

LONDON CALLING

Purdue Global Education Abroad

By Tom Schott

When Purdue Global launched its concentration and microcredential in global business, the goal was to put graduate students' knowledge into action with the online university's first education-abroad program.

Seven Purdue Global students—accompanied by five faculty members—took part in that experience with a trip to London in March. The travelers participated in educational tours about sustainability, finance, marketing, entrepreneurship, culture, and history—all while building lifelong connections with each other. Students attended several events, including a pub quiz with London-based Purdue alumni, afternoon tea at Kensington Palace, and a performance of *Hamlet* at Shakespeare's Globe.

Program lead Jennifer Teague was joined by future trip leaders Jack Deem, Pam DeLotell, Catherine Flynn, and Tricia Berry, each of whom supported students in making connections between course concepts and cultural immersion.

"When I heard about the first-ever Purdue Global education abroad program in London, I knew I wanted to be a part of it," says Amanda Tully, a global business MBA student. "I am thankful I pursued the global business concentration and got the opportunity to join this amazing group. Dr. Teague created an unforgettable experience, and I am grateful for the time I spent with her, the other amazing professors and leaders, and my awesome classmates who I finally got to meet in person. We were able to experience firsthand everything we've been studying for months now, and we created lifelong friendships in the process. I am forever grateful for this life-changing experience."

Graduate students Anna Flynn, Omid Laborada, Jenna Quicke, Erin Stransky, Megan Stransky, Michelle Tannlund, and Amanda Tully earned the esteemed AFS Global Competence Certificate (GCC), an internationally recognized mark of advanced skills in intercultural fluency and diversity awareness.

"Incorporating an education abroad opportunity into Purdue Global's new global business concentration helped fulfill a mission to provide more opportunities for international engagement to our students," says Jennifer Teague, global business program lead. "As we created the program over the last year, we had so much support from stakeholders at Purdue West Lafayette, Purdue Global, and Kaplan North America. It was a truly collaborative effort. To stand in London and physically see the connections students made with the culture, the course concepts, and each other made all the effort more than worth it. It was such a powerful reminder that these immersive experiences are important for students to recognize they are part of a much bigger world, and they can play a key role in making the world a better place by being responsible and responsive global citizens."

Education abroad opportunities are available to undergraduate and graduate students across Purdue Global.

To learn more about Purdue Global's global business or GCC programs, contact Jennifer Teague at jteague@purdueglobal.edu.