

Louise Armstrong (Modern European History PhD) – Alsace, April 2013

I am currently studying for an MPhil in Modern European History, the main focus of which is a 25,000 word dissertation to be completed by June. The dissertation is expected to rely heavily on primary source material which usually requires students to conduct archival research.

The topic of my dissertation is post-war Alsace, so in order to access the necessary primary documents I organised a research trip to France. I spent one week in Paris where I split my time between the new National Archives at Pierrefitte-sur-Seine and the French national library, the BNF.

I then travelled to Alsace where I spent the majority of my time in the regional archives of Haut-Rhin and Bas-Rhin, as well as in the Archives Municipales of the city of Strasbourg. During my stay in Strasbourg I also visited the archives of the ADEIF, a veterans' association, and I was able to conduct an interview with the president of the organisation.

The trip proved extremely fruitful and I was able to collect information which is now proving invaluable as I write up my dissertation. I am extremely grateful to Pembroke College and to the Beaumont Trust Fund for their generosity in making me a grant towards my travel costs.