

Exchange report at the University of East Anglia (UK)

The Study Programme

There were many courses to choose from at UEA which focused on a wide array of different issues. This means that there are courses available to suit most people's legal interests. You have to choose three courses to achieve the required number of credits for the exchange period. The courses that I studied were:

- Divorce Law: Adult Relationships
- Discrimination Law
- Criminal Process

I found criminal process to be particularly interesting as it focussed on the way in which the procedural law in UK courts can lead to injustice in the outcome of cases. In terms of getting onto the courses it was relatively simple, I only had to apply once and got onto the courses straight away. It is important to try to choose your courses based on what interests you as it is a lot harder to study for a subject which you are not engrossed in.

For my assessment I had to write three essays, one for each subject, and all below 3000 words. The lack of exams and light workload made this university experience far more relaxed than that at Groningen. I would recommend Discrimination Law and Criminal Process however all three modules that I took were very UK centric. This was a positive for me as I am British however it may have less relevance to someone else.

Language

The language of all the courses is English so any student who has already passed proficiency tests for speaking and writing should have no issue with understanding the modules. As English is my first language there were no issues here.

Finance and other conditions

I did not need to get any visa or residence permit for living in the UK however UEA provides a lot of extra guidance for students who do need access to such documents. The registration for UEA is almost all online however some can be done in person if you prefer at one of the registration days on campus. You will get your student card during one of the registration days.

The cost of living was similar to that in Groningen. Food was not expensive as most students shopped at the Aldi near to campus.

Preparation and contacts with the faculty abroad

We were assigned an advisor who we could contact with any issues regarding the exchange period or any other general queries about student life. He was always quick to respond and could meet relatively quickly. There was a mandatory meeting with the advisor when the exchange period began where we could discuss any issues or ask questions about both academic and practical matters. There are also phone numbers for each subject area on the UEA website for more specific questions.

Housing (rent, what kind of housing, recommended neighbourhoods, etc.)

Housing was the most difficult aspect of exchange to arrange. This was due to the fact that most places had contracts for a minimum of one year and my exchange period was only 6 months. There was also no reserved student accommodation on campus for University of Groningen students (but there was for some other exchange groups).

I found a room through spareroom.com which was a 20 minute cycle from the university. The housing is not an issue if you do not mind not necessarily living with other students. There is also the option for students to live with a family in Norwich and the website for this is on the UEA website. My rent was similar to that in Groningen and I lived out of the city centre which was nice as it meant it was more peaceful and there was more greenspace.

I recommend trying to sort out accommodation as soon as possible as this is the area where you are most likely to encounter issues.

Culture, free time and travelling

Norwich is a lovely city with a lot of culture. There are lots of traditional old buildings including a cathedral and Norwich castle which are both worth a visit. Norwich is also surrounded by countryside which is nice to go walking in or cycling. A place nearby that I would definitely recommend to visit is Winterton on the Sea. During December and January there are many seal pups on the beach.

It is relatively easy to reach Norwich by train however it takes a long time to drive into as there have been efforts to reduce the number of cars in the city centre.

Other (tips, suggestions, comments, opinions, etc.)

Due to the light work load I recommend joining one of the many societies that the university has to offer. There is also an Olympic sized swimming pool on campus and a gym where exercise classes are held.