

Exchange report Nottingham Trent University

Study Programs Offered:

I have decided to spend an exchange semester in the United Kingdom and I was selected for the University of Trent in Nottingham. After I was admitted I have been given a choice of 8 ten credit courses to select and in total I had to have 30 ECTS. I have chosen 3 courses, two of which have been exam courses, which were criminal law and lad law, and the third course was law of armed conflicts which was essay based course, where at the end of it as examination I had to hand in a 4000 word paper based on my research. I would really recommend picking armed conflicts as a course for your exchange as the essay is not very hard to complete and it is a very interesting subject.

Language:

Since the United Kingdom is an English speaking country all the courses were in English and it was the main language of the receiving institution.

Finances and other Conditions:

United Kingdom is a very expensive country to live in. Their main currency is the pound which makes a very bad conversion from euros, everything ends up costing several euros more due to bad conversion rates. I have lived in a private accommodation with my exchange friend where for 6 months we ended up paying 3300 euros in total per person, excluding any service costs. Every month we have paid around 70 pounds for the electricity on top of all the other costs. The Erasmus grant was helpful but it should not be used as a sole base for money reliance, it covers only the minimal costs. On top of that you have to remember that the Erasmus grant only covers the time you are studying so it does not cover exam period which is roughly one and a half months which you still have to spend living in your exchange location and rely solely on your own money.

Guidance/Reception at host University:

Nottingham Trent University gave a very pleasant exchange experience. The university employees were very supportive and were responding to most of the requests immediately. The students and professors are very welcoming and gave a very detailed and easy approach towards learning new material. The best part about the exchange was the 24 hour library in the center of Nottingham, where you could basically study at any point of the day or night without anyone interrupting your long study sessions.

Culture, free time and traveling:

When it comes to the question of the culture, British people are super welcoming and I would recommend anyone to study in Nottingham or any other British University. The night life is very nice, the city had a big diversity of bars to offer including several very large clubs. I have managed to make a lot of new friends and could really connect with local people which I have not experienced in some other countries.

Housing:

I have shared a private accommodation with my exchange friend from Rug. We have been paying 550 euros monthly per person for our apartment which was next to the city center. It was a bit hard to find a place to live in Nottingham as an exchange student, so I would recommend to start looking for a place at least 1 month in advance.

Others: Advice on Visa.

As I am a German citizen myself I had no complications entering the UK since I did not need to have a visa in order to visit the country. However, two of my friends which were coming with me to exchange from the Netherlands had a lot of hard time making a visa, one of them was from Dubai and the other from Zimbabwe, it took them roughly 2 month to collect all the required documents and get their visa approved after it got denied, therefore I would recommend to start any visa application as soon as possible as it can be a lengthy process.