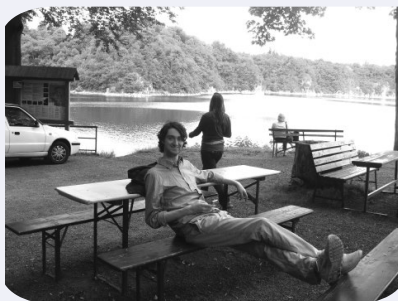


# soWhat CAN YOU DO WITH INTERNATIONAL STUDIES?

Personal photo by John McGregor



## **Technology 24/7**

**John McGregor,  
International Studies Graduate  
Student and Soccer Blogger**

New technology has completely changed the way I operate both inside and outside the classroom. My personal life and education are driven by these technological advances. It is the best way to keep in

contact with friends and family now spread out all over the globe. In school, I use the Internet to conduct research and to communicate with my professors. While I still use the library for research, I usually identify the material I need online, even if I review or acquire it through the library. All my assignments are prepared on the computer, and are usually sent directly to my professors online. I have my computer or iPad with me for note taking in all my classes.

Thanks to developments in New Media, I obtain roughly 90% of my local, national, and international news from Twitter. It gives me the opportunity to follow an infinite number of journalists and news publications that deliver news and opinions constantly on a 24-hour cycle. The brevity of Twitter allows me to consume a large amount of news very quickly, while almost every post features a link that leads to a more in-depth story. The ability to tailor my news experience in a very personalized way allows me to pick sources that I know to be credible. As someone who is constantly on the go and relying on a mobile device, there is no more efficient way to stay informed.

I rely on my iPhone more than any piece of technology that I currently own. It plays a vital role in my daily routine, from supplying the alarm that wakes me to allowing me to check multiple email accounts in seconds. It also lets me check Twitter to see what has been going in the world over the few hours I slept, all while downloading up to the minute weather reports that help me plan my day. It lets me stay in touch with friends through text messaging, video conferencing, and old-fashioned phone conversations. The iPhone certainly plays a vital role in my life, and its absence would greatly alter how I live on a day-to-day basis.

The biggest way that technology has led me across international borders is through my love of soccer. The Internet and Social Media have not only allowed me to connect to fans all over the world, but to interact directly with the journalists and media sources dedicated to covering the sport. As someone who writes about soccer, it is an invaluable resource to be able to directly communicate with some of the best writers in the industry, who all have a significant presence with Social Media. This resource has increased both my knowledge and love for the sport, as well as continuing to make me a better writer.