

Travel Report

I had the opportunity to go on my exchange semester at University of Nottingham, in Nottingham England for the Autumn -18 semester. I study Gender Studies at my home university.

Nottingham

Nottingham city is a mid-sized, living city. It is located very close to the middle of the island, which makes the rest of the UK very accessible. London is only two hours away by train, Manchester less than three hours. It's full of students, from the two universities, and there are always a lot of things to do. It's strewn out on a number of high hills, resulting in very lovely scenery and good exercise. I lived close to Jubilee Campus on the outskirts of the city, and what I liked the most about taking the bus into town was walking around exploring alleyways and fun shops.

University of Nottingham

My home university, Lund University, is one of the largest universities in Sweden but it is relatively small internationally. That was one of the first differences I noticed when I arrived. University of Nottingham has a large and varied student body, and several campuses that spread out just outside of Nottingham. I lived next to Jubilee Campus but studied at University Park Campus, or Main Campus as it is commonly called. Jubilee Campus is full of interesting, modern architecture that is a huge contrast from the Lund University Campus. Main Campus is at least twice the size of Jubilee Campus, and has both beautiful historical buildings and modern architecture, beautiful gardens, a large sports complex, fields and lakes. The student union building, Portland Building, has everything you need; a food court, pharmacy, grocery store, hair dresser, a pub, and places to study. There are several halls where students lived on campus, and if I had lived there, I don't think I would have left very often.

Arrival

The University made it very easy for me to settle in. The first week of the semester was orientation week, where you had the opportunity to sign up for activities and societies at the Welcome Fair at David Ross sports complex. You can join societies focusing on everything from student radio to Thai boxing, playing hide and seek, book clubs or bell ringing. You might also meet your tutor the first week, if you are given one. That is a professor that will be a resource to you in case you need someone to talk to regarding your experience.

Courses

Courses

In Nottingham, you take several between three to six modules in one semester depending on their size, and they run parallel to each other throughout the semester. Modules are either ten or twenty credits, and you need 60 credits to study full time. Some courses only had essays as course assessments while some also had exams. It will vary from subject to subject, but the information can be found on the module page when you are choosing your modules.

Immigration and Ethnicity in the United States

Taught by Caleb Bailey. The module covers the history of Immigration and Ethnicity in the United States from late 19th century to today. It focused on immigration legislation and racial discourse and how the two affect each other. Caleb gave us a long list of source material so while this module was the most time consuming of the ones i took, it was always very structured and interesting.

Reading Film and Television

Taught by Ian Brooks. Do you like films? This is the course for you. We watched one film per week, and read literature about it's specific genre or a certain technique it used, and analysed it together in workshops.

Film and Television in Social and Cultural Context

Taught by Alexandra Simcock. This module focused on the relationship between taste and value and how that is connected to television. It examines class differences, how politics and capitalism affects both what we see on television and what content we as a society value.

Political Communication, Public Relations and Propaganda

Taught by Jennifer Birks. This module focuses on how political communication has evolved, it's effect on society, and society's effect on political communication. It also covers corporate communication, communication and press freedom in non-democratic countries.

All of my modules were well organised, interesting and taught by great professors. I was very happy with my choices.

Accommodation

I lived at Raleigh Park, a student accomodation complex with equal distance to Main Campus and the city centre. I lived with five other people from all over the world. While not the most luxurious, they offered a lot of social events to the people living there. The cost was about £2200 for the semester, which you pay before you arrive. The university guaranteed accommodation to

any exchange student who applied for it before August 1st. That information was made available to me through emails from Nottingham University during my application process. There are also a lot of students who choose to find flatshares or houses together.

Fun and leisure

I spent most of my free time with a few of my roommates, and we did everything from staying in watching films, going to the cinema - Savoy Cinema on Derby Road has good student prices - or going out eating or dancing. Try Cafe CoCo Tang, it is by far my favourite lunch place, super cozy with great food. If you want to go out to a club, Rock City is supposed to be the place to be, but I unfortunately never had the chance to go there - tickets sell out in a blink of an eye. I liked Pom Pom and Revolución de Cuba, both had great music and atmosphere.

There are of course many historical sites around Nottingham; Wollaton Park, the castle and Sherwood forest. You can also go see underground caves in the city centre or go ice skating at the local ice rink, which i did with friends who had never skated before. It was definitely worth £5. I recommend Citylife Nottingham, which is an organisation that hosts activities and trips which are affordable and fun! Anything from going to Edinburgh for a weekend, or Oxford, or hiking in the Lake District.

Costs

Most things are a little bit cheaper than in Sweden. But since my accommodation was a bit more expensive than in Sweden, it evened out in the end. But do take the opportunity to eat good food, have drinks and go on adventures.

Other tips

Look to your right when you cross the road, it took me months to start doing that! Make sure you can use your card without your bank charging you. Bring earplugs if you are a light sleeper, because some student accommodations are not very sound proof. Make sure that if you go to Wollaton Park, you see the deer! Some buses do not accept card, or cannot give you change for your cash, so either make sure you have coins with you, or get a Robin Hood card which you top up when you need to.

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