This summer I spent two and a half weeks in Cairo, this trip had two main aims to improve my Arabic and to immerse myself in Egyptian culture. I feel that by going to Egypt I was able to achieve both these goals in a way that I would not have otherwise been able to do. I made good progress in the Modern Standard Arabic language classes and in my dialect classes I passed with an A. The biggest difference that I noticed was that at the beginning of the trip talking to locals was impossible, whereas by the end of the trip I could discuss the taxi driver’s family life and hold my own in the markets.

The trip was also a crash course in Egyptian culture, the accommodation I had originally booked did not work out as planned for personal reasons relating to my host, but it taught me about Egyptian society. In my second accommodation I lived with other people who were also passionately interested in the Middle East which was an invigorating experience. The delightful thing for me was that being there for that length of time gave me a taste of what living in the Middle East is actually like, especially being able to go out at any time and try some more of the amazing food.

Overall it was a wonderful trip that helped me to develop my language skills and comprehension of Egyptian Culture and daily life, and I am very grateful to the college for having made it possible.