

REPORT

EXCHANGE STUDENT : NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.



As part of my bachelor degree in international communication, i decided to take a semester at Newcastle university in Newcastle Upon Tyne, England. This decision led me to a journey and experiences that I will not soon forget. It is this journey and these experiences that I would like to share in this report.

The introduction week

During my first week in Newcastle, I was introduced to both the school, the city and the people. I was given information after information and it was all useful. Newcastle University is a very large school. There are buildings left and right and people running in and out of each. Therefore, information was the key to easily reach my destinations and limit the stress levels that are inevitable. It was useful to attend information meetings and take advantage of other services the school could provide.

However, making module choices and attending meetings was not the only thing to do once I arrived. Meeting new people and having a taste of the British culture was all part of my first week in Newcastle. It was my experience that the people in Newcastle were kind, gentle and polite.

The Modules and the classes.

The modules I chose were:

- Social and Cultural studies
- The Representation of management and organizations in popular culture
- Public Relations
- Human Resources.

Most of the teachers we had were interesting people with a lot of passion for their fields of work. Some of them were even entertaining. I would advise future exchange students to keep up with the reading material and always try to read before the relevant classes. One of the challenging aspects of this journey was the amount of the required reading material for each class. However, the good news is that most of the reading material was available in the large university library, so there is no need to purchase all of them. Choosing modules that I found interesting was helpful in keeping me motivated.

The university social life.

The Student Union was a great way to find activities and societies that were the best fit for me. For example, I took ballroom classes on Thursdays or Tuesdays, as part of a society I discovered on the Student Union website.

During my stay at the university I lived in Castle Leazes. One of many student housing options that were available. However, in view of the fact that I started after the first semester, many of the better housing options were no longer available. I was left with one choice, which was a dorm with 8 rooms, one bathroom and one kitchen. Fortunately, I had a room to myself. The positive aspect of living with other students is that it is easier to get acquainted and make new friends.

I did not live very far from the city, therefore it was quite simple to get around both at night and during daytime. I could also hire a taxi for a reasonable price. Nonetheless, it was helpful to know which taxi services offered the best prices. For example, Budget taxi: 01912985050.

Spring Break Opportunities.

There are so many options available during spring break in Newcastle. However, I chose to travel through England and experience different parts of the country. For a week and a half, I visited Bristol, Cardiff (Wales), London, Edinburgh and Belfast (Northern Ireland). A friend and I made plans of everything we wanted to see and do in each city, before traveling. This proved to be very helpful. Traveling did not interfere with my classes or assignments because I planned time for each.

My Recommendations for future exchange students to Newcastle.

Risotto at *Corner Bistro*, noodles at *Wokaway Noodle Bar* and many more in different places. There are different kinds of cuisines in Newcastle and if you search on the internet they are easily available.

Music and comedy are also very much alive in Newcastle. For a night out with new friends I would recommend *Madamkoo*.

Hancock Bar is a local affordable bar where it's possible to watch football matches and eat local affordable food.

I recommend visiting the Tyneside and its bridges in Newcastle both during daytime and at night. Alnwick Castle and its garden is also a sight not to be missed. Especially during spring or summer. However, taking a walk on Tynemouth, both in the city and at the beach was really a fun experience. Also, a trip to London and Edinburgh is strongly recommended. Edinburgh was a very charming and beautiful city to visit and it is only a one and a half hour train ride from Newcastle.

Conclusion

My conclusion is that I will never regret deciding to take a semester abroad. It was an extraordinary time both academically and socially. There is so much to learn and to experience in our world. The opportunity to do so should not be discarded.