

University of The West of England – Spring 2017

I have always liked exploring new places, and that is why when searching for an exchange semester, Bristol felt like a good choice. I wanted to go to an English-speaking country to develop my vocabulary in English, and since I did not want to go to a big city like London, Bristol became my first choice.

I did not know anything about Bristol before, but it turned out to be an enjoyable city. Bristol is a beautiful place, and very fun to live in. Since it is pretty close to London it is easy to travel wherever you like, which means that you easily can travel anywhere you wish for in the UK. To travel within the United Kingdom is something that I recommend since the country has many wonderful places to offer.

The University of the West of England also referred to as UWE, is located outside the city centre of Bristol. To get on and off campus there are express buses that leave regularly both day and night, and for a fair price since there is a student discount. The bus ride will take you from campus to the city centre in 15 minutes.

The university

Everyone at UWE was very polite and willing to help, and I enjoyed the atmosphere. The study abroad team answered my questions fast, both before and during my time at UWE. I even changed a module during my first weeks in Bristol, and the study abroad team helped me with almost everything which made it so much easier and less stressful.

The study abroad team together with the student's union organized an introduction day at the beginning of the semester. During the introduction day, I met all the exchange students, got a lot of useful information and it also included a guided tour of campus. This was quite helpful and calming to know during the first few days at the campus. The student's union also organized events for exchange students in the beginning of the semester so that we got to know each other.

The quality of the teaching was in general okay. But if you are looking for the best education maybe you should look elsewhere since it was only decent. The teachers and module leaders were very helpful and happily answered questions from us students. The overall structure of teaching was quite similar with lectures and seminars like we do at SBS, but the only main difference where the exam period in the end of the semester where we finished all of our modules.

I read three modules, **Methods of Enquiry(Business, International and Management)**, **Accounting Information for Business** and **Integrated Marketing Communications** and they were interesting. Especially Integrated Marketing Communications since I am interested in marketing and it was mainly focused on different campaigns and ads that we discussed at lectures. All the modules are fairly easy to pass but I enjoyed my time there.

Housing

Housing is available, but not guaranteed. When you have been accepted into the school, it was very easy to apply for accommodation. The university provides accommodation on campus but also in the city centre. I chose to live on campus since I wanted to experience the real student life on campus. It was easy to get the accommodation I wanted, I got my first choice which was Wallscourt Park. I lived in a newly built house, where it was 5 floors, with two flats on each floor. In my flat, it was 8 individual rooms, three common bathrooms and a big kitchen with communal areas. My room had a big bed, several shelves, a desk and a wardrobe. I have never lived in a student accommodation before but it was good. I think it is good to live in student accommodation when you are only going to be abroad for a few months since it is an easy way to get to know the people that live in the same flat and house. I was the only exchange student in my flat, and my flat mates were from different parts of the UK. I am happy that I chose that kind of accommodation since it was organized and on campus. The university buildings were in front of my accommodation, so it was close to walk everywhere on campus.

Social activities

At the student's union, it was arranged weekly events, like bar and pool nights, parties and a lot of other events to go to. There was also arranged trips, by the Student Union, to different places and landmarks in the UK and it was very appreciated by the exchange students. This is a good advice if you would like to explore what the United Kingdom has to offer, and that is A LOT!

Is study abroad something I recommend?

YES! To study abroad was one of the greatest things I have done in my life so far. I improved my English remarkable, met amazing people from countries all over the world, learned about different cultures and also got to know myself even better.