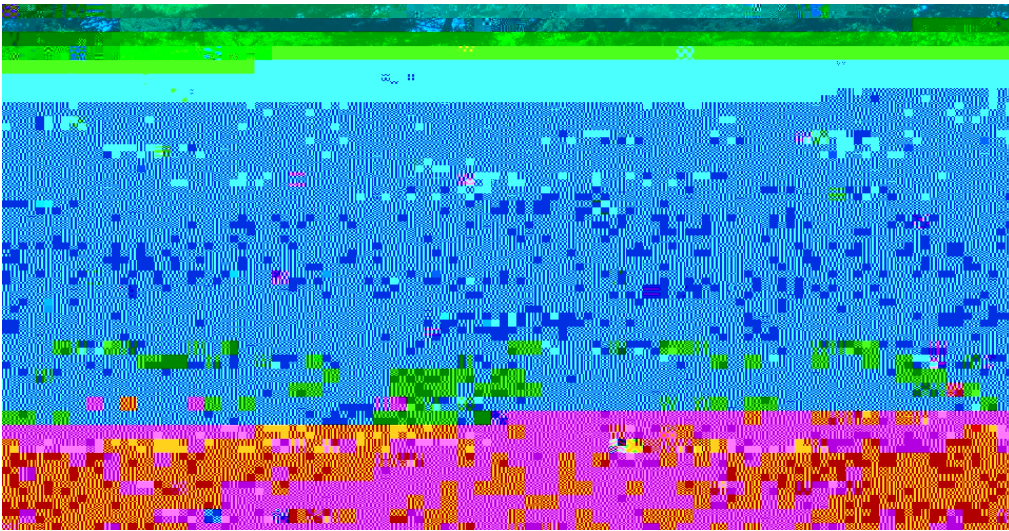
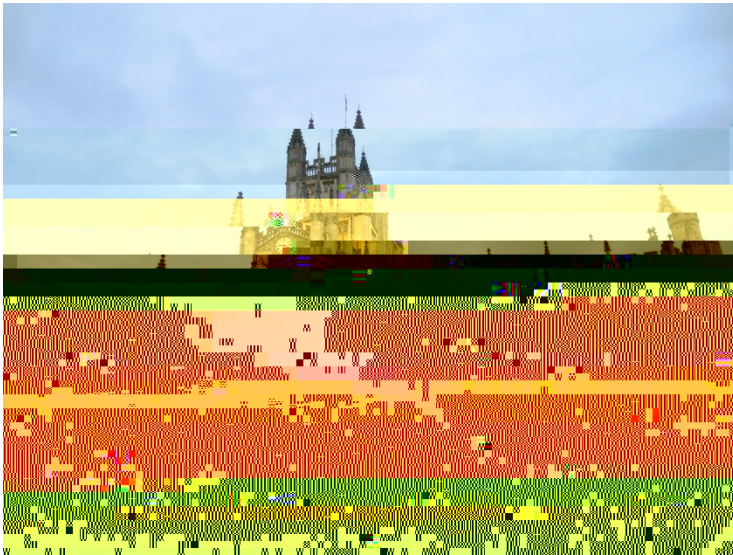


My exchange semester took place from February to May 2013 in England at the University of Bath. I was able to take the courses that I needed for my major in Economics. To prepare I spent a lot of time on the UK border services website, the University of Bath website and Bath's official website. Since I was going to be in the UK for less than 6 months I did not need to apply for a student visa. The university's website gave me the knowledge that I needed to apply for housing and what I needed to do when I arrived. The best thing I came across was on Bath's official website which was all the different ways of getting to Bath. This made my journey a lot easier since I was able to plan ahead of time.



I took a direct flight from Vancouver to London Heathrow and then took the train to Bath, where I took a taxi to my residence. I suggest to not take the train and to take a bus from the airport to Bath. It is a lot easier this way because you don't have to haul your luggage everywhere. For money I used my Canadian debit card to take cash out of ATMs and my credit card for purchases. Their system is not set up for our debit cards and I found that this was the easiest way to do things. There is a fee from the bank when taking money out of an ATM so I tried to only do this once every 1-2 weeks. I also made sure to contact my bank and credit card company to let them know I would be using my cards in the UK, to ensure that they would not

cancel them on me thinking it was fraud. The cost of living was more expensive than here in



Vancouver. A dinner here for one person costs \$18 at an average restaurant but there it costs about \$26. The price of meals already includes the tip which is nice and prices in stores already include the taxes. In Bath the cost of taking the bus for one trip was £1.20. The city itself is so small that it is not really necessary to take the bus anywhere. I walked

everywhere, even to school which took about 30min.

I arrived in Bath after the accommodation office had closed so I had to call security to let me in. This was extremely difficult since security did not want to come to let me into my accommodation and I was lucky

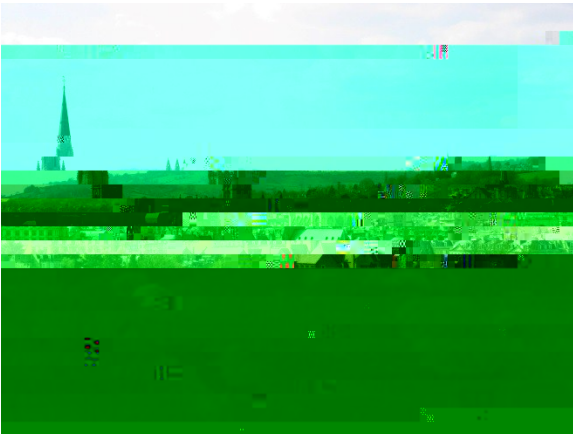
enough that someone in my residence was standing outside and let me into the building to wait. Orientation was the next morning and they provided us with a great lunch. Most of the information they gave us I had



already read from the university's website. At the orientation the school had organized a trip to Windsor castle the next day which I attended. For £25 we received transportation there and back

and entrance into the castle. We spent the whole day in Eden which was a bit long since there is not a lot of stuff to do and we finished the castle in 2 hours.

I applied for accommodation before I arrived, and I suggest to do this as soon as possible because the best place to live is Carpenter and those spots fill up quick. With Carpenter you will have 6 or 7 flatmates, where I only had 2 in Pulteney since it was older. However it was closest to the school and only a 10 minute walk into town to get groceries. The classes are set up similar to SFU where you have a 2 hour lecture and a 1 hour tutorial. One of my classes had two 2 hour lectures and finished in 5 weeks. The grading system is different, 40 is a pass and over 70 is



consider an A or what they call it a first. The grading criterion is a lot harder and the instructors expect more from the students. You are also expected to do a lot of independent studying since some of the material is not covered in class but is testable. And to enrol in classes you have to go to your department and

get permission. To get 3rd year economic classes I needed to bring my SFU transcript since they wanted to ensure that I had the grades.

The weather in Bath was a lot colder than I was expecting, they said that it was a colder spring than they usually have, so I suggest bringing a wool coat. I just had a windbreaker and that was not warm enough for most of the days. However, by May it did warm up to about 20 degrees which was a nice surprise. The culture is similar to here, and there I did not have any culture shock, since a lot of their culture is televised here. The international students' society organizes many trips for students that are cheaper than if you were to go by yourself. I was only

able to go on the Windsor trip since I had made other plans on the weekends that they had there other one day trips. They had trips to Cheddar Gorge and the Cadbury Factory which I wish I was able to go on. Since Bath is close to the Bristol airport, it is very easy to take weekend trips.

I was able to go to Belfast and Edinburgh, and if I had planned my time better I would have been able to go on more. I was also able to go to London, Wales, Stonehenge and St.

Austell's, Cornwall on the train for a weekend as well. There is also a 2 week spring break, where I went to Portugal and Spain. Of course there is a big nightlife in Bath because it is student city during the year and a tourist city during the summer. I recommend getting the international student club pass and you are able to get a discount on cover for certain

places on specific nights. Also while in Bath make sure you check out the Artisan market every weekend, the guildhall market is open every day, a free walking tour of Bath every Sunday, a tour of the clock tower, walk the Bath skyline and Avon canal, go to Prior Park (on a day with free entry), and of course the Abbey and Roman Baths. Also go to the Mad Hatter's Tea Party for some afternoon tea, they have the best homemade scones.

