

## **Experiences abroad at Nottingham Trent University**

### **Your study program:**

At NTU there were 6 optional subjects to study during the first semester. Some of these were especially designed for exchange students and other subjects were also taken by English law students. The three subjects that I chose for my 30 ECTs were: Comparative law, Legal Method, and Laws of Armed Conflict. Comparative law concerned comparing several legal systems, mostly comparing foreign systems with that of the UK, this subject was also taught in the English law program. Legal Method was especially provided to exchange students and had the aim of helping us understand the English legal system. Laws of Armed Conflict strongly relates to Public International Law and provided a specific view on armed conflicts in international law, this subject was also provided for English law students.

Writing a written assignment on the subjects discussed throughout the semester completed all three subjects and the essays are handed in through Dropbox.

All professors were very helpful and open-minded and always ready to help out if anything was unclear.

### **Language:**

The language of all instruction and all communication at the university is English.

### **Finance and other conditions:**

The UK is definitely more expensive than Groningen. Not only is rent higher, but so are products in the supermarkets, restaurants, cinema's, coffee bars, etc. Overall I would say I spent roughly €300 - €400 per month more than in The Netherlands, the main reason being rent. However, there were no additional costs for the host university or the application procedure. Moreover, there was no need for a residence permit of any sort.

### **Preparation and contacts with the faculty abroad:**

Contact with the university was easy and accessible. The faculty responded promptly and with adequate care and provided all the necessary information while being available for any questions or uncertainties.

After Erasmus+ registration I received an email with all the documents they required at NTU and the contact details of the exchange office. This was set out in a clear manner and the forms were easy to fill in. Moreover, they also sent additional information brochures about the city, activities, and housing.

### **Housing:**

Most student housing facilities in Nottingham are only for rent for the entire scholastic year. However, in the welcome email NTU included a brochure about Portland House international housing facilities. Portland House is a lovely place to

spend your semester abroad as it has a great international community. The house consists of 4 floors with in total 54 international students, most of which are only staying one semester. Although the quality of the building itself is not great, to say the least, the community made my time in Nottingham very enjoyable.

Generally all rent in student facilities is paid weekly. Rent prices can vary from 100 GBP per week up to 250 GBP per week for student housing.

### **Guidance / reception at host university:**

NTU has an introductory week similar to the KEI-week except it takes 1.5 weeks. There are a lot of activities during this week, which are all outlined in the booklet, which are widely available.

I would not necessarily advice going the full 1.5 weeks, however, to spend a few days adjusting to Nottingham and NTU during the fresher's week is very nice. Nothing during this week is mandatory however it is fun to participate and a good way to get to know new people.

Moreover, the guidance at the university is very extensive. All professors are always available for any additional questions or queries and they are easy to reach. One of my professors was even available to Skype if I had any concerns regarding my final assignment while being back in Groningen.

### **Culture, free time, and traveling:**

During my semester at NTU I had 12 hours of lectures/seminars per week, spread across 3 days. Therefore, I had plenty of time to travel around the UK and see different cities. Trains can be expensive, however there are several bus companies such as National Express that provide good transport for a good price, making it very easy to travel around the UK. Moreover, a company called Citylife UK Nottingham, organizes many trips especially designed for international students to see the country. These trips are a fun way to meet new people and visit new cities.

Citylife also organizes many bar crawls throughout the semester, most international students tend to join these bar crawls and usually you will meet the same people of the trips at the bar crawls as well.

### **Other:**

I would describe Nottingham as the "Groningen of the UK", as it has approximately the same size, everything is within walking distance, and students are at the heart of the city.