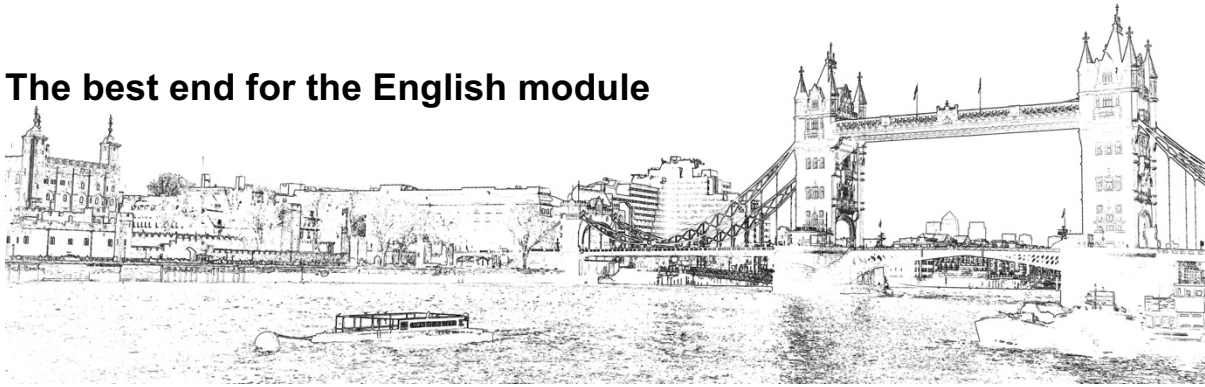


The best end for the English module



Zurich, six o'clock in the morning and a few tired student faces at the gate. We are ready for the short trip to London.

After checking in at our hostel and having lunch at an Indian place, we went to the British Museum to see the famous Rosetta Stone and many more important pieces of world heritage. The first day ended with dinner at an English pub next to our hostel.



After a busy Tuesday morning with many new impressions, we took the Underground to get to the university. There we were warmly welcomed by a professor and some lecturers. He started with an introduction and some information about the geomatics and geographical institute. We got a good overview of the special interests of the students. The following presentations were very informative and put together in a logical order. I was impressed by how good the visualisations they used on their slides were. In my opinion, this afternoon was useful for us, and we got a comparison between our and other universities.

After two and a half hours of full-brain-activity, we filled our stomachs with three excellent dishes in an old-fashioned English pub that evening.

We got to get a bit deeper in touch with the pub culture and the enjoyable nightlife of London.

On our last day, we had Greenwich on the to-do-list. We learned about the early process of development and the reasons of the importance of navigation. England was a leading naval country. Navigating at sea was based on astronomical knowledge of the exact position of the stars. Nowadays, it's not very clever to build a big observatory near a city like London because there is always too much light pollution. That doesn't matter if we ask a Londoner. They have been proud of their new one for a number of years. The different Prime Meridians are all marked and labelled with the name. The tour took a bit more than an hour. What was very interesting was the story of the solution of the "Longitude Problem". To know their exact longitude, ships needed a chart of the exact position of stars, a sextant and a clock which was highly accurate and not affected by the movement of the ship at sea

to know Greenwich Mean Time. In 1735, it was John Harrison who came up with the first prototype of a sea clock that was highly accurate. This clock was the last piece of equipment needed to navigate precisely at sea.

To sum up, it was an enjoyable, fun and culturally enriching trip. We used every minute during our stay to gather new experiences.



January 2016, Pascal Greutmann and Dimitri von Arx