

Exchange experience report Nottingham Trent University Autumn Semester 2019-2020

Accommodation

From my experience, accommodation in Nottingham is extremely hard to find for a one semester Erasmus period. It is my understanding that Nottingham reserve a very small number of rooms for its international/Erasmus students for a limited period early on in the year, but my late application meant I missed this period. The majority of private accommodation locations in the city require you to take out a contract for a 52 week period which is far longer than the semester Erasmus period. As a result of this situation I was placed in accommodation in Derby which is a 90minute journey from Nottingham. This accommodation was not in a great state as it was mouldy and caused me health issues. This was not a good experience for an Erasmus student and 3 weeks later the accommodation team at Nottingham Trent made a contract for the remaining 8 weeks at one of their city centre rooms. In conclusion, I'd send off your application at the earliest opportunity so you can get a city centre room and I would not accept the Derby accommodation as it was not safe and was too far away from Nottingham.

Student life

Nottingham is located roughly 4hrs away from the United Kingdom's main airport Heathrow. Train travel is expensive so I would consider getting a coach as it is cheaper. Regarding supermarkets, there are three main chains in Nottingham and they are Tesco, Waitrose and Sainsbury's. Waitrose is the more expensive of the three and quality wise it is better, but the other two are just as good. In the week prior to classes, there is a freshers week which offers you the chance to sign up for clubs and sports which you can do in your free time. Nottingham Trent also do very well with integrating the international/Erasmus students into university life with their 'global lounge'. This building offers you the chance to meet fellow Erasmus/international students and also sets up many cultural events. In the city, many music events take place every night and so the night life is excellent. A particular favourite non music event of mine was the Nottingham Christmas market and this was where the city centre was turned into a Germany style Christmas market from mid November to late December. It was a beautiful scene.

Academic life

For the Erasmus period, I had to take three courses to fulfil the 30 ECTS requirement and I chose Law of Armed conflict, legal method (essentially an overview of the English legal system) and law of trusts. The course content was extremely interesting and the lecturers were very knowledgeable on their subjects. I had to submit coursework in the form of a written assessment for Law of Armed conflict and legal method and for Law of trusts it was an exam to pass the courses. There is plenty of support mechanisms available and an attendance policy is used to ensure you attend all classes. The grading system and in some places method of assessment is different to Groningen.

Provided that you secure accommodation early and in Nottingham not Derby, your Erasmus period in Nottingham Trent University will be an excellent period in your academic life.