

The Graduate School of Political Management

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

International Churchill Society & National Churchill Leadership
Center Sponsorship Report on:

UK Global Perspectives Residency, March 2024

*Strategy and Statecraft: Churchill and the Evolution
of the Modern United Kingdom*



At Chartwell, the family home of Sir Winston Churchill, with Property Curator, [Katherine Carter](#) (March 17).



At the UK Parliament with [Robert Courts MP](#) (March 18).



At Portcullis House with [MP Damian Collins](#) (March 19)



Farewell Dinner at Contini George Edinburgh Scotland with [Alastair Stewart](#) and [Neil McLennan](#) (March 22).

1. Partnership for studies of the United Kingdom (UK) and Winston Churchill

The March 2024 program in London and Edinburgh marked the [150th anniversary of the birth of Sir Winston Churchill](#). It was the result of cooperation between George Washington University's (GWU) [Graduate School of Political Management \(GSPM\)](#)—the school of applied politics, legislative affairs, strategic public relations, and global advocacy—and the [National Churchill Leadership Center \(NCLC\)](#). GSPM is grateful to the [International Churchill Society \(ICS\)](#) and the NCLC for the \$20,000 sponsorship of student scholarships, select speaker honorariums, and other expenses in the program culminating the GSPM course titled *Strategy and Statecraft: Churchill and the Evolution of the Modern United Kingdom*. Please find the syllabus of the course in Attachment 1 of the Appendix.

To immerse students into the UK political dynamics, enhance their understanding of insider perspectives, and foster their professional networks, the four-day program in London included interactions with members of the UK parliament—[Robert Courts](#), [Damian Collins](#), and [Dame Siobhain McDonagh](#); scholars and political strategists—[Malcolm Chalmers](#) and [Iain Carter](#); museum curator [Katherine Carter](#), and global consultants—[Miran Hassan](#) and his [Actum](#) company team.

In Edinburgh, we benefitted from a whole-day program at the Scottish Parliament arranged by [Steven Bell](#), the parliament's International Relations Officer. As part of this program, we met with a Scottish parliamentarian, [Emma Harper](#), a member of the Cross-Party Group on the USA, and [Iain McIver](#) and [Sarah McKay](#), senior researchers of the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe). We also enjoyed observing several parliamentary sessions, including the [First Minister's Questions](#). Our last day's program was hosted by the School of Social and Political Science of the University of Edinburgh. We were welcomed by [Dean John Devaney](#) and participated in the roundtable session titled *Scotland, the Union, and the World*, which was organized by [Professor Ben Rosamond](#) with four other faculty members serving as panelists. The final session under the theme *Churchill and Scotland: Perspectives of Communication Experts* allowed our interactions with long-term supporters of the GSPM programs and courses, [Alastair Stewart](#) and [Neil McLennan](#).

We were also exposed to the UK history and culture through our visits to [Chartwell](#), [Westminster Abbey](#), and [Edinburgh Castle](#).

Assembling such a diverse and intellectually strong program would not have been possible without [Justin Reash](#), Executive Director of ICS and Program Director of NCLC, to whom we are extremely grateful. The agenda of the immersion program and the budget report are included in the Appendix as Attachments 2 and 3, respectively.

2. Assessments

Program participants included students from GSPM, the GW Milken Institute of Public Health, and the Columbia College of Arts and Sciences. Our meetings in London and Edinburgh have cultivated students' interest in and knowledge of Churchill's writings and policies as well as the implications of his life and career for the contemporary world. Learning from Churchill is imperative for the young generation's sense of history, broad-mindedness, and cultural and political sensitivity. These characteristics are critical for the development of national and world

citizenship, for assuming responsibility over domestic and global affairs, and for effectiveness and success in addressing the critical challenges of our time. Please see student bios in Attachment 4 of the Appendix.

The final assignment in the course, which students submitted after the UK residency program, was an essay on the legacy of Winston Churchill and today's UK. Below are the quotes from several essays:



Churchill's speeches, written texts, and recounted behaviors suggest that he sought to keep the UK union intact by ensuring that regions all over the UK have the freedom and power to govern locally. Current leaders should follow Churchill's wisdom.

Golnaz Alemousavi

Churchill would be relieved to see Prime Minister Rishi Sunak learning from his legacy and going to great lengths to defend and support Ukraine as essential to the security of both the United Kingdom and the entire European continent.

Jennifer Lee



Churchill championed the cause of freedom and democracy as a beacon of hope for those living behind the Iron Curtain and called for a "grand alliance" of free nations to confront the communist threat.

Nicholle Miller

The United States and the United Kingdom's involvement in protecting democracy worldwide live up to Prime Minister Winston Churchill's sentiments expressed before the US Congress during World War II.

Rachel Howell



Students' overall assessments of the course and the program included posts on social media as well as public testimonies. Some of the examples are below.



Rachel Howell • 2nd

Congressional Relations, Congressional Black Caucus...

1w • 🌐



Today concluded The Graduate School of Political Management's United Kingdom Residency Program!

For the past week, my classmates and I visited London, England and Edinburgh, Scotland to analyze the United Kingdom's unique political structures. We had delightful and insightful discussions with Members of Parliament, government relations professionals, and public policy experts.

Thank you to our sponsor The International Churchill Society (Official) for making this trip happen! #GSPM





Emily Manning • 2nd
Associate Director, Practice Groups at The Federalist Society
1w · (!)

+ Follow

An incredible day here in London with [The Graduate School of Political Management](#).

Our day started with [Miran Hassan](#) and the team at [Actum](#) discussing the bridge between government and business including their public relations support, digital strategy, and profile building efforts.

We then met with Dame Siobhain McDonagh where we discussed the impressive 26 years she has served her London constituency as a Member of Parliament.

Our final meeting of the day was with MP Damian Collins. We reviewed the UK's current political environment as the General Election is approaching and the important issues facing his constituency including economic development, technology, and free market issues.

#GWU #GSPM



Ignacio Olmos Soriano • • st



Eternally thankful for having participated in the study abroad residency program in the United Kingdom with The George Washington University - College of Professional Studies, sponsored by The National Churchill Leadership Center. Visiting the Palace of Westminster, Churchill's Chartwell House, the Scottish Parliament, and many other important institutions that shape public policy in the UK was extremely enriching and insightful.

Interacting with Members of Parliament and individuals working in the private sector highlighted the many ways British and Scottish stakeholders are tackling the contemporary social and economic issues facing the United Kingdom. The conversations we had with public and private sector representatives made this experience much more dynamic.

It was interesting to understand how the legislative branch works in the UK and puts into perspective the need for underdeveloped countries, like Bolivia, to establish a more democratic and efficient legislature that works for the people.

Huge thanks to The University of Edinburgh for hosting this residency. I also want to thank Natalia Dinello, Jessilyn Larsen, Alastair Stewart, Chart.PR, Neil McLennan, and all of the individuals who helped make this study abroad program unforgettable.

Jennifer S. Lee • 1st
Policy Fellow & Master's degree candidate
3d • ::

Alas, all good things must come to an end... but what an amazing close out of the UK Global Residency Program in Edinburgh.

My gratitude extends to everyone at [The International Churchill Society \(Official\)](#). Your sponsorship not only made this trip possible... it has opened a gateway to [#globalpolitics](#), which I never previously had an interest in.

I cannotathom the work and effort it takes to put together any international trip for students... but the [#GW #glob Iresidencies](#) programming is above and beyond. Thank you to Dr. [Natalia Dinello](#) and [Jessilyn Larsen](#) for your stewardship and [10 Justin Reash](#) for your collaboration in providing students with a truly transformative educational program.

Without exaggeration, being a [#GSPM](#) student is a dream realized.





Lauren Josephs (She/Her) • 1st
 George Washington University Public Relations Grad...
 3d • Edited •



I am so grateful to have participated in my second Global Residency Program with [The Graduate School of Political Management](#). My classmates and I from George Washington University visited London, England and Edinburgh, Scotland as a part of our program where we immersed ourselves in their cultural and political environment. We met with several fascinating people in parliament, universities, public policy firms, and more.

None of this would have been possible without our sponsors in the [The International Churchill Society \(Official\)](#) at GWU. This was the opportunity of a lifetime, thank you to all who supported us and those who met with us on our trip.

Last but not least, thank you so much to our professor, Doctor [Natalia Dinello](#) and our program leader, [Jessilyn Larsen](#) for making this experience possible for us.

“Visiting London and Edinburgh definitely deepened my understanding of the legislative branch. Interacting with Members of Parliament and individuals working in the private sector highlighted the many ways British and Scottish stakeholders are tackling the contemporary social and economic issues facing the United Kingdom.”



Ignacio Olmos

“Having the opportunity to ask members of Parliament questions about their service to their constituency or individuals at firms best practices for digital strategy and public relations support was more insightful than anything I have learned in a textbook.”

Emily Manning



3. Looking ahead

The successful March 2024 program followed the in-person programs in London in March 2022 and December 2019 and fruitful cooperation in implementing the virtual UK program in Spring 2021. All these engagements have provided evidence of the benefits of the GSPM-ICS-NCLC partnership and allowed students from a variety of GWU’s schools and colleges to learn about Sir Winston and his impact on history. GSPM is strongly interested in continuing to master and internalize Churchill’s lessons in strategy and statecraft. We aspire to make this program a regular, biennial event as part of the GSPM curriculum to help instill Churchillian values and spirit in the young generation of professionals. We hope that the next immersion program in 2026 will be again supported by ICS and NCLC and will expose more GWU students to the evolution of the modern UK and Churchill’s role in shaping his country and affecting the world.