

Tracking report

Funder: The Baltic Exchange

Years: 2007-2009

Aim

To find out the progression of students who participated in the Cornwall City & Sea Exchange between the years 2007-2009.

Method

Canvass participants via e-mail asking them what they learnt from taking part in the project, whether it helped them decide on a career in maritime. Over the past 3 years, 67 young people took part in the City & Sea exchange and we had email addresses for 47 of these. These are the replies we have received.

Feedback

“To be honest I learnt more than I expected. I learnt so much about the maritime, and the different kinds of jobs it offers. It was a great experience visiting Lloyds of London and getting an in-depth insight on how the maritime works.”

“I did this programme two years ago, so I might not remember every detail. But I clearly remember that I have learnt a lot, especially the positive attitudes of the young people who live in Cornwall towards their schools and colleges - when the young people from Cornwall told me that their schools and colleges were really far away from their home. Even though there are buses, but not a lot and they normally take a long period of time to come. But this obstacle never stopped them from attending schools or colleges. After hearing them, I felt really bad because before this trip, I felt it was ok to absent from school. But now I will try to go to college every day if possible. Because if they can do it, then I should be able to do better than them because there are lots of buses and trains in London.”

“I want to become a volunteer for tall ships adventure. Because living in London you don't get a chance everyday to look at the beautiful nature.”

“I learnt a huge amount about the maritime industry, and what is involved in it in terms of career opportunities. In addition to that I learnt about the different parts of the maritime industry - in London, we dealt with the more administrative concepts of the industry (e.g. insurance) whilst in Cornwall, we explored the more practical side of the industry. All in all, I found it a hugely informative and rewarding experience as I was exposed to a new and fascinating world.”

“On the Cornwall City and Sea Exchange 2009 I had learnt a great deal about the maritime industry's presence within world commerce, ranging from the importance of insuring dangerous cargo to the impact of commercial fishing vessels on small coastal economies. The exchange has given me the chance to admire a diverse list of possible careers, which I think vital for success in this varying economic climate. Over the 9 days of the course we visited many

organisations related to the industry, we investigated the day to day routines and real life hardships and joys of employment in those organisations, a truly valued experience.”

“It's helped me lot, by taking part it gave me the experience in the field of maritime, I also took part in a 13 day tall ships adventure.”

“Taking part in the exchange helped to inform me about possible career opportunities, as we met many people who were in the industry and who each gave their opinion on their jobs and why we should go down that path.”

“Even though the whole trip was not that long, but is like a taster course. It has helped to expand my knowledge on the maritime industry.”

“The exchange has helped me confirm my choice for a career path in Naval Architecture. I intend to study at Southampton University following my enrolment in the Clipper Challenge, a round the world yacht race, sailed by amateur yachtsmen and women who have been training specifically for the race. An opportunity to raise money for a charity of their choice or to simply experience one of the hardest challenges known to man. Before the exchange this career path was in flux, however following my experience, I can honestly say that this path is at the top of my list.”

“I certainly view the maritime industry it as a possibility for a career, especially working in the city as an insurance broker. It seems stressful, but very interesting and I especially loved the atmosphere of the floor in Lloyds of London.”

“To be honest with you, I don't think I will be in the maritime industry in the future. This is not because I don't like this job, but I have always wanted to be a successful business woman. I just really like this career, and I am really inspired by the top business people such as Sir Alan Sugar.”

“My profession would be a naval architect because I have always enjoyed questioning why some watercraft designs are favoured over another in specific conditions. For example, why are speed windsurfing boards shaped differently to freestyle windsurfing boards? The answers lay in the study of the flow of water in various scenarios to gain a more detailed picture.”

“I really enjoyed meeting new people from different kind of race and background - it was great going to Cornwall and the experience was amazing which I will never forget. I would also like to say a big thanks to Tower Hamlets Summer Uni and the funders for this great experience.”

“There are lots of positive memories about this programme; for example, meeting new people, not only from London, but also from Cornwall. This was really important to me because I was really shy before, and I didn't like meeting new people as I was scared that I would not have anything to talk to them. Now become more confident, and I still stay in touch with most of the people from this trip. Moreover, I was able to get along with all of them without any argument. To be honest, I think all of us got along with each other quite well. This was a good thing because we acted like in a mature way. Furthermore, I was able to explore the beauty of

Cornwall beaches, lighthouse, and communities and so on. I also learnt the quiet but relaxing life in Cornwall. I think people live in London are under a lot of stress and pressure.”

“My fonder memories are from Cornwall, swimming in the freezing cold sea, eating my first Cornish pasty and exploring the Cornwall countryside. In London, I really enjoyed exploring the city, especially Baltic Exchange and at Lloyd’s of London watching everyone at work and experiencing first hand life in the city.”

“On the exchange I have met many new people much of whom I am in contact with today, I remember during the exchange the majority of candidates from Tower Hamlets were of Islamic faith and were fasting during day. As each day went by I became more and more familiar with the routine of fasting and the reasons why they refuse the comforts of food and water. I learnt that fasting is a way proving strength of mind and faith, resisting the temptations hunger and thirst as we should resist the temptations of sin in everyday life. To sympathise with the other members of the group I decided to fast for one day, I found it very difficult during the middle part of the day but with the encouragement of those around me we pulled through till the end of the day, awaiting traditional delicious olives. The exchange was the highlight of my summer, enjoying every moment.”