It’s weird coming to a new country for anyone, however I would say coming from America to the United Kingdom, or even vice versa, is a particularly strange experience. The best way I can explain how it feels, for me at least, is like you’re still in the same country, but just a different universe, where it’s all slight differences. Everyone speaks the same language, just with different inflections and slang. The food is all basically the same, it’s just seasoned a little differently. So in my opinion, I didn’t realize I was going through culture shock until the little differences started to really stand out to me. It has taken about two months, but I’ve come to love the subtle differences. The people I’ve met, have been the greatest asset to the weird and honestly somewhat confusing transition. I would say that the majority of the extensive amount of knowledge I’ve gained about the country came from the relationships I’ve made with the people who have always lived here. In our flat of seven, there are two Americans (including me), two Welsh natives, two people from England, and one guy from Poland. Before coming here I wouldn’t have had the slightest clue about the difference between the Welsh and the English, purely out of ignorance. However, now I can hear the difference in the accents, I know the difference between a traditional Welsh breakfast, and a traditional English breakfast. While they may not be the most impactful differences, in my opinion you haven’t really lived and experienced a different culture until you fully understand the slightest differences that make the stand out when comparing to any other cultures. I had never even heard the Polish language before coming here. My flat mate Wojtek has become one of my favorite people to interact with, and just having a conversation with him, we both learn so much about the normal way of life in the other’s home country. Also it’s kind of crazy realizing that the only thing that some of the people we meet even know about America, is the broad stereotypes. It’s weird explaining to someone, all the things that are so completely normal to everyone back home. For example, it’s completely strange to everyone here that we have the freedom to choose what classes we take, when we take them, where we take them, and who teaches the course, when it comes to university classes. Even though back in America, we wouldn’t know any different, since that’s how it is for everyone. It’s a constant learning and teaching experience living here, and I can’t wait for the experiences to come in my last few months here.