

## **Review of HISS 2015**

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I was fortunate enough to receive a bursary to aid me in attending HISS 2015 and I was very glad I did!

The accommodation is very satisfactory. It is student accommodation, very clean, all en-suite, tea and coffee making facilities and with a kitchenette on every floor with all of the things one might require. Do remember to bring some cutlery and crockery if you do bring any food with you as not every kitchen had any. The only downside is that there is no lift in the buildings and if you are carrying numerous or heavy instruments, be prepared to climb stairs.

Breakfast and dinner were provided and was very enjoyable; lots of choice and generous portions. Refreshments were also provided during break times. Again, you could have a refill and biscuits were also provided. The banquet's three-course meal was also very enjoyable and the food well made.

The timetable was packed. Sometimes, if you brought multiple instruments, deciding which session to attend was really hard! However, there was not a single moment where I felt that I couldn't do anything. The tutors were amazing. I learnt such a lot from them. They were really approachable and on many occasions, we were able to meet outside of the sessions to go through a piece of music or have a chat over a concept. We used great music and it didn't matter what level you were in your playing, everyone could join in at something. Equally, it was also a safe place to make mistakes. There were no judgments and everyone supported everyone. There was no ego either.

The social side of HISS was great! We would meet in the bar at the end of the evening after band rehearsal and just jam! Anyone and everyone would sing or pick up an instrument and just join in! I had some much fun. Also, meeting up and having a jam with smaller groups on specific music was also great. I picked up a crumhorn for the first time and now am a fan! We all performed at the musical banquet and it was great to see all of the music and performances that others had worked on.

I thoroughly enjoyed HISS and would love to attend again. I made new friends and new contacts. I learned huge amounts from all of the tutors and the participants. I would thoroughly recommend HISS regardless of how little you have played or how experienced a musician you are. You will learn something from it.