

██████████, University of Brighton Questionnaire, Winter 2017

A) Your program of study (courses, assignments, course format). Add the exact number of class hours per course.

I was a third year student at the University of Ottawa when I did my exchange. I major in International Management. At the University of Brighton, there are only three years of studies so the courses that I was placed in were last year courses. All of the courses I took were five ECTs. A total of thirty ECTs are required for the exchange which means that I had to take six modules.

Political Economy in Europe (EC380)

- This module examined the political position of Europe and analyzed the complexity of the European Union and the effect of Brexit. Each lecture was one hour, followed by an hour long seminar. Each week students were given questions and articles that were used to prepare for the following weeks seminar. At the end of the semester there was an exam that was worth 100%. Political Economy in Europe was probably the most difficult course for me as I had very little prior knowledge in this subject area. There was a lot of information to absorb and the readings were very long and tedious.

Emerging Markets (EC363)

- This module focused on the economics of emerging markets. This course had an hour lecture and an hour seminar. Each week we were given three to four questions related to the topics which were discussed in the seminars. At the end of the semester, there was an exam worth 100%. The exam consisted of questions that were directly taken from the seminars. This was my favourite module because I found the material very accessible and interesting.

Contemporary Britain (EC119)

- This module was required for all international students. It introduced students to the culture, politics, economics, and history of Britain. It is designed to look at the United Kingdom (specifically Britain) from an outside perspective. There was a two hour workshop for this module and there was a 1500 word essay that was worth 100%. We could choose virtually any current and relevant topic relating to the culture of Britain.

Business Values, Responsibility and Trust (MK385)

- This course explored the ethics in business as well as corporate values, trust in organizations, and responsible behaviours. This course only ran for four weeks in which we had an hour lecture and an hour seminar. After the first four weeks of class, students were required to do a ten minute presentation about any ethical topic related to business. This presentation was worth 30% of the final grade. There was also an essay worth 70% which was on the same topic as the presentation, and explored more of the ethical theories. As well, students only have to attend the week that they present.

Managing Organizations (HR368)

- This course focused on how to manage organizations. It taught the technical skills as well as communication and influencing skills of a good manager. There is an hour long lecture followed by an hour long seminar. Students are required to submit a 2000 word consultancy report that is due at the end of the semester. It is worth 100% of the final grade.

International Human Resources Management (HR382)

- This module focused on global strategy and its impact on human resources management. There was one hour of class and one hour of seminar. The seminar usually involved discussions on articles and topics that were covered in the previous week.

B) The timetable (academic calendar, registration dates, orientation, beginning and end of classes, exams, holidays, number of semesters, etc.) Please submit the precise dates so students will know when to book their flights next year.

The academic calendar began February 6th and ran until June 6th. Classes usually ran until the last week of April or the first week of May and final assignments were due anywhere between the last week of April to the last week of May. Exam period ran from May to June. This is a perfect time to travel. Though the academic year officially ends June 6th, students typically end their classes and assignments before this. As well, students can stay in Residence Halls until June 24th.

I arrived in Brighton on Sunday, February 5th. On February 6th there was an orientation for all of the business international students. At this orientation students were given their timetables, basic information about studies at the University of Brighton, and information on how to get a student card. On Tuesday, February 7th there was a library induction and on Wednesday, February 8th there was an afternoon tea event where students could meet other international students from different faculties. During this first week, students were able to make changes to their timetables, but the deadline to do so was on Friday, February 10th.

C) 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.

I lived in Paddock Fields so as soon as I arrived in Brighton, I had to collect my key from the residence office. Sometimes the office is closed but there is an emergency number on the door and someone will always be available to meet you at the office. The office will also give you a couple of administration forms that must be handed in by the end of your first week.

The first week of your exchange can be quite hectic. On top of adjusting to jetlag and living in a new country, there are a lot of administration work to do once arriving. Within the first week students need to confirm their course schedules at the undergraduate office. It is very easy to change courses but it has to be done in the first week. As well, students need to do an in-person enrolment at the Cockcroft Building (the library) where they will get their student card. Though

there is a lot of administration, the university will let you know everything that you need to do. There is no reason to worry because everyone who works at the university is there to help international students.

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

Before I left for Brighton, I only bought a one way ticket to London Gatwick. It was just over \$300. I only bought one because my family was going to meet me at the end of the semester so I could fly home with them. I would recommend first buying a one way ticket because you might want to change your plans for the end of the semester. The semester ends earlier than the residence lease so you may want to travel in June, or go back home early. As well, exam schedules are not realized until April so it can make it a little difficult to plan coming home for those who do not want to travel after exams.

If living in residence, it will be necessary to take the bus to campus. I opted for the 90 day bus pass which was 127 pounds, but there are also 1 day bus passes and 7 day bus passes. There is also a free bus for students called “The Big Lemon” but this bus does not come as often as the city busses.

Textbooks were not required, and readings are usually given to students or can be found in the library. As a result, students do not to spend any money on textbooks.

Daily life in Brighton is not too expensive. I spent approximately 35-40\$ CAD each week on groceries. If going out to dinner, meals can be anywhere from 5-30\$ CAD. I found that fast food chains were typically more expensive than in Canada.

Phone plans are also very cheap in the UK. I opted for the cheapest pay-as-you-go option and I paid 10 pounds per month.

It is super easy to travel to London. The National Express is a coach bus that typically takes about two hours to get to London but tickets can be really cheap. Trains will only take an hour to go to London but they can be a bit more expensive. However, there are some good deals on Trainline if you only want to go to London for the day.

Traveling costs varied but on average I would spend 100\$ CAD for round trip flights. Hotels are a nice luxury but for those who are more cost efficient, hostels are a very good option. Private rooms can be about 100\$ CAD per night, but if you are comfortable staying in a room with others, it can be as cheap as 25\$ CAD per night. I would definitely recommend staying in hostels as it allows for more freedom with your budget, and in my experience, hostels are a very safe and comfortable environment for young travelers.

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

Students can either get their visa prior to departure, or they can get it at the airport when they arrive at England. I do not recommend getting a visa before you travel because it is much more complicated, there is a chance you will apply for the wrong visa, and there is a fee of around \$100. It is very easy to get a visa at the airport and there is no fee for doing so. The school will give you a list of documents you will need (such as accommodation address), but usually, the border security will only ask for the visa letter that the University of Brighton will mail to you.

I completed my course registration and housing registration in July, but the deadline was in September. The University of Brighton will email you with any necessary actions that you need to take. Though the registration for residence was completed early, students will not find out if they were accepted into residence until December. If you were not accepted, the university will send you an email prior to December so that you can look into alternative housing options.

F) Address and description of housing. Cost of housing.

Almost all international students are placed in Paddock Halls, but housing is not guaranteed so it is important to apply early for residence. Each flat had eight rooms. The halls were not equipped with dishes and cooking utensils so you can either bring some from home or buy some when you arrive. I recommend looking at Poundland, Primark or Tiger for dishes if you do not want to bring them with you. Living in halls was a bit expensive but well worth it. It was 2680 pounds, and if payed in full, you can save 3%.

My address was:

25B Paddock Field Halls of Residence, University of Brighton,
Village Way,
Falmer, Brighton, East Sussex,
BN1 8SF, UK

G) Work term (if applicable).

Not applicable.

H) Other comments or recommendations.

I recommend traveling as much as possible during your time in Brighton. You can get cheap flights on websites such as skyscanner or lastminute.com. Another good website is goeuro.com. As well, take advantage of being so close to London. It is an amazing city and there are so many things to do and see. Find as many free attractions as possible. There are lots of free walking tours and museums. A lot of attractions also have student discounts so bring your student card with you whenever you travel.

When making plans or traveling, have an open mind. Sometimes things do not always go as planned but that is just part of the adventure. Have fun but do not forget about your assignments and readings!

D) Add a description of about five to seven sentences summarizing your experience.

Optional

Studying in Brighton allowed me to grow as a person. I feel more open minded and relaxed. Even if things do not go as planned, at least you will have a good story. Brighton is a great city and there is so much student life. It was honestly one of the best experiences of my life and I have been able to cross things off my Bucket List. This exchange has introduced me to so many amazing people, and places that I never thought I'd see. Even if you do not chose Brighton, I definitely recommend doing a semester abroad!

If you have any questions regarding an exchange program in Brighton, please feel free to contact me [REDACTED].