

Alec Murray Brown (Modern and Medieval Languages) – Köln, Easter 2015

For a week in the middle of the Easter holidays, I went to Köln in order to practice my spoken German. My Part 1A German Oral was on the first Monday of term, so to be able to have a week in Germany, and speak German exclusively was extremely useful for practicing my spoken German.

I chose Köln because, having travelled to Germany in the summers of 2014 and 2013, and visited Berlin, twice, Munich and Hamburg, I wanted to see another of Germany's cities, and Köln's University Town feel was a great factor in my decision to spend my week there.

I was staying in a hostel in the middle of Köln, about a five minute walk from the Kölner Dom, and it was great to have such a mix of nationalities in my dorm – besides another English couple, there were Germans, Austrians and Italian. It was really useful to meet these people, since I was able to go to a bar in the evenings and practice my German in a much more informal context as is normally possible in the course of my MML Tripos.

I also managed to see many of the really interesting museums that Köln has to offer – one that I enjoyed in particular was the Romano-Germanic Museum, which has a great collection of artefacts from the Roman camp from which Köln sprung. In addition to this, the *Stadtmuseum* of Köln was really interesting, tracing Köln's history back from the present day to the Roman times. However, the most impressive of Köln's sights was the Kölner Dom, and I managed to climb up to the top of the tower one morning, getting some really amazing views of the city in the process!