

My name is Cydney Carter, and I am an International Business and Cultures major. I took the Spirit of Europe 2018 summer course. The course is hosted by two European Universities, FH Aachen and University College Leuven-Limburg, and consists of a series of lectures and workshops that focus on business, entrepreneurship, and innovation. During my time in Europe, I was able to travel around Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands, and France.

I flew out of the Atlanta Airport, where I actually met two of the girls who were taking the course with me: Emily S. and Angelica. We flew into Brussels, where we met up with Alina and Maria, two students from FH Aachen. We waited there for awhile for other member of our group, and we met Jo, Emily R. and Haley. Once all the girls arrived we headed to Leuven, where we would spend our first night. Carl and Evan has arrived early and were already there. We had yet to hear from Stefan and Adam. We arrived, took naps, explored the city, and once everyone had arrived we went out to dinner.

The next morning, we went to Aachen, Germany where we would spend the first week and a half. We tried the Printen and checked out the bars on Pontstrasse, and the guys even tasted the sulfur water from the Elisa Fountain. We took classes on economics, did a workshop where we had to build toy trucks as effectively as possible, and explored their other campuses where they built robots and used 3D printers. We took trips to Monchau, the Three Countries Corner and Maastricht.

Our first weekend there we had a free weekend, where we traveled to Amsterdam and Paris. We took canal tours in both cities. In Paris, we had a picnic at the bottom of the Eiffel Tower, went to the top of the Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe, saw the Mona Lisa in the Louvre, and even experienced a Paris dance club, The Rex.

After our first week and a half in Germany, we went back to Belgium for the duration of our trip. During our time at UCLL, we took courses on innovation and entrepreneurship. A guy named Pablo joined our group and helped us navigate the city. We did a city tour of Hasselt where we played Put Put using various landmarks as targets. We took a lot of excursions including a city tour of Liege, a harbor tour in Antwerp, a Vespa tour in Sint-Truden, and a tour of Parliament in Brussels. When we weren't in class or traveling, we had the opportunity to shop and try a wide variety of Belgian beers.

I am so glad to have had this opportunity to experience new cultures, and make memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.









