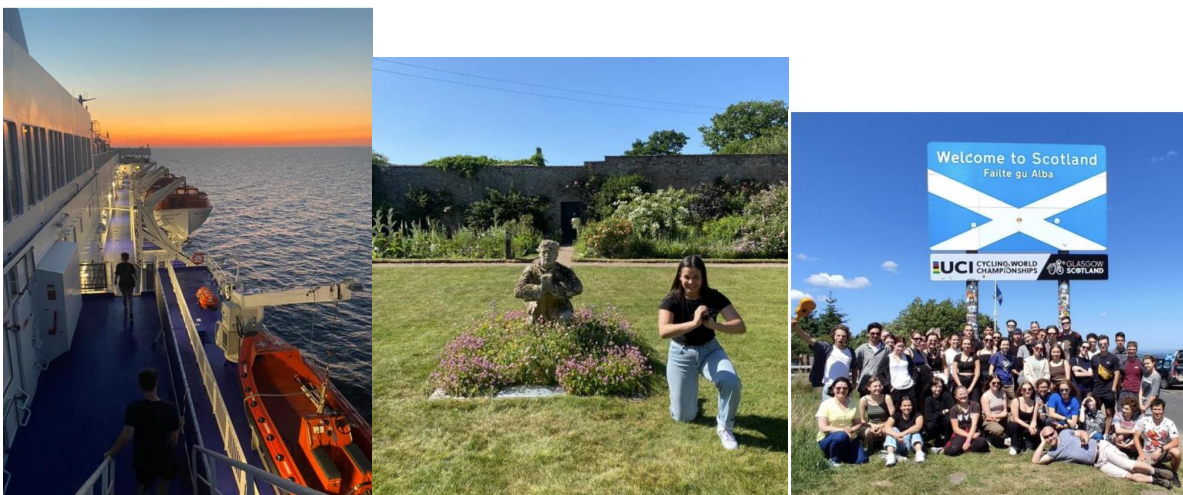


## Day 2. 15<sup>th</sup> June, Thursday.

**Andrea Fiedlerová**

Arrival to Scotland After our, for some, eventful and harrowing journey across the sea, on Thursday morning we all managed to disembark the ferry in Newcastle and went on with our route. The Angel of the North, a huge steel sculpture designed by Anthony Gormley with an arm span of up to 54 metres, was our very first stop. The statue, completed in 1998, symbolises the transition from an industrial area to a new metropolis of northern England. We stayed for a little while before heading to the Scottish borders, about an 1,5 hour away with the bus. Shortly after our arrival at the border we were greeted with a traditional bagpipe playing and Mrs. Dowden had a burger in the name of a successful arrival in the destination country. We carried on to the town of Melrose, notorious for being the final resting place of the heart of Robert the Bruce in the Melrose Abbey. And even though the Abbey was under reconstruction, we had an amazing time going on a stroll throughout the town and eating up our lunches in the local gardens. In the early 18 hundreds, the famous Scottish historian and novelist Walter Scott built his house named Abbotsford in Melrose, right next to the river Tweed. After a short visit of the interior, where we saw Scott's library, study room and the dining room (among other), we explored the area around by walking down to the river. As the evening was approaching slowly, we returned to our bus and headed to Sterling, where many of us met our host families.



## **The Angel of the North**

After entering England, we made a quick stop by an iconic statue made by the sculptor Antony Gormley completed in 1998. The artwork, being 20 meters tall and 54 meters wide, is made of steel and has a rusty colour. Due to its size, the vertical ribs are designed to help the statue to withstand high speed wind. The shape of the statue is known to be based on Gormley's body. The angel is supposed to symbolize hope and transformation of the region from industrial to modern era. Having explored this piece of modern art, we continued our journey to the borders of England and Scotland.

## **The borders of England and Scotland**

Eventually, we found ourselves at the border between England and Scotland. Placed on a ridge, it was symbolic of crossing the mountains and entering the land of mists - well actually, it was unbearably hot and later we got a sunburn... Anyways, we posed (not without difficulties - 50 people, you know) for a group photo. And then a man in a kilt started blasting his bagpipes - and we were just one meter into Scotland. Wondering how much more Scottish it can get, we got in the bus and went down the rabbit hole.

## **The House of Sir Walter Scott – Abbotsford**

The last main landmark we've seen on Thursday was the house of probably the most important Scottish writer, Sir Walter Scott. He built this house between the years of 1817 and 1825 at the south bank of the river Tweed. It combines modern materials and techniques and old remains of Scottish architecture mainly parts of the different abbeys. The way this house was built helped to create a new style: Scottish Baronial. The house was opened to the public right after the writer's death in 1832 but his descendants remained living there until 2004. After finishing our visit, we got on the bus and headed to Stirling, where we were set to meet our host families.

