

Newcastle University Business School

I was thrilled to be offered an exchange term to Newcastle University during my fifth term studying global management. Newcastle Upon Tyne, an amiable and beautiful city in northern England became my home for a little more than 3 months. I had no prior knowledge of Newcastle Upon Tyne, and was happily surprised to see that it reminded me of Stockholm yet with that famous British charm. Newcastle University is renowned for its high academic standards and innovation.

I was fortunate to receive housing for my exchange period in a charming accommodation next to the sports centre away from the main campus. This gave me a nice and quiet living area which suited my personality perfectly and provided an excellent study environment. Even though the English standard for student accommodation sometimes is lower than what might be expected by a Swedish student I was very lucky to have a large room, with my own bathroom and only shared, an excellently equipped kitchen, with one other student. This was an extra housing due to a high number of applicants this year. We who lived there quickly bonded and effortlessly became a good group of friends. Even though we were later offered to move closer to the university into the regular accommodations most of us rejected the offer. We who stayed became even closer and the housing area became the main centre for us exchange students. We had movie nights, parties and studied together. The fire alarms were very sensitive during the beginning of the term so all that time waiting outside for security, turned out to be a great time to meet everyone, getting to know them and then later, catching up.

The university has three libraries, each for different areas of study with a great amount of study areas, both in silent zones as well as collaborate zones that allowed food and drinks. The libraries are open 24/7 for the entire term. It is a large campus, so it was hard to find all the rooms at first, but thanks to their international welcome week, we international students had some time to orientate us before the rest of the students got there. Various activities were organized for the international students to welcome us to the country, city, and university. Numerous of trips were also organized during the semester to other cities in England or Scotland which were a lot of fun and I really recommend them.

The quality of teaching is exceptionally high. All teacher and instructors were all very knowledgeable and passionate about their departments. This created an engaging learning environment for all the students. Several of online tools are available to the students and the majority of lectures are recorded so missing students are able to catch up. The online tools also provide excellent reviewing material for exams and assignments. Exams are offered ahead of time in some exchange modules to aid the exchange students to return to their original university before the next term. For example in my case the exam period at Newcastle University and the start of term at Stockholm University overlap, thus this agreement gave me the opportunity to have a smooth transition back to Sweden. Additionally, alternative exams are offered such as reports or essays which can be submitted online. Newcastle university is a very accommodating school and all personnel do their very best to help everyone that have questions, comments, or concerns during their time at the university.

The courses offered were all very interesting but there were some issues with finding six courses that did not overlap or that I had not already taken. Additionally, some second-year

courses required more information and prerequisites than Stockholm University had informed us during our first year which made it more difficult to find appropriate courses. A recommendation is to not get behind in the course load and try to stay on top of everything, so that one can learn as much as possible. Additionally I recommend reviewing past material of the previous accounting courses before starting the next. The courses I choose were:

- Introductory Economics (ECO1089)
- Global Business Environments (BUS1003)
- Operations Strategy (BUS2129)
- Financial Control/ Management Accounting Systems (ACC2024)
- Intermediate Financial Accounting (ACC2025)
- Service Marketing (MKT2044)

I was extremely satisfied with my time at Newcastle University and with my course selection although I probably would have found other courses almost equally as interesting. I truly recommend taking an exchange term, it has given me plenty of opportunities to grow and mature, expanding my comfort zone. I met some exceptional people from all over the world that I can now call my friends. I have spent more money than I planned, but in the end I believe it was worth it. I am happy to be surrounded by motivated people and it has motivated me even more to complete my studies. These months have gone by more quickly than I ever could have imagined, I wish my exchange program could have been for the entire year.