

UNIVERSITY OF BATH – EXCHANGE REPORT

Bath, under Pultney Bridge

Hello! I studied abroad at the University of Bath in England during the Spring 2014 semester (February 'til May). At SFU I major in Economics with a minor in Business Administration. However, at Bath Uni I was enrolled in the faculty of Politics, Languages and Internni10 BD/P AM2ntee0.001 4(g)(e)3(s)6TJ-0.005 Tw -10.43 -i11.2 0 -1.213

returned to you in about three weeks time. I wouldn't recommend getting a student visa because it was expensive and totally unnecessary – and didn't keep customs officers from asking a lot of questions. Other Canadians I met did not have a visa. When traveling in and out of the UK providing the customs officer with your acceptance letter is proof enough.

Because I traveled to Bath in the winter, I packed quite a few sweaters, one heavy jacket, and things like mittens and scarves. And boots – we had a lot of rain! The weather is generally similar to Vancouver, and it will start to get warm around the end of semester (April – May). The cost of living (ex. groceries and transport) is quite expensive, as the exchange rate when I traveled was about 1.89CAD per 1GBP.

Getting to Bath:

I flew from Vancouver to London Heathrow on Air Canada, which was about a 9.5 hour flight. I was able to stay one night in London and then travel to Bath the following day, which allowed for some "relaxation time" – which can be nice so you aren't too overwhelmed at once. You can train into Bath Spa station from any London airport, or you can take the National Express (similar to a Greyhound – but better) from the airport to Bath Spa bus station. The commute is about 1.5 – 3 hours depending on your mode of transportation.

Arriving in Bath was awesome, it is a great city and you can realize it the moment you step out of the train. Picking up the keys from John Wood Court with all of the luggage in toe was a challenge, but follow the map you're given and you will be alright – Bath isn't that big at all.

Accomodation:

I chose to live at Thornbank Gardens, and most other exchange students did. You can walk everywhere from Thornbank (and many other places because the town is small enough). There are about 8 people that share one kitchen, and the whole complex shares washers/dryers and a common area that has a TV. Staying at Thornbank was the best choice I made because it allowed my friends and I to meet a lot of new people and easily hang out with different exchange students. It's also fun when a group of people are headed out for the evening and you can all leave and come home together.

University:

Attending classes at Bath Uni was similar to SFU. My classes were lectures, and then I had a few tutorials for each class. There were no midterms in any of my classes, but some course works, quizzes and papers to write. Generally, classes were of similar

I would recommend them because they have been transferred back to SFU in the past, and it's a great way to learn about England and meet exchange students.

University of Bath

Tourism during Exchange:

Through my semester abroad I took advantage of cheap airfare (Easyjet and Ryanair) and traveled quite a bit. We had a two week Easter break where many students chose to travel around Europe with new and old friends. Although I never made it, Stonehedge is close by and is popular with many tourists. You can travel to Cardiff (Wales) easily on the train, and see the castle (although I wouldn't recommend it on a rainy day). You can also head to Bristol (about 1 hour bus ride) for some shopping, or a night out. I traveled to London three times during the semester, using the National Express. It is about a 2.5 hour journey from Bath Spa to Victoria Coach (main hub station connecting to the Underground). Also, right in the middle of Bath are the Roman Baths, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Entrance is free for Bath Uni s on a

Words of Advice:

There were many opportunities to meet exchange students, and it's important to attend as many events as you can! The Uni arranged for a school orientation wher