

Exchange at the University of Exeter (UK)

The Study Programme:

There are a wide range of courses available for exchange students in Exeter. Choice of module takes place before arrival in Exeter via email correspondence, but courses can be changed up until a certain period by talking to relevant faculty staff. I had difficulty getting a place on all of the modules which I asked to be on.

- My selected modules: Islamic Law and Society, Intellectual Property, Discrimination Law, Environmental Law

The scope of these modules is good. I would recommend taking courses you are interested in if possible. The modules I ended up taking weren't my first choice. Taking four modules is necessary because each Exeter module is only worth 7.5 ECTS. The difficulty of study and examination is similar to that of Groningen. However, there is a default setting for Semester One students to do alternative assessment. This means that if an exam would be the normal mode of assessment, an alternative assessment (such as an Essay) will be provided for Erasmus/Exchange students. I would recommend Islamic Law and Society and Environmental Law modules as I found these the most stimulating.

Language

As a native speaker of English, I did not encounter difficulties with the language of teaching or assessment. The language used is not very different to the level at Groningen.

Finance and other conditions

As an EU citizen and UK national I experienced no issues with a residence permit. They are stricter on attendance for those who sign up with certain Visas. Exeter student life was not much different in price compared to the Netherlands. Shopping in supermarkets such as Aldi or using student deals at places like Coop (10% discount with an TOTUM card) is a useful tip. Amazon.co.uk is good for cheap course textbooks. In terms of registration with the University, this mostly takes form online and you must collect a student card during freshers' week.

Preparation and contacts with the faculty abroad

The exchange faculty at Exeter are very helpful with any queries you may have. I contacted them via email numerous times and received replies very quickly. There is a student information desk which is contactable online or in person which can help with directing queries to the correct place.

Housing (rent, what kind of housing, recommended neighbourhoods, etc.)

I had difficulty trying to sort out a place in Exeter. If you wish to live with students privately, they may ask you to sign a contract for a 12-month period. I think housing university-provided housing options are limited for semester-only students. I used spareroom.co.uk to find a room, there seemed to be lots of places available but were actually only limited options for a short-term rent from a student. I lived in Heavitree which is outside the main city so had to

take a 20-minute bus to Streatham campus which was not ideal. Living in the city or near the campus would be nice and preferable to this, although Heavitree was nice.

Guidance / reception at host university (introduction programme, social events, study programme, guidance, social care and help from host university)

There is a fresher's week which provides information for societies as well as faculty and exchange information sessions during this week. Lecturers, secretaries, support centre can all be contacted via ELE (Exeter Learning Environment).

Culture, free time and travelling

There are numerous places to visit near Exeter. There are two national parks close by. The surrounding towns are also nice to walk to on a nice day. Exeter city centre is good for shopping and eating out too. Train travel to/from Exeter is prone to unreliability. Tickets should be bought far in advance to save money. The train usually takes 2/2:30hrs from London Paddington to Exeter St Davids. Can take coaches to other places in the UK for less money but it is slower. A web search of what there is to do in/around Exeter will return a lot of results.

Other (tips, suggestions, comments, opinions, etc.)

If you like joining social societies, nature and a campus-based university then Exeter is a good option for you.