



My EE experience took place in a course in the Religious Studies degree program with special focus through this course on Religion, Culture and Identity of the Balkans.

As a student I paid close attention to the demeanour and verbal intonations of the two individuals speaking about their personal experience of being forced to leave their homeland in Bulgaria and assimilate into the culture and daily interactions with citizens of Turkey.

It was meaningful as a means of fulfilling requirements for my course in Religious Studies, but more so the realization that political ideology can be a catalyst for either prosperity or lack thereof, usually with no regard for the emotional toll on those who did not choose to be where they find themselves.

This is important because it mirrors the plight of the refugees who arrive in Canada having had to flee their homeland, searching at least for safety and security knowing that there will be challenges to bring their hopes and dreams to fruition, though hampered by cultural, educational and language barriers.

I would like to encourage anyone offered the opportunity to explore EE to grasp the opportunity without hesitation. You will be exposed to a multitude of emotions, develop empathy for those forced to leave their homeland for whatever reason and experience exhilaration and gratitude for life whether “here or there”..