

Hi everyone! Everything in EUROPE is fine!! The British weather isn't wonderful, but at least it's not raining yet today. I moved into my apartment on Wednesday evening and just tried to get settled. I have my own room in the flat. So far I've had international orientation and finalized my class schedule.

I haven't met too many British students yet or my roommate, but you would not believe the number of international students! They are from every country you can think of and some barely even speak English. The best thing so far is that everyone is so interested in everyone else's culture. Last night I had a long discussion with a guy from Denmark about politics. He is absolutely intrigued by the American culture. I've made good friends with an Australian girl who is a lot like me.

We got our course load today and I only have classes on Tuesday and Friday. The city is very nice, but it is hard to adjust at times. I miss you all.

Your world traveler,

Britt

Hi everybody! It's Saturday afternoon and I got going around two. I walk through the city center to get to campus, since my flat is in the city section of Sheffield. You would not believe how many people are out walking around, shopping, etc. It looks like Disney land in the summer, but none of these people are tourists. It's hard to take pictures in fear of getting run over by the other passersby, but the city does have a great European charm.

Last night I went out walking the town. There are bars and clubs and pubs everywhere. There are 40,000 students and even more people from the city out for a good time.

Tomorrow I am planning to take a bus out to what they call the Peak District, a very famous national park that is said to be beautiful. I miss you all and am thinking of you. ~Britt



SIUE Friends
Edwardsville, IL 62026

Today was the first day of classes, or what they call modules. I have three; I go to each once a week. I have two on Tuesday and one on Friday. They don't seem like they will be too hard, but there is only one paper and one final exam in each. The change is good. We do a lot of outside reading from the text, which you don't buy, but just rent from the library; an ingenious idea, I think. Then we have lecture/seminar where we apply the theories. The teachers lecture on knowledge and not just theory, which I like.

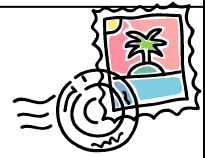
My two classes today were on the 9th and 10th floors. I have a dislike for lifts (elevators to you), so I'm hitting the stairs. There is a cafeteria in the main building, but tonight I had a sandwich from a cafe across the street before coming to the Learning Center (library). The food is just a little different than what I am used to, but I manage. The prices seem expensive after considering the exchange rate, but the tax is always included. Brilliant!

I am going to do some reading in the learning center for awhile and then watch the OC on one of the TV and headphones I have access to in the center. I hope all is well and I will hear from you soon.

Today I ventured over the river to Tutbury. I took some pictures of the old church and the Tutbury Castle ruins. In the town I got to see glass crystal being made from glowing hot glass. The etchings were so tiny! It was a small adventure and not the most exciting, but it was the first of many.

Tonight we have an international gathering at the Union hub. Can you believe the words they use? I didn't need to worry about keeping myself busy, because I have gone salsa dancing, walked the Graves Art Gallery, and watched the big football game (UK Soccer) at the Old Monk.

Love you all and missing you, Britt



SIUE Friends
Edwardsville, IL

Hi everyone,

This past week all through the UK, rival universities competed against each other in a thing called Varsity. The sports clubs from Sheffield Hallam went up against Sheffield University in every sport you can imagine. (Football, water polo, swimming, b-ball, cricket, squash, trampolining, you name it) Then, last night, everyone crowded in a huge bar called WalkAbout for the announcement of the winners. This bar has a balcony and bar all around the top level. It is packed with people dancing and looking down at the people below. As they gave the winner of each individual sport (My club trampolining beat Sheffield University) the whole place was cheering and chanting. Hallam won over all. It was an amazing atmosphere. It was kind of like high school championship games, but even crazier.

Happy St. Patrick's day, Miss you all, Britt

Hi everyone. This morning Maxine and I went on an exciting exploration. At 9 a.m. (that's early for the lifestyle I have gotten used to here) we caught a bus to the Ladybower Reservoir, a popular destination in the Peak District. It is a surprisingly large portion of the countryside which has picturesque landscape. So being the tourists we are, we didn't know exactly where to go, or how to get there, or even what was in store when we arrived. So we took a bus out to the countryside with nothing but a mountain biker's map. Just so you get the picture, the map was the kind that is covered in plastic to prevent destruction from wind, rain, mud and an American and an Australian lost in the outdoors.

We rode a double decker bus on the winding English roads; that was an experience, just like a roller coaster! In a matter of two hours, we hiked through lush forest, over barren hills, and across sheep-scattered farm land. We didn't mind the fact that we were wet and about to blow down the hillside. We were too busy enjoying the view and stomping through the mud (my personal favorite). It was a great day and a much different perspective of England than the city of Sheffield.

Miss you all, Britt

HI Everyone~ Guess what... I am in Paris!

I'm sorry I haven't written in awhile, but I spent the last week in Rome. It was a great city. Everyone knew English so it was very easy to get around. I saw all the big things and ate Gelati everyday (sometimes more than once) Good thing I am doing a lot of walking. Vatican City was amazing. I met all kinds of Americans, Canadians, and Australians and stayed in a great hostel. After visiting the Vatican I left on a 15 hour overnight train to Paris.

I am now in Paris with two other international girls from Sheffield taking our time exploring the city. We watched the Eiffel Tour sparkle last night and plan to go to the top when the Easter crowds get better. Today we went to the Pomidou Center to look at some pretty amazing modern art and from there I don't know where the road will lead us.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Easter. I miss and love you all.....Britt