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## *Prep*

In terms of visas, the UK website should outline everything you need upon arrival at the airport so make sure you have those, especially the letter of admission into Sussex. The border guards will issue you a passport stamp that will have a date of expiry. The process may be different if you're planning on working there, but I had the student visa that was free.

## *Packing*

Packing to go on vacation versus moving to a different country for 4 – 6 months are completely different! That being said, pack as lightly as you can. The things you think you need, you may not even wear. There's plenty of shopping in Brighton (Primark is a life saver and Boots or Superdrug for hygiene essentials), so you'll never have to worry about not having clothes. Pack some clothing essential (e.g. Sweaters, jeans and boots) for the colder weather as Brighton winters are what you might be used to here. The one must that you should bring (apart from lots of underwear and socks to avoid doing laundry a lot), is a rain jacket. Umbrellas are useless in Brighton because of how windy it is.

Don't forget converters for your electronics and a smaller bag/carry on suitcase if you plan on traveling within Europe/the UK.

## *Travel and Transport*

Flying into Gatwick is a lot cheaper and closer to Brighton than Heathrow is, but it's not impossible to get to Brighton from Heathrow. Regardless of which airport you fly into, taking the train is the cheapest, fastest and easiest option to get to Brighton. A train from Gatwick Airport to Falmer station will send you right to the university campus.

Taking the bus is the easiest way to get around town. There's one day, three day and three month bus passes that will work on all buses (but make sure you buy one that will work for night buses), throughout Brighton and Hove. It's a little bit cheaper to buy a bus pass on your phone, but not by that much. You can also buy a physical card from the 1 Stop Travel Shop along North Street. Definitely look into purchasing a 16-25 rail card from Brighton station as it will cut the cost of your train rides by 1/3 for only £30! This is super useful especially if you plan to travel out of Gatwick/to other parts of the UK.

## *Financials*

The UK isn't cheap, but don't let that scare you. Try to cut down on costs by using grocery

assignments back – their marking system is different and anything above 70% is considered excellent. A pass in the UK is 40%.

### ***Country information***

Like Vancouver, Brighton and the UK in general, see a lot of rain. Brighton however is still quirky and a city that will quickly begin to feel like home a month or two in.

Brighton is smaller than Vancouver and London, but it has a ton of character. There are tons of coffee shops and cute little vintage stores in the Lanes, so be sure to explore! The sea front is beautiful on a sunny day, and the pier and its penny arcades are something you definitely need to check out. There's also a really easy hike nearby that's beautiful and

In terms of flying elsewhere in Europe, I used Skyscanner to find flights. Accommodation wise, I tended to stay in Airbnb's because it was cheaper with the amount of people I was with. Depending on the time of year you're traveling, it may be cheaper than a hostel. Most cities I went to had free walking tours, and be sure to bring your student card places because there may be cheaper fees to get into attractions and sights if you do. If there's something specific you really want to see in a city, I'd recommend Viator. They provide really good guided tours and there are sometimes deals you can cash in on. My friend and I never would have been able to make it to the Cliffs of Moher for example if we hadn't gone on a guided tour.

