

Exchange period at the University of Exeter, United Kingdom

Courses:

The courses were easy to follow. They don't work in blocks, you choose subjects for the whole semester. However, each module only has three working groups so you really have to understand the lectures. Luckily, the lectures were recorded but it means self-study is necessary. I only had one exam which was for unjust enrichment. This course was interactive, we did problem questions in class. It was a more detailed version of the unjust enrichment we learnt in private law. Commercial law was an interesting subject, however the first semester they were only focusing on British commercial law. There was a lot of substance within this course, however the final assessment is an essay in which you are able to pick from given questions with a 3 different topics. Immigration, nationality and asylum law was not as interesting as I had hoped it would be. I was very excited for the class, however it was slow paced and rather repetitive. The summative was also an essay but they only gave us one question. The question was really vague and when I asked the teacher for guidance, she was not keen on helping me personally and did not answer any questions if I came to her personally. She said I needed to post them on the student website, however it was very uncanny and stressful that she completely rejected all my direct questions. Company law was a hard yet very enjoyable subject. The UK is known to provide company law classes and the content was really interesting. The final assessment was also an essay with one specific question. All these law courses focused on the British legal system. There were more courses to choose from once I arrived in the UK. In Groningen, the courses were limited and some were rejected by the board of examiners due to being half a law course.

Guidance and Reception:

Before we arrive at the university, we received an email saying that there was a compulsory introduction week. It was called freshers week, and when we were there they informed us that it was actually optional. However the week does provide good insight to the campus as there were lots of activities and tasters. Basically if you want to join a society on campus, during freshers week they will provide tasters for you to try out the activities. I tried out some tasters and found out that there was a fee to join these societies, they were mostly yearly but some would make exceptions. At the beginning you will need to set up a meeting with the exchange coordinator to finalise the learning agreement, we are able to come to her if we need any guidance on the exchange. They set up a tutor arrangement for the exchange students, in which we are supposed to meet to discuss our progress and any difficulties. However, I only met mine once and he did not provide much guidance to what I needed. Another important thing is that the introduction week is different from in Groningen, you need to make your own friends. There was not an event like ESN in which we are put in groups, you actually have to talk to people.

Housing:

It is very crucial for you to get accommodation provided by the university. Unfortunately, the university accepted me after the registration for university accommodation had closed. So, I had to find housing out of

the university. I cannot stress enough how we need to get accommodation from the university. It was very hard for me to find accommodation because in Exeter, they mostly do full year contracts. I ended up with a highly priced private accommodation and the room size was smaller than my room in Groningen. Even though there were still lots of cheaper options available at the time from private housings, I could not take them as they would not provide half year contracts. I ultimately got mine last minute and it was a very stressful experience. The accommodation was alright, it had a common room and was in the city centre. Exeter has a lot of hills so you have to hike to the campus, so it would save you time and effort if you live near the Streatham campus. The Streatham campus has the library and all the law classes, we did not have any classes or activities at the St Luke's campus.

Finances:

The United Kingdom generally has a higher living cost. The accommodation alone was very expensive and took up most of the living cost. Grocery shopping was reasonable, the costs were generally higher but you can find cheap stores and shop there. The main supermarkets were Tesco and Sainsbury. Apparently there was an Aldi or Lidl store but it could be out of the city centre as I didn't see it. The living costs in Exeter could be really high depending on your lifestyle, people like to eat out and they take taxis often. You could get around walking but it would take longer and its more tiring due to the hills. If you are not from the EU, you can apply for a short term study visa instead of a tier 4 visa which is more expensive.

Language:

There was no need for me to follow any language courses. All the courses were taught in English.