



"One Day in May"

(May 15, 2020)

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Class Year: 2019

Connection to the College (student? faculty? alum? friend of the College?): Alumnus/alumna

Describe your day today -- did you go out? what did you do for fun? did you cook or eat anything special? did you do work or chores? who did you spend time with?

Today was a very chill day. I moved to Paris last September 2019 to pursue my Master's degree in Human Rights and Humanitarian Action at the Paris School of International Affairs, SciencesPo. I submitted my last paper on Wednesday (May 14) to mark the end of the first year of my master's program. France has been on a lockdown because of COVID-19 but it was lifted on the 11th of May. The deconfinement doesn't make much of a difference to me because there are no restaurants, museums or cinemas open. There's really no where to go and we're still advised to stay indoors.

Anyways, after my long tangent, my day today was very lazy. I got up from my bed at 1pm because time is a construct during COVID-19. I contacted my airline to request for a refund for my plane ticket that got cancelled. I'm from Nigeria and I had a flight to go home but it was canceled because my country is restricting international flights till July. After that, I had some leftovers for breakfast/lunch. Then I read a novel and took a nap.

This is the month of Ramadan and my Muslim friends on my floor are fasting (I live in a hostel for graduate students). I have been breaking their fast with them every evening. This evening, we ate rice, stuffed mushrooms and some salad. I don't like mushrooms, so I got a special plate with some schnitzel. It was delicious! We had dinner out on the balcony and afterwards had some Turkish dessert and tea. Right now, I am listening to some french music (I'm trying to improve my french). I am also about to wrap some graduation gifts for my friends who have completed their master's program at SciencesPo. They might not have a graduation because of COVID-19 restrictions. So, some of my other friends and I decided to surprise them with graduation gifts.

What do you remember best about being on campus in May of other years?

My last May term in 2019 was spent in India. I went for an off-campus spring term trip to India for two weeks and it was amazing! We went to multiple cities in India. Last May 15th, we went to the Taj Mahal before the sunrise and it was amazing to see the sunrise on the multiple jewels built into the tiles of the Taj Mahal. We also watched the sun set on the Taj Mahal.

I graduated last May on the 26th. The ceremony was outside and it felt wonderful to walk across the stage surrounded by the beauty of Hanover's nature. I was in the choir, so I sat in the first row of the class. It made it easy for us to join the choir when we had to sing. We sang the Irish blessing and it felt a bit different because it would be my last time singing in the Hanover Choir. I was a member for all 4 years of college.

My best semesters were May terms because the campus had a great vibe. The cold was gone and all flowers were blooming. Since we only had one class, there was time to hang out with friends and enjoy the outdoors. You could see a lot of students lying on the grass, enjoying the sun, playing frisbee, etc. We also had Unity Fest every May term. It was a big party for the whole campus every May term.

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There would be music, games, food, gelato and prizes to win. I have great memories of my May terms and I hope whoever reads this, has some great May terms as well!

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