

## **Excursion report:**

### **Author: Lia Donadon**

On 10th September our Siegen University group went on an exciting excursion to Manchester. We met at Cologne airport at 08:00 a.m. Our flight departed at 9:55 and we arrived at Manchester at 10:00 local time. Our accommodation was located in Salford, ca. 5 km from the city center of Manchester. We took a coach there.

The decision made by the organizing committee to live in a student village from the University of Salford was, in my opinion, an excellent idea: firstly, because we had a comfortable position, with several possibilities of access to the city and surroundings by public transport, and secondly, because that facilitated communication with University students who lived there.

The common program started the day after we have arrived. We had a fixed agenda with organized excursions. Unfortunately, the weather was always changeable (rainy and windy). Therefore, we could not enjoy some scheduled walks. In other words, the organizing committee was forced, by climatic conditions, to make some program adjustments. This challenge was mastered very well.

Despite the intensive agenda and bad weather, I took the opportunity to explore the city in any free time. At first, I visited different museums. I went to the People's History Museum, the MOSI (Museum of science and industry) and the National Football Museum.

Under the motto "There have always been ideas" the People's Museum presented impressive historical studies. The exposition tells the dramatic story of the development of democracy in Britain over the last 200 years. As an example to refer to: joining a march through time, where the visitors meet the revolutionaries, reformers, workers, voters and citizens who fought the battle for the ballot. This exhibit teaches us to value the rights we enjoy today as given, without considering the effort that had to be made to obtain them.

The MOSI exhibition with the title "BRAINS – The Mind as Matter" was very interesting. Featuring real brains, manuscripts, artefacts, videos and photography, the exhibition took the visitors on a quest to decipher the most unique and mysterious of human organs. 'BRAINS asks not what brains do for us, but what we have done to brains' announced the Museum. I can confirm: this aim was achieved.

At the 'First Hall of Fame Awards' displayed in the National Football Museum, I gained an overview of the most eminent footballers through historical events.

After I had visited the Museums, I went to the University of Manchester. The reason was: experience in person the "Fresher's Week", which took place during our stay. I participated in a mathematics lecture and went for lunch in the cafeteria. Most of the new students were of different nationalities and from countries. We spoke about my experience about "learning in a foreign language and culture". At the end, we all agreed that regardless where you live or the language you should speak, all students have a common goal: to achieve the desired degree. To achieve this, they spare no sacrifices.

To conclude, the excursion was an interesting experience and has given us the opportunity to practice the English language and experience British culture.