

## *Diary of an International Business Management Student*



**Rosie Hampson is a 3<sup>rd</sup> year IBM student who is currently undertaking a semester at the University of French Polynesia in Tahiti as part of her study abroad year.**

“For my year abroad I have been lucky enough to spend a semester in Tahiti, French Polynesia which is in the South Pacific.

At the University of French Polynesia there are three other students from Newcastle so we have been able to share this fantastic experience together.

Tahiti is the largest of the Society Islands, though not very big at all in comparison to the cities we live in. The community here is very close knit and family based, there is a great vibe and it is in the Tahitian’s culture to be welcoming.

I am studying history and geography during my time here which was completely outside of my comfort zone to begin with, but I felt that whilst here I should immerse myself in the culture, as the year abroad is as much about the experience and language progression as it is the grades you come out with. All of the lectures and exams are in French and so it is really easy to progress your skills without even noticing.

There have been several experiences so far that have stuck out for me, but my favourite event to date was when we went, with some friends I have made over here, on a two hour trek into the mountains of Tahiti to see the Fautaua Cascade. The trek was definitely worthwhile, as we were able to swim in the pools at the top of the waterfall and go down the natural slides that the water cascade has created.

There have been so many memories that I am going to go home with; such as seeing whales, standing on the Trou de Souffleur in Arahoho, eating a traditional Tahitian maa, attempting Tahitian dancing, snorkelling, surfing, visiting a pineapple plantation, seeing Cook’s bay (where Captain Cook arrived), the list could go on.....

I am so thankful that I was given the opportunity to come to French Polynesia because this is an experience that I will never forget and one that I would recommend to anyone who is willing to try new things and does not mind being thrown in at the deep end. The people I have met here and the friends that I have made are so kind and have made this experience what it is. The Tahitian culture is something everyone should experience, not to mention the constant tropical weather