

## Exchange Testimonial

By Andrew Booker, 4<sup>th</sup> Year Chemical Engineering

My one year exchange to Imperial College London is something I will always look back on with warm memories. Every minute of the experience: from swinging by (the amazing) Café Helen at goodness knows when after a night out right down to mundane tasks such as washing up dishes: every minute will surely become a sentimental piece of my identity.

I learnt so much in the past year across all spheres. Academically of course, Imperial is exceptional and by taking courses such as Clean Fossil Fuels and Advanced Reaction Engineering my engineering knowledge and skills improved out of sight. In the extracurricular sphere as well, activities such as caving taught me rope and rigging basics which I hope to use back home. And then there are the small things: learning that Scotland is in fact a country; that the Circle line never works on the weekend and perhaps worryingly, my bank card details by heart. They say you learn something new every day, nowhere is this truer than at Imperial!



In IC Caving stores before a weekend in Yorkshire



Visiting Edinburgh Castle, Hogmanay 2010

Anyone with the opportunity should definitely come here and not be put off by the rigorous academic standards. I would recommend at the start of the year they join a club or society (clubs in the UK being better due to compulsory student unionism) that gets them out into the country like the Imperial College Caving Club, and to be proactive in looking for graduate jobs which are difficult to snag from so far away.

I enjoyed my time here immensely, but strangely enough, now I'm leaving the UK I feel the exchange provided me perhaps the biggest gift of all: the chance for a fresh start in Australia . . . again.