadvantages of social work in other countries and learned a lot

about studying in different countries too. In beautiful weather, all international students had the opportunity to visit the Russell-Cotes Museum on the beach, where we could see beautiful rooms and artificial objects in an old nice house. From the museum we had a good view over the beach, the sea and some cliffs in the distance.

For the evening, the students from Bournemouth University had organized a farewell party. It was held in a very nice club in the middle of Bournemouth where we had free drinks and food again. Later, we gave our gift to the organizer of the international week and with a lot of fun and dancing we ended this beautiful week.

The next morning (Friday), we had our last breakfast at the international college. After breakfast we chose the best sand castle build during the international week – some groups really made a lot of effort. Everyone received their certificates and we could admire some nice and funny pictures. The pictures showed some of our greatest moments from the week. After all, we had to say goodbye and sooner or later everyone left Bournemouth by train or bus.

We are all thankful for the great experiences we had during the international week. In general, the international week is a great opportunity to get into international exchange while studying and to benefit from each other, according to the European idea.