



ERASMUS GRANT Study Report

This form needs to be completed by every student who has received a scholarship from the Marco Polo Fund.

I completed my exchange period at the University of East Anglia (UEA), Norwich in the United Kingdom. I thoroughly enjoyed my experience at the UEA, the courses I took were well taught and academically stimulating and the lectures were extremely helpful and accommodating at all times. I took three courses during my exchange, Company Law, Family Law: Adult Relationships and Land Law and would strongly recommend these courses to anyone thinking about doing their exchange at the UEA.

Being in the United Kingdom there was no real language barrier, lectures and other students were easy to understand and which helped getting settled in a lot easier especially when trying to make new friends. I had been previously informed that some accents would be more difficult to understand than others, however, I found this was not the case as although people from around the UK did indeed have their own accents, understanding them was not a problem at all and I found communicating rather easy.

With regards to the living costs in the UK and in Norwich in particular, living costs are a little higher than in Groningen, you may find yourself spending a little more on your monthly grocery bills than usual. When it comes to social expenses, again the costs are expected to be a little higher than here in Groningen for drinks as well as actually club entrance fees. Whereas in Groningen entrance fees to clubs are very seldom if not non-existent, students must be prepared to spend a little extra on a night out in Norwich or even the student Club on Campus.

The preparation and contact with the faculty before, during and after your stay at the UEA is very fast and efficient the mobility office replies emails very quickly and they make sure you are aware of everything that is expected of you before you arrive, which reduces the panic and confusion when you arrive and need to register, receive your student card and house keys etc. During the mobility, my personal experience with the faculty was very good. I unfortunately broke my hand whilst on my exchange and the faculty was very helpful and understanding of my situation, all my lecturers were informed of this and were asked to help accommodate my inability to use my dominant hand. Furthermore, I was even given a Dictaphone for as long as I couldn't take notes to record all my lectures. The help and ease of contact with the faculty even continued after the mobility period.

Housing for exchange students is not guaranteed by the receiving university so this may be a little difficult for students that may have particular preferences and still want to be situated on campus. Students will probably have to share a room with another student, however, they try their best to pair students with like-minded individuals which was evident as I got on very well with the student I had to share the room with. If for whatever reason you decide you don't like your roommate or the accommodation you are assigned to you can apply to switch rooms and accommodations on campus as several students switch around in the first few weeks, it may still be possible to get other accommodation. Private housing is usually not

possible as it is common practice for housing agencies to only give out contracts for a minimum of 6 months.

The culture is very easy to adjust to, and in many ways, is similar to the student culture here in Groningen. The first friends you will make will probably be your housemates and it is very common for groups of housemates to go for casual drinks at the student bar on campus. Sports and football in particular is part of their culture and student bars on and off campus often play games live where students can go and watch these games with other students. The nightlife in Norwich is good despite it being a relatively small town although Tuesdays and Saturdays are usually spent at the Campus club, there are many options to choose from on a night out with some friends.

With regards to free time, you will have some time to definitely explore the experience a little more. I took the opportunity to join a few clubs and the university Rugby team whilst on my exchange and strongly advise other students to get involved as well, not only will you get to meet several people from different cultures but you can also make a lot of friends and be part of sporting socials that take place every Wednesdays typically after games in the afternoon, which were some of my highlights whilst studying abroad.

Travelling around the UK is not too expensive depending on where you may want to travel. Coach services like national express and Megabus make travelling around the UK a lot easier and are a cheaper alternative if you don't mind a potentially long bus ride. Travelling around Europe is also relatively easy and it is also good to know that the flight from Norwich to Groningen will take roughly 40 minutes if you decide you miss some friends in Groningen.