

Personal Report

Leeds Metropolitan University, Winter Term 2018/19, 1 Semester Business Administration, Fachbereich 3, Frankfurt

Language

Which language did you use? How did you communicate with your fellow students?

I hardly spoke any other languages but English during my time in the UK and that helped me improve my English skills a lot.

Accommodation

Did the host university arrange for accommodation?

Yes in a dormitory.

How high were your overall monthly costs for accommodation (in Euro)?

482€

How would you describe the quality of your accommodation?

Good

How well was the accommodation situated? How long did it take you on average to reach the partner university (in minutes)?

I lived at Sugarwell Court from which it took about 15 minutes by bus to university and the city center

Which web sites, forums, Facebook pages, contacts, etc. can you recommend for looking for accommodation?

University's official website or Facebook page for exchange students

Where have you been accommodated (name of dormitory, location, part of town, etc.)? And how would you describe the surroundings of your accommodation (shopping facilities, distance to the city center, nightlife, etc.?)

Sugarwell Court, Meanwood Road, LS7 2DH. It takes 20 minutes by bus to the city center and a ten-minute walk to the nearest convenience store, a 20-minute walk to Aldi.

Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation

Which is the best arrival time?

Two days before the semester starts

How did you organize your arrival? Was the extent of the orientation program sufficient? What activities can you recommend? Were all important questions answered? What did you have to find out yourself? How fast were you able to get in contact with the domestic students? How were the services for exchange students?

The university provided exchange students with a free pick-up service at both Leeds Bradford Airport and Leeds Train Station on a particular day. From there students would be driven to their accommodation on a coach. Students who could not arrive on that day should manage to get to the accommodation on their own, however, as soon as they arrived at the accommodation, there would be volunteering students standing at the main entrance and giving you instruction on where to go or what to get done.

Living Abroad

Compared to Frankfurt, how high was the cost of living abroad?

Similar to Frankfurt

What additional expenses did you have during your semester abroad? How far were you able to travel with your semester ticket? How was your student life off-campus? How were the Mensa's/ student cafeterias? What types of meals were served? How much did the meals cost? How were the libraries? Was their use free? Did the university provide computer workplaces/ computer pools? Was Wi-Fi available on-campus? Were you able to use study rooms? Were you able to rent separate rooms for studying? Did the university provide a sports program? Was this free of charge?

A term bus ticket cost around £145. Wi-Fi is available on campus. The gym membership costs £70 for the whole term. Libraries are free for use.

Studying at the Host University

How would you describe the academic standard of classes compared to Frankfurt?

A little bit easier.

Did you experience any difference in teaching methods/ class structure? Which were the difference regarding your expectations and your experiences at the partner university? What surprised you, what should newly arriving students know? How were the student services? Was the fact, that you were an exchange student taken into account (by professors or other staff)? If so, how? How were difficulties, which you or other exchange students may have met, handled by the partner university?

It should be taken into account that Leeds people have a very strong English accent which sounds very different from the English we can usually listen to on radio or TV. As a result, there can be difficulty in being able to completely understand the class at the beginning. An advice is to get in contact with professors as they are willing to help anytime.

Final Remarks

What should future exchange students know/ do/ avoid? How would you overall rate your exchange experience? In what ways have you benefitted academically, personally, linguistically for your future career?

There might be some tiny difficulties in getting used to a totally different culture on arrival. However, don't worry because English people are very warm-hearted and helpful. Don't hesitate to come and talk to the professor after class if you could not catch up in the class. Just enjoy your time in the UK as much as you can! As soon as you step at the airport to go back to Germany, you will have the feeling as if that precious period of time was like one of the sweetest dreams you'd never want to wake up :)