

Before my year at the London School of Economics (LSE), I was very uncertain—and worried—about my academic and professional future. More specifically, I was torn between pursuing a Ph.D. program in Economics and a career in finance or consulting. The academic and professional exposure that I received at Davidson was enough to stimulate my interest in both areas, however, when making such important decisions it is crucial to use all possible resources and acquire diverse insight. After additional research, the LSE option was the perfect opportunity for me to explore potential career options and interact with internationally recognized scholars.

As with any major transition in life, I was concerned because of the uncertainty of the situation. I didn't know what to expect, how to prepare properly, what to take with me to London etc. For this particular program, however, my most important concern was its academic rigor and relatively high failure rates. Both Davidson and my program were really helpful in taking care of logistics and making my life significantly easier while abroad. Knowing that someone is there for you is very important when you're in a new place.

As for whether or not study abroad would have an impact on my U.S. visa status, I spoke with the International Student Adviser about the potential impact of attending a year-long program and she explained that there would be no impact if the program was through Davidson.

We are very lucky, as Davidson College students, to have so many great study abroad options and *all* students are strongly encouraged to participate during their time here. Since Davidson itself is my most distinct and true study abroad experience, I can definitely say that experiencing a new culture and language alongside my studies helped me develop skills and new perspectives about my situation that I couldn't have seen for myself.