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Home University: University of Chicago

Major: Cancer Biology

Study Abroad Programme: University of Edinburgh (Fall 2022)

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Ever since I took a summer course at Cambridge, living independently on my own, I've fallen in love with the history, beauty, and culture of the UK. Since my instructors there were Scottish, I learned extensively about the beautiful culture of Scotland. I got the chance to dance the Highland Dance and try haggis, their national dish. Since then, I've always wanted to visit Scotland and experience its beauty first-hand. Academically, The University of Edinburgh boasts an amazing curriculum and houses renowned professors. I've already requested to take Celtic Civilization 1A, a survey course designed to teach the history of Celticness as a racial, cultural and ethnic concept, from the Iron Age in ancient times until the present. The class will visit with the the ancient Celts, the medieval Celtic-speakers, and the early modern Europeans who saw themselves as their 'Celtic' descendants. This class is so incredibly exciting to me because I do not believe I will ever experience anything of the like in the United States.

Currently, I'm pursuing an MD/PhD in Cancer Biology, and bench research has become one of my biggest passions in college. Last summer, I was chosen as a DAAD scholar and traveled to conduct full-time cancer research in Osnabruck, Germany for three months. I've thus taken a great interest in exploring the research and laboratory cultures of other countries and I'm

excited to continue to do so in Scotland! In my current lab, where I study cancer immunotherapy, I've done extensive scientific literature reading, and in my time doing so, I've learned a great deal from Rose Zamoyska, a professor at Edinburgh who does groundbreaking research in my field of interest. I intend to reach out to Dr. Zamoyska's lab and the labs of others to try to secure a semester long internship. Working abroad introduced me to new perspectives, alternative techniques, and new ways of conducting research that I was able to bring back to my home lab at UChicago- an experience I'm very motivated to have again at Edinburgh. Through studying and working on a different project in a different academic environment, I hope to grow as both a researcher and a student. Furthermore, my experience living alone in Germany for 3 months last summer gives me complete confidence that I will acclimate very well to studying abroad independently.

Lastly, immersing myself in a new culture and meeting people from different parts of the world will be a critical source of preparation for me as an aspiring physician, a profession that is uniquely intercultural and interpersonal. Inspired by my childhood in The Republic of Georgia, I would like to spend some time working for Doctors Without Borders, and subsequently, I'm motivated to gain as much intercultural and international experience as possible before entering the field.