

I am a third year Business Student that studied abroad at the University of East Anglia (UEA) in Norwich, England in the Spring of 2016 (January 6<sup>th</sup>- June 10<sup>th</sup>). It was the best experience of my life and although studying abroad may seem daunting, I would highly, HIGHLY recommend it!



Standing in front of the UEA Ziggurats

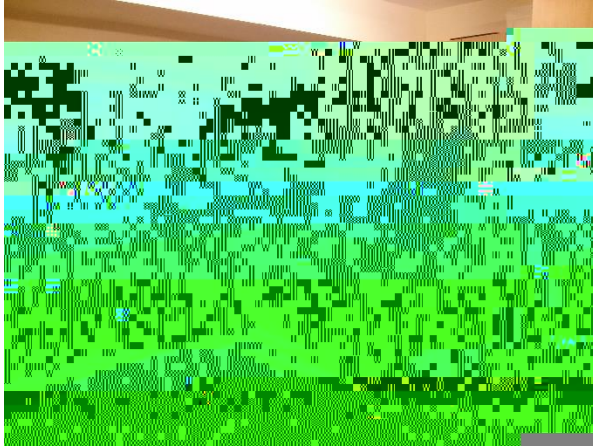
### **Travelling to England**

I obtained a Short Term Student visa, which allowed me to stay in England for six months since I am a Canadian citizen. I received my visa at the Heathrow airport passport control by asking for it and showing them my passport, UEA acceptance letter and a bank statement. This documentation was needed every time I re-entered England during my exchange. If you plan on obtaining your visa for free at the airport make sure you ask for it and have the correct documentation. I chose to land at London Heathrow airport because at Heathrow there was a National Express coach that stops right at the university. Once at the university, the coach dropped me off across from the building I was to check in at. The university then had a mini bus that drove my suitcases and I to the accommodation. I then had one of the student helpers assist me with carrying my luggage to my room. Once I was in my room I was very excited by my new surroundings, but also very tired from the long journey. There was a pizza dinner happening that night hosted by the university, which I debated on going to and in the end decided to attend. I'm very glad I went as this was where I met most of my new friends. The university holds various social events and orientations in the first week of arrival. It is important to attend as many of these as you can as this is where you will probably meet the majority of your friends. It is also important to add people you meet on Facebook right away so you can keep in touch because you may not coincidentally bump into them again.

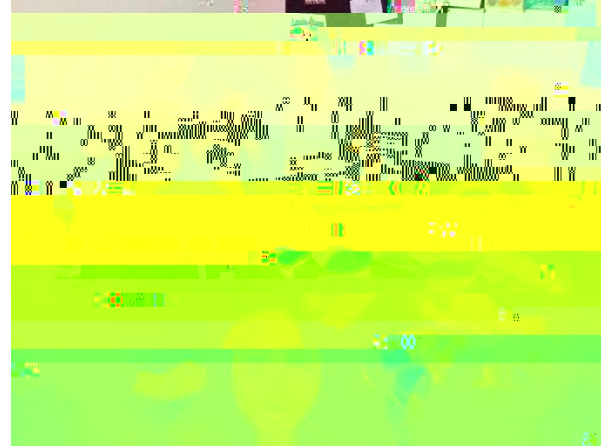
### **Accommodation**

The University Village was the accommodation I chose, which consisted of a flat of 6 people, a shared kitchen and my own room and bathroom. Flats in the University Village can





Part of the shared kitchen



My British flat mates and I celebrating a birthday

### **Packing**

In regards to packing, I brought one large suitcase, one carry on suitcase and a backpack. The winter months are very cold due to the wind chill so pack warm clothes, but also try to pack a couple pairs of shorts for May and June. Try not to over pack, however as you don't want the challenge of transporting unnecessary items. I would also recommend bringing a selfie stick and a good camera. I brought the items I needed and then filled the spare space with utensils, plates, towels, soap etc. with no intention of bringing it back home with me. It may sound silly to bring this, but I'm so glad I did because I didn't have to waste time looking for these items when I first landed in England. Also, I saved a bit of money because most things are more expensive (double the price depending on the strength of the Canadian dollar) in England. It's helpful to bring some food along as well because I knew a lot of exchange students didn't eat much the first few days in England because they were too busy trying to meet new people and exploring the university, myself included.

### **Academic Details**

Teaching consisted of lectures and seminars (similar to tutorials at SFU). I could not take Business courses while at UEA because I was not there for a full academic year so I took courses that I hoped would fulfill my SFU breadth requirements. Keep in mind you can switch classes within the first two weeks if you talk to the Study Abroad office located in the Arts building although the process is not online as it is at SFU. There were a lot less assignments at UEA then there is at SFU. Consequently, each assignment is worth more marks so make sure to do your weekly reading and try not to fall behind.

### **Banking and Spending**

Bring some British pounds with you to England as well as your debit and credit card. I would advise you to use your debit card to take out large amounts of cash at a time and your debit and credit card for online payments such as tickets. The UEA campus has a Barkley's Bank and



Pimp my Barrow in the middle of UEA Square

### **Reflection**

It was daunting to move to a new country by myself and live there for months, but life begins where your comfort zone ends. I made friends from all over the world and experienced many different cultures and customs from both England and the other European exchange students I met. I built confidence, independence as well as global awareness. It was both surprising and interesting to not only observe, but fully experience how differently people live in other parts of the world. Time abroad went by so quickly, but I loved every second of it. Your family and friends back at home will be the same as when you left, and you will find you didn't miss anything when you return. Plus, you can always skype the people back at home if you start missing them. Don't just stay in your room, however go outside and experience your surroundings as much as possible. Also say yes to everything (within reason). All the students I met were very nice and I'm glad I chose UEA. You should definitely go on an exchange as this

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Exchange friends in front of UEA Ziggurats enjoying a BBQ

In Amsterdam with Flat mates and friends  
during Spring Break

In Prague with Exchange friends during  
Spring Break