

To which foreign country did you go: Exeter University

Country: UK

- Study period in 1st semester
- Start date study abroad: 25 September 2017
- End date: 18 January 2018
- Period of classes: from 25 September until 15 December 2017
- Examination period: from: 11 January 2018 until 18 January 2018
- Did you follow a language course: No

Courses completed at the host university:

1. Immigration, Nationality and Asylum Law
2. Family Law
3. Environmental Law and Planning
4. Conflict of Laws

Study Programme:

When choosing my courses for Exeter I was a bit disappointed with the options that we could choose from, however upon my arrival in Exeter I found out that there were in fact many more courses we could choose from as we are able to take full year courses for just half a year. And although I had to change some courses anyway as they were not available anymore or not suitable, I also switched some since I preferred the options I had now. In the end I ended up taking Immigration, Nationality and Asylum law, Family law, Conflict of laws, and Environmental law and planning. They were all 7.5 ECTS, and since I was a semester one student that took all full year courses I had an essay to write for all of these, the grade of which would be 100% of my final grade. This very much had two sides, it meant that some of the material taught was irrelevant for you and therefore you possibly lost out on a good portion of the course and also since the essay titles were all given around the same time it meant that I had to write 4 essays at the same time that weighed 100%, which could be a little stressful and also demotivating at times.

Immigration, Nationality and Asylum law was a very interesting subject I found, as it was much more focused and detailed than any of the courses I have taken in Groningen. The course coordinator and lecturer Helena Wray did a very good job of conveying the legal system surrounding immigration and managed to really peak my interest. I therefore very much enjoyed learning about this subject, and although sometimes very complicated and quite intricate it gave a very good understanding of the present laws.

Family law was a subject that was very popular. The lectures were given by two very qualified and specialised judges, who managed to impart a lot of knowledge on us also with the use of private anecdotes on their involvement or perceptions on certain cases, which made the course very interesting. This was also quite a specific subject and the complicated and often not so straight forward way in which family law works was conveyed very well in the working groups with the examining of case law and case solving that we did which showed the intricate nature.

Conflict of laws is more similar to subjects we have had at LLB in Groningen I would say. It looks at international law and European law and how cases of conflict of laws were handled. It was however quite a vague subject I would say and grasping it was more difficult than the other courses I took, although the lecturers of this course were some of the most friendly and helpful ones I have encountered and also took the time to privately explain issues I had with the course.

Environmental law and planning was the fourth course I took which I very much enjoyed. Mostly it was quite eye opening to see both the lack of compliance with environmental law and also the general lack of standard that is held to this law and issue. The course was one of quite low maintenance, as it was an essay subject and working groups had quite a large focus on essay writing and preparation. This was however very helpful as all my other courses were also essay writing courses for me and did not focus on this.

As I enjoyed all of my courses and thought the workload was manageable and the lectures given were very interesting, I would recommend them to future students.

Reception at Host University and other tips:

As I mentioned before my reception was very good. It was very easy to meet a lot of other students and integrate with the other students, although you did have to make an effort. There is an Erasmus society that plans a lot of activities for Erasmus students, which I found a great way to meet other exchange students who are also very open to meet new people. Next to that there are many other social, sport or academic societies that often allow exchange students to join for half a year and I found to be very welcoming. Therefore I would definitely recommend joining a society, there are more than 200 to choose from.

Language preparation:

I did not take any language courses before or during my time in Exeter, as everything is in English, just like at my current university therefore I would say it is not necessary.

Finances and general matters:

Everything in Exeter is generally more expensive. Although I was lucky with the housing I found, overall the housing prices are far higher in England and Exeter. The food and beverages were just a little bit more expensive however grocery shopping at the main stores was definitely. I would recommend going to cheaper stores such as ALDI, LIDL or Poundland for cheaper groceries however these were usually further out.

Preparation and contact with the faculty abroad:

I found the faculty abroad to be very helpful and responsive at all times. Both when contacting them before coming to Exeter as well as when in Exeter, they were very understanding of any problems we as exchange students might be facing. Also the contact I had with the law office in particular there was very pleasant and they were very accommodating. Other students and

other exchange students I came in contact with in Exeter were very open and nice, and all very helpful and understanding.

#### Housing:

Housing I would say is very difficult in Exeter, both I, and most of the people I met, found this to be true. University accommodation for one semester university students go pretty quickly, however is also more expensive and often you might end up living in a studio apartment for a high price. Therefore I would generally recommend if possible finding private housing for example with other one semester students, as I did, or check the Facebook pages or websites such as [sparerroom.co.uk](http://sparerroom.co.uk) to find housing for a few months only. I stayed in St Davids, which is near to the train station, in between campus and the city centre and also has quite some student accommodation in that area, it felt very safe and was very homey so therefore I would definitely recommend this area.

#### Guidance/reception at host university:

When arriving to Exeter the guidance provided was very good, in the Fresher week there were multiple assemblies for international and Erasmus students to introduce them to Exeter and the possibilities. There were also many opportunities to meet a lot of new people in this week and join social, sport and academic societies. This is I believe to be very successful as it was a very easy and open way to get involved. Everyone was also assigned a mentor for the exchange in case they needed help, which I didn't really end up needing but thought was very helpful.