

Honors Program

Shippensburg University
1871 Old Main Drive
Shippensburg, PA 17257-2299



www.ship.edu

Office: 717-477-1604
Fax: 717-477-4096
E-mail: honors@ship.edu

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Contact: Dr. Kim Klein, 717-477-1604 or kmklei@ship.edu
<http://www.ship.edu/honors>

SU Honors Student Studies at Oxford University

A Shippensburg University Honors Program student spent six weeks in England studying at Oxford University as part of the Oxford Summer Seminar Program offered through the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Katie Kitner, a senior History major from Newburg, studied at Trinity College, one of the 38 colleges that make up Oxford University, from July 3 to August 13. “I chose to study at Oxford because of its reputation as the oldest university in the English-speaking world,” said Kitner. She was awarded a scholarship from UMass-Amherst to support her study abroad experience.

At Oxford, Kitner took two classes – “The History of Tudor and Stuart Britain” and “A British Perspective on the American Revolution.” While Henry VIII and his wives had always fascinated Kitner and she had recently completed a major research project on the topic, she said she gained much more knowledge about other Tudors and the Stuarts. Additionally, she said studying the American Revolution from the British perspective was also especially enlightening.

“We read a lot of fascinating 18th century documents and were able to receive a whole new perspective,” Kitner said of her classes. “I thought I knew everything there was to know about British culture and history. This trip certainly proved me wrong.”

Aside from her studies, Kitner enjoyed experiencing many of Oxford’s top sights, including the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology, the Bodleian Library and the Anglo-Saxon Tower of St. Michael. She also had the opportunity to travel on the weekends, visiting London, Bath and Hampton Court, England; and Paris, France.

Although Oxford is famous for its university, Kitner noted that a large part of the city’s economy is based on tourism, especially because of its connections to the Harry Potter movies.

“Countless Harry Potter tours were offered partially because a lot of the movies were filmed there,” said Kitner, a self-proclaimed huge Harry Potter fan. “The fact that I could experience life in a ‘Hogwarts’-like school, with medieval cloisters, high tables and small intimate classes, was a complete dream for me.”

The Honors Program at Shippensburg University provides an outstanding undergraduate experience that emphasizes scholarship, leadership, and service. The program is made up of 150 students who are chosen based on academic achievement, intellectual curiosity, and evidence of leadership and civic engagement. Students benefit from small classes, outstanding instruction, exciting research, study abroad, and internship opportunities, and special social and cultural activities. For more information, visit <http://www.ship.edu/honors>.