

Exchange Report
University of East Anglia(UEA), Norwich

Exact dates of semester abroad:

28 September- 19 January

Preparation and Journey:

After having solicited UEA as my exchange faculty all the necessary arrangements came down to presenting a proof for the English Language, and arranging the trip to Norwich. Since my degree by the RUG is fully english-taught I did not have to present much as proof, but a C2 certificate earned the first year during an Academic English Course.

Given that I was going to Norwich with a classmate from Groningen, we booked a flight very much in advance directly to the small airport of Norwich. The prices at that time (3-4 months in advance) hovered around 250 euro with check in luggage included. This turned out a bargain, as otherwise we would have been forced to travelling from London by train to Norwich, and of course that would entail additional costs.

Residence abroad:

As I was not sure I would be able to find private accommodation, I opted for the University provided accommodation. When filling out the forms provided by the UEA portal, you would have to request university housing and provide the UEA with a list of preference. They got back at me within couple of weeks, and everything was sorted out at that point. This will save you a lot of hassle, since Norwich is pretty similar to Groningen in terms of size, and hence it can be very often overbooked. I lived on-campus for the 3 months I was there, paying almost 400 pounds per month. The price was a bit high, but even looking around one cannot find much cheaper. However, living on-campus has its advantages. All the lectures were at walking distance, as well as a grocery store and all the sport facilities you would need.

Grant:

I received 2 months worth of grant (approx. 250 per month) upon arrival in Norwich, and the leftover month around January. I have to say that the living expenses in Norwich were not mind blowing as everyone told me before. Takeaway and restaurants are cheaper, and some groceries are also cheaper. However, keep in mind that sport facilities are more expensive. Also you will also have to pay for laundry, since there are no laundry machines on the separate flats on-campus, but only a big laundry centre.

Study:

My topics during these 3 months were English Land Law, Media Law, Comparative Law. The topics have 10ECTS each, and they run through the entire 3 months. I would advise anyone to take Media Law, as it is very well taught and interesting. You basically learn how the entire media, both written and broadcast, is regulated, who can complain against frivolous publications, the freedom of speech and its boundaries etc... Comparative Law was a third-year topic and was taught on seminar basis. We were a group of 20 students at most, and every lecture was on a different legal topic, which was analyzed from the perspective of many legal traditions. I have to say that the topic was not the most interesting, however it was very interactive in class. Land Law was a complete other story. I picked land law, because I thought it would be insightful to know how land is regulated in the Common Law. I have to point out that it is like nothing I had done during my LLB in Groningen, and it will require you to pay attention in all the Lectures. The course is very

technical in that it deals with specifics of the Common law, and analysing national intricate statutes. I would not recommend anyone to take it, unless they are planning to practice law in the UK.

The evaluation is done on the basis of coursework. The coursework consists on a takehome written essay that you have to hand in usually by mid January. There will be a central question, or a bunch of them from which you can pick, and you will have to write a certain amount of words elaborating the topic. In my case I had two 2500 word essays for Land Law and Media Law, and a 3800 word essay for Comparative Law. The advantage of Comparative law was that the students got to pick the topic themselves and elaborate on that. This allows for a grater room of manoeuvre, since anyone can pick the topic which they are most comfortable with.

Relevant info:

There is a bus ride from campus to the City Centre every 15 minutes, which takes you to the destination in about 20 minutes. The city does not offer many activities; however, it does offer a wide array of cheap restaurants and a huge shopping mall.

I would also recommend anyone to get a prepaid sim from T-mobile. This will set you back around 12.5 pounds per month, while giving you all the 3g data and calls that you need.

Overall impression on the study abroad:

As far as the university goes, I do strongly recommend it to anyone. The quality of teaching and staff is impressive, and the teaching units are very organised.

The city of Norwich is also recommendable. It is a quaint old city with a lot of hidden history, and very chilled to live in. It is located not far away from London, or beautiful Cambridge.

If anyone is planning to go to the UK, be it Norwich or wherever else, they will draw great benefits with the English Language, be it spoken or written. Skills that they will be very handy in the future.