

For my semester abroad, I went to the University of East Anglia (UEA) in Norwich. In these three months, I followed three law modules during my stay. There are many modules available for exchange students and are listed on UEA's website. I chose Discrimination Law, Company Law and Internet Law. Each course consisted out of two lectures a week and a seminar every other week. The lectures are only an hour long and the seminars were two hours. The assessment for all the courses are essays which should be handed in after New Year's. A formative essay is made available somewhere in the middle of the semester. The formatives are not mandatory, but are nevertheless a great practice to see if you understand the material and receive individual feedback from the lecturer, which is useful for your summative essay. I would recommend all courses since they all address some serious and interesting topics. For both Internet and Discrimination Law the lecturer would print handouts for each student in order to follow the lecture. I barely used my laptop for these lectures.

At UEA, the focus is brought towards active participation during seminars. The lecturers clearly try to provoke discussion among students. Each seminar has required reading and some questions to be prepared in advance, but also consisted out of 'discussion questions' which would be discussed during the seminar. Rather than to just go through all the questions during the seminars, the lecturers will try to make you think about the topic first, discuss and debate over it with fellow students, and then answer the question in accordance to what has been previously discussed. It's a nice approach of tackling a problem question. For most of the subjects I took, the reading was quite doable as long as you kept up with it and the reading material was not too hard to understand.

I flew to Norwich International Airport and booked a service provided by UEA on their website. This service implies that there will be a senior student from UEA waiting for you at the airport and guide you to a pre-booked taxi that will take you to the Congregation Hall of UEA. It was free and the registration was at C-Hall so it was actually quite helpful to book this service. Upon arrival, you have to register and pick up your campus card and, if applicable, your accommodation key. This all was very easy to find and there are loads of senior students to help you out if you got lost. Once that was settled, there was another coach service that would bring you and your entire luggage to your assigned accommodation. Since international students are required to arrive on the arrival dates, you will not find many English students around in your flats since they will only arrive the weekend before lectures start. Hence, it felt a bit lonely on those days. Nevertheless, you get to explore the campus during those days and since there is an entire Orientation Days programme, I would really recommend you to follow that since that will help you getting familiar with the campus. Also try to participate in as many available events, such as the Welcoming Drinks, Afternoon Tea and the pub quiz since you might meet your future friends and fellow students there.

The staff at UEA is really friendly. The study abroad office sends an email regularly to keep international students updated about everything that is going on and which are relevant. The study abroad team also plans out events for international students such as a Thanksgiving dinner, pub quizzes and a Christmas dinner which are free to attend and are fun to meet fellow international students.

Naturally, speaking English in England is no problem. You don't need to prepare anything and I barely had any problems communicating with British people. Sometimes, it could get a bit hard since some people have heavier accents than others, but all in all it was no problem. I even learned a

few slangs and might have lightly picked up a British accent.

If you are to live on campus, the costs will rise with it. Since I got the opportunity to share my room, my costs were cut in half. Normally speaking, a student living on campus would have to pay approximately 150 pounds a week. I lived in a shared room in Norfolk Terrace and I paid roughly 75 each week for accommodation. Since the accommodations do not include washing machines, you have to put some money aside for the launderette as well. You'll pay 3 pounds once for a laundry card and every wash is around 2.80. I never used the drying machines since I've heard they don't do the work and I bought a drying rack with my roommate to share instead.

For the groceries, I tried to minimize the costs as much as possible. The SU shop, which is the supermarket on campus, is quite expensive and so is the nearby Tesco and COOP. At the beginning of the semester, I bought a bike for 30 pounds on gumtree.com and invested in a D-lock (10 pounds approx). This allowed me to cycle to the nearest Aldi and buy groceries which were way cheaper than any other local supermarkets. My expenses were roughly 10-18 pounds a week for groceries depending on your preferences. Don't forget that pounds are more valuable than Euros, which means that converted back to Euros the costs will be higher than in pounds sterling.

As I mentioned before, I got a shared room in Norfolk Terrace. Norfolk and Suffolk Terrace are on campus itself and close to most lecture buildings and the main street on campus where the shops, launderette and the bar are located. However, I didn't know whether I had accommodation until the beginning of September. I've contacted the University multiple times about whether they had more information about housing. However, I was told that Erasmus exchange students were non-guaranteed for housing. I started looking for alternatives, but hardly found anything that was near campus and if they were, I would not meet the minimum residency requirement of the contract. Most landlords will only sublet/rent out their rooms for a minimum of 6 months or longer. Therefore, I took my chances and decided to wait for UEA to offer something and was lucky enough to get a room. However, I've also met someone who wasn't as lucky and had to stay at a B&B near campus and was paying an awful lot of money. My advice for if you start to worry about campus accommodation is to either start looking for housing early or try Homestay.

A little tip if you stay on campus: the university offers UniKitOut for your sheets, duvets and pillows if you don't bring them yourself. I considered the kits quite expensive (52 pounds cheapest) and ordered my sheets, pillow and fitted sheets online at Tesco for around 25 pounds. You just select your pickup location for the nearest Tesco et voilà.

Despite the nerve-wrecking situation to get housing on campus, once you get it, you won't forget it. It's one of the nicest experiences you'll ever have. I got very close with my flat mates and was very sad to leave them, but I made friends for life and I plan on visit them. I made some great Dutch friends who also went abroad and who were also sharing their rooms. We all got along with our roommates and of course each other as a group. So if you were offered to share your room with someone, I would really recommend it. You might make friends for life, some who might be even closer to home.

Upon my arrival in the room, the university offered an orange box with some useful stuff inside. For example, there was a Courtesy Taxi 10% discount keychain, which I have used every time I got a taxi from Courtesy. On top of that, taxis are extremely cheap compared to the Netherlands. A ride into town costs around 7 pounds, so on a night out with friends you can get a taxi altogether and

split the costs.

Also, if you decide to go into town by bus and you're with a group of five, you can get a Hi5. The ticket costs 8 pounds and is basically a day card for the bus for five people.

If you like to keep yourself busy like me, UEA offers a wide range of activities, but you have to find it out yourself. Attend the Sports' and Societies' Fair during the Orientation Days! You'll get to tryout some new sports, I did windsurfing for example, or you can continue doing the sport you have been doing at home. You're free to join whatever society you like and UEA has a bunch. There is something for everyone and there are even societies like the Gaming society, and Disney society which all organize events. These events and all the club nights are posted on www.uea.su where you will also have to buy your tickets on.

Another tip before going to the UK is to get a credit card if you don't already have one. Most payments online are made with credit cards. This includes the website of the Student Union, as mentioned previously, where you need to pay for some events in order to participate. For example, I went to the beach for a Seals Trip, but had to pay participation fees. Besides, club nights in the LCR also cost money (approx. 4 pounds) on a normal night. But some events which are extremely popular, like the Opening Ball cost more money.

I would recommend looking on Facebook as well before you go. There are some useful Facebook groups which I've joined before I went. Look for UEA Law Society, Official UEA Freshers & Returners and For Sale in Norwich for example. I've also made it possible to resell my bike in the last week by posting in Facebook groups as well.

All in all, my period abroad went by very smoothly. Despite being stressful at first, it all worked out just fine and time flew by faster than I would have liked. UEA is a great university to study and if you get the opportunity to live on campus, you'll definitely make the most out of it. I made great friends abroad and friends from the Netherlands who also went abroad. I got to participate in a lot of events and trips in the UK and have learned a lot from my modules. From all I know it's that it wasn't a semester abroad in my life, but a life in my semester abroad.