

Partner University: University of Nottingham

Country: England

Major/faculty: History Department

Dates/term of exchange: Spring 2019, January to June

In preparation for my exchange to the University of Nottingham I started doing a lot of research about the University itself as well as the 'study abroad' programs that were designed for students intending to do full time studies at the school. I found it helpful to talk to people directly about my experiences with the different programs and accommodation options. I did was email my department advisor for advice so you don't know your advisor (supposed to start).



Options can be located on the University website to take (Nottingham) and avoid potential conflicts. I probably won't need it all. You can't bring 5 suitcases, you won't be able to without help (which you won't always get). I ended up bringing 3 suitcases worth of stuff, one medium and one small, and found it easy to pack. (If all else fails, you can buy things in Nottingham). Nottingham being in central England, there are a lot of things to do. I ended up booking through research that customs can take a while so be sure to plan for extra time between airport and bus. You can also preorder a SIM card before you get to the UK (I got one through GiffGaff – it's more affordable) so when I landed I had data right away in case I needed to look something up.

Nottingham, England is not a super expensive place to live. I chose to stay on University Accommodation, so I could be close to the campus and in a community of other students. My plan that I



chose was catered, which provided me with breakfast and dinner everyday and a credit amount of money to use on campus food shops. This was a super affordable option and gave access to student life on campus, with it only being a short bus ride away from town. I brought England currency with me that I exchanged before I left and I had a credit card, but I also chose to open up a bank account while I was abroad which is super helpful. You transfer money once from an account from home, only having to go through the conversion once, and then you have a UK debit card. There are banks on campus for convenience. Most places accept cash and card options. Keep in mind the conversion while things are affordable here, with conversion things can add up after a while.

At the beginning of the term there were a few orientations that they did for international students – where to get help on campus, how to get involved etc. They email you before hand about all of these events and how to attend them but there are additional things you can get involved in by choice.

For accommodations, I stayed on campus in a catered hall, Derby hall. It was central to all my classes and uni life had a great sized room and store credit at stores and restaurants around campus for extra food outside dining hours. You have many options for rooms on campus, but you don't get to choose a hall, you will be assigned one based off of your room choice and availability. I found it colder than what I was used to at the beginning but much the same weather as Vancouver –

back home, as well as with institutions such as your school and bank. You will most likely be doing this over messages, rather than phone calls, so make sure you have all your bases covered. The most trouble I had when I was abroad was with my home bank and contacting them. In terms of banks, if you have a credit card, even by alerting your bank that you are going abroad, your card could be potential flagged for fraud. I suggest either giving someone at home power of attorney to do things on your behalf just in case or to make sure you have a way to call your financial institution just in case (collect calls do not exist internationally anymore so you would have to pay for skype call subscription).

Location for exchange is important as well I am really glad I chose Nottingham and not a big city to do my exchange in. Travelling around to those big cities I felt like I would not have enjoyed staying there at all. Don't be afraid to go to one of the 'small town' communities, as there is loads to do there still.