

August 21st, 2009

Mr. Malcolm Rodman
Chairman
The English-Speaking Union of Argentina

Dear Malcolm,

The object of this letter is to brief the English Speaking Union of Argentina on my participation at the International Relations Conference held from August 9th to August 15th 2009 at Mansfield College, Oxford. My days at Oxford proved to be wonderful and beyond all expectations. All in all, it has been an amazing experience.

This report shall briefly describe why my participation at this annual event organized by the English Speaking Union (ESU) has been an extraordinary experience in academic, professional and personal terms. In addition, I will express gratitude to everyone involved in the selection process and organization of the event.

The International Relations Conference has been a superb academic experience. The professional expertise of each of the speakers, the high quality of every single presentation, the ability to trigger the right discussions during the coffee breaks, and the talent to create a relaxed environment to think many of the global issues has been, overall, outstanding. I felt privileged to be a member of each session. I actively participated during the sessions to contribute to the collective learning process. I was pleasantly surprised by the many well supported views and, at times, strong opinions on the global dynamics, which is an area frequently ruled by gray zones and politically correct statements. But this was not the case in Oxford: challenging well rooted opinions were presented stimulating creative thinking and debate. Multilateralism, the continuity -or not- of western dominance, the possible upraise of Asian economies, and key challenges to be faced by tomorrow's leaders were amongst the hottest topics.

On professional terms, I was privileged to meet lawyers, economists, political scientists, lecturers and journalists from 30 countries of the world and learn from their experiences. Exchanging views, lessons learned from different career paths and discussing the underpinning tensions of the global agenda has been a rewarding experience. I benefited from the many complementary agendas to my area of interest: law and development.

On personal terms, I made good friends from a variety of nations. We shared all sort of emotions: intellectual joy during the sessions, happiness at gradually becoming friends, and the intercultural delight of learning from each other. The many extra curricular activities will remain in our collective memory. As a group we discovered the city of Oxford, we went punting, enjoyed drinks at the pubs, an evening at the theatre, and much more. We celebrated that amazing encounter in genuinely happy fashion.

Finally, I would like to express gratitude to every single committee member of the ESU of Argentina, for trusting my ability to be a good representative at this event. In particular, I would like to express gratitude to Michael Rattagan for kindly providing advice on how to get the most out of this experience. In addition, I would like to thank Annette Fisher and Alison Wakefield for being the best possible hosts while in Oxford. In addition, I would like to commit to supporting and collaborating with future activities and objectives pursued by the ESU.

Best regards,



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