

Exchange experience Nottingham Trent University, Fall 2018

Study Programs Offered

As I had decided to go abroad for a semester I decided to apply to Nottingham Trent University. After my acceptance I was given six 10 credit courses to pick from. Since we are required to have 30 credits abroad, I chose three courses, two of which were coursework papers. I picked Law of Armed Conflict (which required me to write 3000-word essay), Comparative law (2000-word essay) and Criminal law (written exam). For those that are interested in international law, I recommend that you pick Law of Armed Conflict as a course of choice to do on your exchange. Moreover, I come from a mixed jurisdiction states thus why I chose criminal law since the UK is a common law state.

Language

It is an English-speaking state so all courses are in English.

Finances and other conditions

It is quite expensive to live in the UK and groceries and accommodation are expensive. I lived in a private accommodation where I had to pay 3396 Euros for six months excluding the deposit. Water and electricity bills were not inclusive so every month I paid roughly around 70 Pounds. The Erasmus grant is only supportive to this and should not be relied on that much. Other costs I incurred were for Visa application which ended up totalling to 1060 Euros since my first two applications were rejected. My costs for groceries was around 200 Pounds per month.

Guidance/Reception at host University

Nottingham Trent University offers one of the most welcoming student learning experiences. The staff are very helpful and respond swiftly to your problems. Professors who offer lectures and tutor in working groups are very welcoming and offer a very interactive learning approach between students, making sure that everyone understands what they are learning. There is a 24-hour library, so you can work from the library overnight. Considering that Nottingham is a student city, it offers a great student experience and makes it easier to integrate within the environment. They host a number of social events for students and these can happen weekly.

Culture, free time and traveling

As for the culture, the people there are very welcoming and I would recommend people to go study in Nottingham. It is a fun and great place to be and if you want to take a break from the Dutch night life, Nottingham has the best night life with a variety of music, comedy and sporting shows available to you. During my visit I managed to make a lot of friends and since I travelled a lot I did a lot of networking.

Housing

I stayed in a private accommodation where I was paying 566 Euros. I do not know much about the neighbourhoods in Nottingham, however, I would suggest to stay close to centre and close to school

Others: Advise on Visa application to those that need one.

It is important to know of the political relation between your host country and your country of birth or where you are a citizen of. The relationship between Zimbabwe and the UK played a major role in the denial of my first and second visa application. On my first application, they stated that my Dutch bank account was not trustworthy and it was likely fraudulent because of the fact I was Zimbabwean citizen; and as well stating that the financial crisis in Zimbabwe meant that I would not be able to afford to live in the UK. My second rejection was based on the fact that my Dutch visa was expired even though there was evidence of my permit so they stated I was lying that I would go back to the Netherlands after my exchange was done. I ended up coming back to the Netherlands to apply for a visa and it was finally accepted.