

## **Europaeum Oxford-Helsinki Study Bursary Report**

1 March 2019

I am a doctoral researcher at the Faculty of Social Sciences in the University of Helsinki. My research project concerns children who have been placed in care outside their homes by child protection authorities to secure their wellbeing, health, and development. Specifically, I focus on their educational and labor market outcomes. I received Europaeum's study bursary to visit the Rees Centre, which is a research unit within the Department of Education at the University of Oxford. The Rees Centre specializes in research on children in care and their education, which makes it a perfect match considering the subject of my thesis. My on month visit to Oxford took place at the beginning of Michaelmas term in autumn 2018.

The visit was very beneficial for my work for several reasons. Most importantly, I had a chance to get to know to researchers in Oxford and UK at large, present my on-going work to them and learn about studies conducted by these colleagues. I believe building up these international networks will be very helpful for us all in the long term and leads to a closer collaboration hopefully at some point in the future. Changing the scenery was also very helpful for my work in the sense that listening to and discussing with new people gives new, fresh perspectives. Staff at the Rees Centre and at the Department of Education were very welcoming and supportive of my work and I had a great change to focus on working while there (as a father of small children that is not always possible at home). The University of Oxford has plenty of interesting opportunities, and during my stay, I also participated in a number of seminars, lectures, and talks in other departments.

Of course, visiting Oxford offers an opportunity to learn about this unique university and its history and traditions. Visiting libraries and colleges and participating in formal dinners were among the most memorable experiences of my visit. I was lucky to meet fellow doctoral students and staff members who invited me to various events and showed me around the colleges. With regard to accommodation, Oxford can be quite an expensive place to stay. For the first time in my life, I used Airbnb from where I was able to find an affordable room in a private house with a great host. To find nice accommodation, it is a good idea to check the availability well before the visit and read recommendations by other visitors.

I would like to thank Europaeum for providing me the opportunity to visit Oxford and their administrator Susanne Heinrich for her generous help with practicalities. In my experience, their study bursary provide excellent means for a short-term visit at the University of Oxford. I am also happy to help and share ideas with anyone interested in this scheme—just contact me via email (address below).

Best wishes,  
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