

## **Mobility Questions**

- 1. our program of study (courses, assignments, course format). Add the exact number of class hours per course.**

My semester of study at the University of Brighton consists of three courses specifically in the Business and Law School. The courses I am taking are Marketing and Responsibility, Marketing Communications, and Working Across Cultures. Each course at the University of Brighton is split into one lecture and one seminar per week with each being two hours. This means that over the span of the week we have 12 hours of class time.

In Marketing Responsibility we have 4 quizzes throughout the semester on course material as well as a group presentation on campaign materials, and an individual contribution statement.

In Marketing Communications we have 5 online tests throughout the semester on course material. We are also working on a full marketing campaign for an organization that is trying to spread breast cancer awareness and breast cancer screening awareness. This campaign assignment is split into two parts each worth 30%. The two components include a planbook that outlines all of our work and a pitch presentation.

Finally, for Working Across Cultures we have a group presentation and a cumulative case study essay which analyzes how different cultures interact with each other.

Overall, I notice the workload at the University of Brighton is different than in Ottawa with regards to group work. I am involved in more group work which means more out of class collaboration rather than in person teaching. This allows me to collaborate with peers and meet lots of new people with many different cultural backgrounds as well as get to know local people. I also feel like class sizes are smaller which means it is easier to get to know the professors as well as the whole class. This is really good for instructional periods and it makes it easier to form bonds with classmates.

- 2. The timetable (academic calendar, registration dates, orientation, beginning and end of classes, exams, holidays, number of semesters, etc.).**

The academic term here at the University of Brighton runs from February 3rd to May 23rd with a break for Easter from March 31st to April 23rd. There were no specific

registration dates because my registration was done by the team in Brighton via email communication. The orientation for exchange students was really good. On our first day there we were given a tour and introduced to all the other exchange students so we could get to know each other. They also had a tea and biscuits event set up for us to mingle around and meet professors and continue to get to know our fellow exchange students.

My classes are similar to the University of Ottawa. They are typically two hours with one lecture and one seminar per class each week. It is mostly group work so as the classes progress we are spending more time building presentations and cumulative assignments. The only holiday that falls while I am here is Easter and here in the UK we are given 3 weeks off for half term and Easter, similar to reading week in Canada.

### **3. Procedures to follow upon arrival. List and description of services offered by the International Exchange Office of the host institution. Registration and course selection. Social activities.**

My exchange started when I flew into Gatwick Airport because I am staying in Brighton. There is a direct train from Gatwick airport called the Gatwick Express. This train took me straight to Brighton station.

When I first arrived I stayed in a hotel with my dad for a few days before I was able to move into my accommodation. We toured around the city and it helped me get to know the place better. From the Brighton station you can get another train to Falmer which is where Paddock Fields accommodation is and it's a short 5 minute walk to where I am staying.

One of my first days I went to the campus to register and receive my student card. It is very important to get your student card as soon as possible because it will allow you to see your timetable as well as access all the buildings for class and take attendance. The course selection happened via email about 1 month before arrival. Another important thing is to get to know the bus route as it's the easiest way to get from accommodation to campus for classes. There were not many services offered by the host school to help me get from the airport to the school as well as not much instruction so I had to figure most of that out myself.

With regards to social activities the school has put together 3 free trips for exchange students to better get to know each other and to see the area. The first trip was to see the famous Seven Sister cliffs and go to a traditional English pub. The second trip was to go to the English town of Rye to visit Bodiam Castle. The final trip is to the town of Arundel

to see a medieval castle and cathedral.

#### **4. Budget outlining the cost of studying abroad (i.e. airplane tickets, housing, vacation and daily travel costs, textbooks, meals, etc.).**

To create a budget for studying abroad can be very complicated depending on how much you are willing to spend on leisure activities or travelling etc. Firstly, the airplane tickets from Toronto to Gatwick airport were around \$700-1100. The housing cost for the whole semester was \$6675 and regarding vacation it can differ depending on the person and where they want to go.

I went on two vacations totaling around \$2000 as a rough estimate. The daily costs are very similar to life in Canada but I have found that the price of groceries is cheaper here than in Canada but the price of a lot of things (restaurants, clothing etc.) is typically higher due to the higher cost of living in the south of England. There was no additional price for studying because there were no textbooks. The budget would total around \$10 000 maximum if I am slightly over exaggerating how much it costs.

#### **5. Application procedures before your arrival (visa deadlines, documents required for visa, course registration, housing deposit, etc.).**

The application procedure for the University of Brighton was all done through the University of Ottawa and the Telfer exchange program. I didn't need a visa due to the relationship between Canada and the UK but I did need to do an ETA which is a document required by the UK government. The price for the ETA was £10. To complete the ETA you need a passport which I also needed to travel.

The course registration was also done online through email which was very simple. The host school sent me options for courses and I chose the three I wanted to take and a 4th backup option which ended up being chosen. I then had to get the courses approved by Telfer to allow me to earn the proper credits needed for the University of Ottawa.

With regards to the housing there was no housing deposit but the breakdown for the cost is as follows: £1400 prior to moving in and a further £2225 to be paid by 04/24/2025 totaling £3625 or \$6675.

#### **6. Address and description of housing. Cost of housing.**

The student accommodation where I am is called Paddock Fields. This is a small village of students living together about 15 minute drive from campus and 30 minute drive from the city centre. All the other exchange students are all living here and it is very close to the sports centre and the Brighton and Hove Albion stadium. This is a really nice place where it is easy to meet people and it feels like a quiet little area. The downside is how far you are from the city and the campus, meaning you have to take a bus or train everywhere you go. I like the location but I would have rather been closer to the main campus. The cost of housing is \$6675 for the whole time I am here.

## **7. Other comments or recommendations.**

I have some recommendations for someone who is thinking about going on an exchange anywhere, but especially to the UK.

Firstly, I noticed that the first week was the hardest. Before coming to the UK I was very worried about meeting people and finding a group of friends. It would have been beneficial to meet the people from my school also coming here. Once I arrived I felt like everybody here was very welcoming and having the exchange group really allowed me to connect and meet people similar to me as well as in the same situation. I also made friends with my roommates and overall I felt like everyone was very friendly.

Next I would recommend being prepared to have days where there is not much going on, especially the first week or so. I was very worried that I wouldn't fit in or not meet the right people and I spent a few days at the start where I really didn't do anything. This quickly changed and I met some amazing people. If you are going on exchange I would recommend travelling as much as possible because one of my favorite weeks while I have been here was when my friends came to visit me and we travelled all around the UK.

My final recommendation is to make sure you meet as many people as possible and really make an effort to be extroverted. I feel like this has helped me meet some incredible people and feel more confident in social situations.

## **8. Add a description of about five to seven sentences summarizing your experience..**

My exchange experience in Brighton has been really great, I have learned a lot about myself and I would definitely recommend it to anybody who is able to. The culture in Brighton here is very

similar with a few differences to Canada. It offers a unique experience for me in daily life and has allowed me to get a better understanding of what life is like in Europe. I have had the chance to explore some of the most famous places in the world like Buckingham Palace and many other great and famous areas of England. With London only a 1 hour train ride it feels very surreal that I have such easy access to this great city.

I have met some incredible people and am very thankful for how welcoming the community and the school have been to me. I have also been able to connect with fellow Canadians who are also on exchange to the same school. Academically, I have gained a deeper understanding of different cultures and how people do things differently across the world. I am currently taking a course on how cultures interact and I have been able to relate much of the content to my experience while I have been here.

As someone who loves soccer, being here in England surrounded by soccer culture has been a dream come true. I have been able to experience many different aspects around this and it helps that I live 5 minutes from a Premier League stadium. Being in Europe also offers a great opportunity to travel and see so many different things. I have had multiple friends come over to travel with me because of this great opportunity and I have been able to meet up with my friends from around the world that I didn't think I would ever see again.

Overall, this experience has been transformative for me as a person as it has allowed me to become more independent and resilient and I will cherish the memories and experiences I have for my whole life. I am very grateful for this opportunity and I would do it all over again if I could. I would definitely recommend the Telfer exchange program to anyone on the fence if they should participate or not.

Picture with my Friends at the Brighton soccer game 5 minutes from my house.

