The European Law Students’ Association is an organisation that I decided to get involved with last year due to cultural diversity being something that I see as hugely important. At that point, I knew relatively little about the organisation. I decided that to gain a deeper understanding about what ELSA is and to get some sun, I would apply to study International Human Rights and Public Health Law as part of an ELSA Summer School at the University Of Salerno, Italy. Thankfully, my application was successful.

The week was filled with various enriching social and academic activities. In the mornings until the afternoon, we would have lectures from some of the preeminent experts in the field from around the world, including from the University of Washington, the University of Geneva, the University of Groningen and many more. These lectures covered a range of different interesting topics in the field of Human Rights and Public Health Law. One of the things that amazed me when I was applying to study on an ELSA Summer School was the extraordinary range of legal areas covered for ELSA Summer Schools in a vast amount of different countries.
On two of the afternoons, to get a change of pace from the lectures, we attended extremely engaging workshops. One of which was a legal debate which took place at ‘Sala del Consiglio’ situated in the Palace of Province of Salerno.

After our lectures, we tended to get a couple of hours of free time to relax and do whatever we wanted. I spent most of this time enjoying Salerno’s golden beaches with friends and frequenting ice cream parlours. One of the days I did, however, get adventurous and go on a hike through some of Salerno’s nature trails up to a medieval castle, Castello di Arechi, which allows breathtaking coastline views. One day’s free time was also spent spectating a fencing competition as part of the 2019 Summer Universiade.

Every evening had a designated social event. For example, on the first evening, an International dinner was held where we got to meet everyone and try traditional food from each of our home countries, setting a great tone for the week, and the second night was filled with an exciting pub crawl in some of Salerno’s cool and quirky bars. My favourite social night, excluding the pool party (which I will get to), had to be dinner at an authentic cosy Neapolitan restaurant called ‘La Botte Pazza’. Here we got to try delicious Italian cuisine complemented with an unlimited red and white wine fountain, and I mean unlimited.

On the evening of the closing lecture, we had our Gala Ball. For this, the organising committee had hired out an amazing venue in the vineyard filled hills, Ristorante Emozionando, for a pool party and a feast. This was a very special night that I won’t soon forget.

On our final day, with full stomachs and slightly sore heads, we went on a boat trip to explore the Amalfi coast along the southern edge of Italy’s Sorrentine Peninsula, which I think speaks for itself.
My experience at an ELSA Summer School was without a doubt a positive one. It was not only academically enriching but also socially and culturally too. I made so many friends from all around the globe and I am planning on hopefully meeting up with many in their home countries. I cannot stress enough how much the expedition fund helped me in this experience.

I cannot thank the ELSA Salerno committee enough for all their hard work in creating such a truly memorable week! I would strongly recommend looking at and applying for an ELSA Summer, or Winter, Law School.