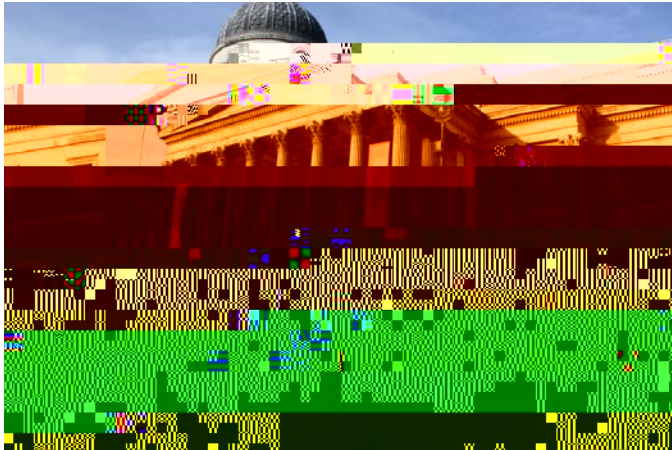


I found that the welcome orientation at Sussex was less about being orientating you with the campus but more an opportunity to network with other exchange students. Those that I met during those welcome events became my closest friends abroad with whom I had many spontaneous trips to Italy, Spain, Portugal, London, Ireland, Amsterdam, France and Greece. I can't explain how priceless those friendships were, and still are to me. Furthermore, the day trips offered were great and also money saver, I did not go on all of them but looking back, I wish I did. The ones I went on I thoroughly enjoyed (including the Harry Potter tour, Stonehenge etc). I know it feels like a lot of money at the time but keep in perspective that you may never get the opportunity to visit these places again, especially with friends and people your age.



Accommodation and Living:

I lived in Park village in my own room and I very much enjoyed my experience there. Yes, the room was smaller than my closet and the kitchen was less than appealing, but are you there to experience your own home cooking or a spa? No! So don't dwell on it and just let it roll over you.

I enjoyed my on-campus experience, the residence isn't far away from classes and my backyard was a national park which was great for afternoon strolls (you can walk through pastures of cows, really spectacular). I highly recommend living on campus because otherwise you will end up spending a lot of time and money commuting to classes from Brighton. Furthermore, there is a great social side to living in dormitories and living off campus would feel very isolating (I had a friend who did this, and about a month in he moved on campus).

Academic details:

Lectures are very similar to those at home, with a traditional "lecture" and "tutorial" units. The only difference is the grade breakdown. Your grade is based off your final paper usually due 90% of your total (while the other 10% is from participation and essays). This can be both a blessing and a curse. It makes it very easy to travel and manage your time without having to worry about smaller assignment etc but it can also provide the perfect opportunity to procrastinate. DO NOT DO THIS!! Especially if the class you are taking has an exam, leaving everything to the final weeks because there wasn't any prior assignment or quizzes is a BAD IDEA. If you know that you will do this, try to look for courses with final take home essays.

Country weather:

Very similar to Vancouver weather. Expect rain and wind but also nice sunny days.

Culture/Places to visit:

I highly recommend spending a few nights in London. It is one of my favorite places in the world and one will never get bored while visiting there I've

Do NOT eat junk food despite its cheap price, not worth it. DO go to the manor in the national park by Sussex for a Sunday roast, worth it.

Be wary of who you travel with, go with people you can trust and have similar interests. This is important so that neither one of you feels like you're dragging the other around to certain monuments. Keep the group numbers small as well to avoid this (no more than 5!)

Say yes to every opportunity! It is worth it, the trips and outings you experience with your friends is what will make this trip. You will find time to study so don't sweat it don't let that interfere with your opportunity to really experience England and all it has to offer.

Make sure to carry extra copies of your passport (if on your phone as a pdf or printed out), furthermore travel light so you can avoid the hassle of luggage pick up and carrying it around to your hostel from the train/bus station (Which may be very far away).

This exchange has by far, been one of the best experiences of my life. I loved every minute of it. Don't worry too much about staying on budget, money comes and goes but this experience is once in a life time. PLUS travelling is fairly cheap, I visited: France, Spain, Ireland, Italy, Scotland, Portugal, Brussels, Amsterdam and London while staying under budget (which was not big let me tell you). You can find cheap deals on sites like: Hostelworld etc (just make sure to look at the reviews and the location of the hostel before booking).

