

Nottingham Trent University, UK, Autumn 2019: Exchange Report

Study Programme:

My study programme in Nottingham Trent consisted of: Law of Trust & Advanced Legal Reasoning, Criminal Law with Mooting and Legal Method. Legal Method was very similar to the course Law and Legal Skills: The Dutch Example that the university of Groningen provides during the 1st year of the International and European Law LLB. I took this course because I thought that learning the 'Legal Method' of the United Kingdom would enhance my career opportunities in the future, as I can now say I know the European Continental legal skills as well as the UK's legal method, easy course and marketable in the future. Legal Method was assessed by way of coursework (essay) and carried out in weekly 4 hour long seminars (don't worry, the teacher is very kind and gives long breaks!). Regarding Criminal Law in Nottingham, it is very similar to the Criminal Law course taught in Groningen as well. However, the mooted part was new and I thought moot experience would be excellent. The Mooting Component consisted of writing an skeleton argument which was worth 50% of the final grade. The remaining 50% is assessed through coursework, where students had to choose between an essay style question where you critically review the state of the law, or through a problem question which more closely resembles the way criminal law is assessed here in Groningen.

Law of Trust was the only examination I had to physically sit in England. The teacher is the same person that teaches legal method and she is very helpful and really good at explaining things, definitely recommend this course but stay away from it if you do not like contract law / land law as they are fairly similar.

Language:

Unsurprisingly, everything was in English.

Finance & Other Conditions:

Estimated costs of living were comparable to those in Groningen, Nottingham is more expensive but I didn't struggle to cope with the same budget that I have in Groningen. I did not need a residence permit and there were no other costs associated with the exchange other than housing.

Preparation and Contacts with the Faculty Abroad

I can honestly say I tried very hard to prepare everything ASAP before my departure, I would reply to any emails I got from NTU as soon as I could and found myself waiting for their replies frequently, being unable to proceed with all the formalities. This was frustrating because I really wanted to find accommodation in the NTU's Sandby Residence (offers accommodation for exchange students with flexible contracts!) but by the time I had gotten through all the formalities, Sandby was fully booked. NTU does not let you apply for accommodation until you are fully registered / enrolled, but they have an accommodation contact address which can provide alternative solutions.

Housing

I stayed at Quality 4 International Students Portland house which specializes in providing housing for international / exchange students and offer flexible contracts. The building was fairly old but very well located. I had a lot of WiFi problems when I first arrived (slow as snails) but they upgraded services during my stay, the internet was fairly quick after that but if you are unlucky like me and end up in one of the rooms on the wrong side of the building then good luck getting a signal. The price was 2120 pounds, paid partly upon reservation and remainder on arrival. I used my Erasmus grant to pay the reservation fee but had to pay out of pocket for the rest. I would say it was worth it, floor B had parties every week and as I was on floor C the noise didn't bother me but I could join in for the fun too! The bed was pretty awful though so it might be possible to find better private accommodation, but everyone in Portland House was on exchange so it was very easy to make friends there.

Guidance & Reception

NTU genuinely spoon feeds you. The student culture is very different to the one here in RUG, NTU records lectures, teachers write lecture handouts (you don't even have to write notes- almost everything is in the handout) model answers for activities, very detailed structure guides and mock exam answers.

Culture, free time and travelling:

The City is very busy at all times and going out at night was very fun. Travelling was either expensive or very long, so I did not explore much outside of Nottingham itself. There's enough distractions in the City anyways! There were a lot of events, fairs, national holidays, etc.

Other:

Definitely recommend NTU if you want to have a stress-free exchange, as I said, they spoon-feed you once you're there.