

### **Lauren Aldis – 2017 Alumni**

My days at Spalding High School seem like a long time ago, but I remember them fondly! Studying Spanish, Sociology, and Philosophy and Ethics at A Level allowed me to enhance and broaden my perception of the world, as well as discover subjects that interested me. I went on to study Spanish and Latin American Studies with Sociology at the University of Leicester in 2017. The course included studying the Spanish language along with the culture, history, politics, literature and film of Spanish-speaking countries. The sociology aspect of the course introduced me to various perspectives, with modules such as Victims and Offenders, Society in Transformation and Sociological Thinkers.

My university degree lasted for a total of four years, meaning that I had the opportunity to spend my third year abroad working for the British Council as an English Language Assistant. I was assigned to a Spanish primary school located in a small town famous for its football team – Villarreal. Both my year abroad along with my three years at university allowed me to grow in independence, confidence, and life experience. I adored my time at university both academically and socially as I discovered new things and met new people from around the world. Joining groups and societies whilst at university meant that I met people beyond my faculty, and making international friends opened up opportunities to travel. The university experience is one which facilitates learning about subjects that you never thought you would enjoy, as was the case when I studied Contemporary Mexican Cinema.

Last week, I not only graduated with First Class Honours, but also got accepted for an Internship in Barcelona which is due to start in September. Regarding my future plans, after studying modules such as International Migration as well as Spanish Translation, I have discovered that this is an area I would love to work in. I therefore plan to work in Madrid for the British Embassy after gaining a few more years of experience. I would remind students that you don't have to have a career plan sorted before going to university and it is likely that, like me, as you progress through your educational journey your future plans will change!