



## Student Travel Award 2017

### Winners' testimonials

#### **Aurelia Hibbert (2015 winner)**

##### What would you say to student considering applying for this award?

The Student Travel award is an excellent opportunity to learn the capabilities of the alumni network and also explore parts of Europe. There are many alumni around Europe who are keen to meet students, hear about their exciting projects and plans, and offer advice and help where they can. As a Cambridge student, you are now part of one of the greatest networks in the world and it is very easy to forget that when studying in the library alone. Through the Student Travel Award you can discover the great variety of opportunities that Cambridge can provide and start to build your own personal network.

##### What was the greatest benefit of the travel award for you?

The greatest benefit of the trip to me was realising how many alumni want to help if you just ask. As the leader of a student team, we rely a lot on advice and help from more experienced people and we have struggled to find some in the past. I now know that by reaching out to the alumni, many will offer to help either with their own time or through their contacts. On top of this, I can see how my own career may develop with the help of the network and I look forward to joining many alumni groups on my graduation.

#### **Fiona Garrahan (2015 winner)**

##### What would you say to students considering applying for this award?

For any students who are considering applying to the Student Travel Award, I would say: do it! The award is a unique opportunity to travel as a student ambassador for the University, and to see Europe through the eyes of Cambridge alumni. A successful Student Travel Award requires three things in particular: good organisational ability (it a big logistical task), a flair for communication (to convey your experiences with fellow students), and a desire to exchange stories, ideas, and experiences with the alumni you meet (because this, really, is what it is all about).

##### What was the greatest benefit of the travel award for you?

The Student Travel Award was one of the most formative experiences I have ever had. Over three weeks in September, I visited six different Cambridge Alumni Groups in five countries and seven cities: Paris, Madrid, Brussels, Antwerp, Ghent, Stockholm, and Oslo. At each city I visited, I was able to interact with Cambridge alumni of all academic, professional, and national backgrounds. This interaction was undoubtedly one of the most rewarding aspects of the award. My discussions with alumni were a real source of inspiration, an insight into graduate life across Europe, and a testament as to the strength of the Cambridge community.