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From January to the May 2013 I was enrolled in the University of Notre Dame, Indiana as a visiting student. I had the opportunity to go there on an exchange programme designed to create links between the University of Cambridge and Notre Dame.

The University of Notre Dame is a centre of excellence in my field of studies, and the campus provides a stimulating and serious environment for students to participate in. I found ND to have a vibrant atmosphere and academic community to which I would surely like to return at some point.

Having visited the wider area before, and not wanting to hire a car, I was determined that for this longer stay I would find accommodation within good proximity to the campus, as the alternative is to ride desolate busses through forgotten homes and abandoned shops for what felt like hours before seeing another face and reaching your front door.

The University itself lies within a vast campus, set in lovely grounds which seem to hold a bubble of possibility in an otherwise struggling area. On this, I was reminded again how lucky we are here in Cambridge with the merging of town and gown and the beauty so readily on our doorstep. I was fortunate to find a house to rent not too far from campus on Notre Dame avenue, only a few blocks away from the library.

I was able to have regular meetings and discussions with my supervisor Prof. Zygmunt Baranski and attended a course on Dante aimed at graduate students designed by him. I also attended a series of seminars and research groups held by Prof. Christian Moevs, the author of *The Metaphysics of Dante's Commedia*, open to both undergraduates and graduates, with the intention of improving my teaching approach and my knowledge of the American academic world.

I am afraid, even with the best intentions the Olympic size swimming pool was not enough to sway me away from the vast Hesburgh Library. The library is second to none, boasting an almost complete selection of texts, both primary and secondary sources and particularly good for medieval studies and those studying Italian literature and culture.

During my time in Notre Dame, I soon fell into a good routine of work, managing to rewrite an entire chapter of my PhD thesis and complete the draft for my final chapter also.