

Telfer school of management International Exchange to Newcastle University

A) General Academic Information

If you're looking into applying to Newcastle University for your exchange abroad, you'd be making an excellent choice. This essay should give a good perspective as to what you should be expecting before, during and after your exchange at NewcastleU. Here's a quick background about me, the details surrounding my exchange as well as general information about the classes I took and the how the grading criteria works.

I'm a 3rd year student at Telfer. I took my exchange in the Fall so the weather and semesters are kind of similar to uOttawa. At uOttawa, my program is a Bachelor of Commerce with a specialization in Finance but once you come on exchange to Newcastle, you can take classes from any of the business programs available at the Newcastle University Business School (NUBS). While you're here, you'll meet students with specializations just like at uOttawa, but you're considered an exchange student so you would be taking classes that align with your course sequence back home at Telfer. When it comes to choosing your courses (or modules as they like to call them here), you'll need to choose 6 modules as that would be the equivalent of a full semester load at Telfer (30 ECTS).

To give you some context, here are the 6 modules I chose to take that fit with my timetable, the amount as class hours as well as the format for the class. A quick note that in the UK, their undergraduate degrees are only 3 years and not 4 so level 3000 classes in Newcastle is equivalent to 3rd and 4th year classes at uOttawa and 2000 level are a mix of 2nd year and 3rd year. Since I'm a 3rd year at uOttawa, I'm allowed to take courses from the 2000 and 3000 level at Newcastle.

Modules taken at NUBS:

Course Name	Class Hours	Seminar Hours	Study Hours
ACC2063: Managerial and Business Economics	18	3	79
BUS2016: Introduction to Innovation and Technology Management	10	7	82
BUS2021: Work and Organisations	14	4	82
BUS3345: Contemporary Issues in International and Comparative Business	18	2	80
BUS3347: Strategy, Organisations and Society	16	3	82
MKT2002: Global Marketing	12	3	85

Seminars are similar to DGD's but it's common for the lecture professor to also teach the seminars. They are meant to give examples not mentioned in the lectures and for students to discuss and work in groups to better understand the course material. It is very common that for exchange students, there are special assessments as we are not there for the whole year so it makes it harder to take exams since their exam season is in January and we must

be back in Ottawa by the start of the winter semester. Because of this, for all of my modules, I must write a **2000 word essay that counts for 100% of the grade**. These essays range in topic based on the module but still require hard work as there are no other assessments to help your grade.

B) Timetable and Important dates

There are many important dates and deadlines that you must follow as an exchange student to ensure to have no issues arriving or during your studies at Newcastle University. I've highlighted all these dates below based on my experience this year and will go more into detail about these events and tasks in the paragraphs below.

Important Event/Task	Date/Deadline
Application Deadline to Newcastle University	April 30 th 2019
Date of Reception of Acceptance to Newcastle	May 30 th 2019
Deadline to Submit Confirmation of Place (Confirmation of Acceptance)	June 21 st 2019
Deadline to Apply for Residence	June 30 th 2019
Date of Reception of Acceptance to Residence	July 12 th 2019
Last Day to Arrive in Newcastle/Residence for International Students	Sept 17 th 2019
Mandatory International Student Welcome Meeting	Sept 19 th 2019
Mandatory Business school welcome meeting and Module Selection	Sept 23 rd 2019
International Student Welcome Week	Sept 17 th – 21 st 2019
Freshers (101 week)	Sept 22 nd – 30 th 2019
Start of Classes	Sept 30 th 2019
Payment Deadline for Accommodation	November 1 st 2019
Business Career Conference (Reading week because classes are cancelled, and the conference is optional)	November 3 rd -7 th 2019
End of classes before winter break (end of semester for us)	December 13 th 2019

C) Procedures to follow upon arrival

Once you arrive on campus, you'll have a few days to settle in, unpack, buy anything you might've forgotten, etc. Exchange students arrive a whole week before the rest of the students so if you live on residence like me, you'll have the place and the campus to yourself. Although you can use this time to settle in and explore the city (which is highly recommended since it's beautiful), you might want to get important things out of the way before the campus becomes way overcrowded with first years and returning students.

The main and most important thing to do once you arrive is to get your student card. Unlike at uOttawa, your student card is much more important to have on you at all times on campus. It's your way of getting food, discounts, to your exams, but most importantly, it's your method of indicating your presence in classes. At the start of every single class, you tap

your card as you come in to show the professor who's present and who they can call on for questions. Since presence at lectures and seminars is mandatory, if you don't have your card before classes start, or you miss too many classes, the professors and university can fail you. Therefore, it's a good idea to get your student card ASAP so you won't have to stand in line with the thousands of first years getting theirs as well a few days later.

Another important thing you can do is sign up for a General Practitioner (Family Doctor) with the university. It's free and simple to do so I'd advise to just get it out of the way, so you won't have to think about it.

You'll have a mandatory meeting to attend a few days after you and the rest of the international and exchange students arrive. This meeting is with the head of the university, of the exchange program and with the "mayor" of Newcastle Upon Tyne. This meeting is to welcome you to the university and give you a background of the city, the campus and the university itself.

A few days later, you'll meet with the business school's exchange team who will help you get acclimatized to this new environment as well as help you officialise the courses that you would've chosen and gotten approved by Telfer before getting there. Just a quick tip that it's very common that the courses you chose preliminarily won't all fit in with your timetable. You'll have to therefore choose new courses that won't conflict with each other and then get those classes approved again by Telfer.

The last big thing to be noted upon arrival is the orientation activities. Firstly, for the week that you're there and the rest of the student's aren't, there will be an international welcome week organized by the university and the student union. The activities are free and allow you meet tons of other exchange students from around the world. Once the rest of the first years arrive, there is also Freshers (101 week/frosh week etc.). Although this is aimed towards first years, I'd still highly recommend buying a wristband and attending with your new friends since the activities are amazing and in abundance. They will take you around the whole city and it's the best way to be welcomed into the university culture.

D) Budgeting for exchange

Exchange is one of the best times of your university life, but unfortunately, it's not free nor cheap. When making the decision to go on exchange, it's important to be aware that you'll be spending a good amount of money on various trips, meals, tickets, activities, etc. I've outlined below the main categories of spending as well as an estimate on how much I've spent or will spend by the time I finish my exchange. The total is about 9,150\$ (+/- 10%) for the whole 4 month exchange.

1. Airline tickets to and from Newcastle (950\$)

Obviously, this isn't optional since you must find your way to Newcastle and home after your exchange, however you can probably find cheaper flights. The reason I chose the flight that I did was because it was a pretty direct flight to London and back (only one layover on the way there in Montreal). Also, it was with AirCanada both ways, which for me is a super reliable airline and finally, the baggage was always included with the price. Some other

airlines won't include baggage and will charge you at check in for you bag in their currency which could be much more than you expected

2. Housing and a meal plan (3500\$)

This may be considered expensive to some for 4 months of accommodation, however, if you lived off campus but still close to the school, it would cost you generally the same price. I chose to stay on residence and spend a bit more on a meal plan since I planned on traveling a lot and staying busy. I didn't want to worry about cooking for most of the time so this seemed like a good choice. The residence I'm staying in also is one of the cheapest at the university.

3. Daily expenses; food, clubs, essentials, gym, etc. (1700\$)

Once you get to Newcastle you realize that you'll need more than you think to live here for 4 months so the upfront costs of initial things add up. Then add clubbing, groceries for the weekend, gym memberships, and any other daily things you might need, the amount spent becomes pretty high.

4. Travel expenses (3000\$)

After accommodation, this is for sure the most money you'll have to spend. As an exchange student, I came here to explore and travel Europe. I arrived a few weeks early to travel and will spend every weekend until I leave in a different city or country. By the end of it I will have seen 11 countries and too many cities in the UK to count. Because of this, transport, hostels, food and activities while you're travelling become very expensive, so I'd suggest making budget before leaving.

E) Steps before you leave

It's important to stay organized before you depart to make sure you're not missing anything and have all your documents ready to go. The first thing to do is to actually apply for Newcastle University. Just because uOttawa said you're going, doesn't mean you're good to go yet. Newcastle still has to approve you and make sure that you have the minimum grades and circumstances to come.

After you finish your application and get accepted, you'll need to decide where you want to live while you're here. On or off campus. There are advantages and disadvantages to both so make sure you chose what's best for you. Based on your decision, you'll either have to apply to residence before the deadline (see section B) or start looking for available housing.

In terms of preparing to get into the country safely, you're going to need a short-term student visa. This is different to a regular student visa because you will be living in the country for less than 6 months. You don't need to apply for this visa. Instead, Newcastle university will send you an email with visa documents you'll have to show to a border patrol officer once you arrive in the UK who will give you a stamp on your passport indicating you're legally allowed to be in the country until your exchange ends.

The last thing I want to mention is that, if you take any kind of prescription medication and you'll be bringing a large supply with you on exchange like I did, you NEED to apply for a drug licence with the UK government. The application is fairly simple, all you need to provide is a doctor's note signed with a header indicating the medications you take. Not all

medications require a licence and some only require the doctors note at the airport, but I take medications that aren't legal in the UK (see class 1 drugs list to confirm) and therefore I needed a license. Even if you think you don't need one, it never hurts to apply and get told you're okay without one. That way if anything happens at the airport, you have justification from the national agency.

F) Address and description of housing

As stated above, I chose to live in university residence. I'm currently living in Castle Leazes, the university's largest (and probably oldest) residence with about 1500 students living here during the year. I chose residence because I knew it would be safe and reliable. I also didn't want the hassle of having to look for a place to stay that would only take me for 4 months, but that may not be the case for everyone.

My residence has a meal hall inside of it so getting food every day is super easy. Also, the university has 2 campuses. The original campus with historic buildings and all the main centres, as well as the Helix campus, the brand-new campus with beautiful contemporary buildings and residences. The 2 campuses are about a 5-7 minute walk from each other and both in the city centre. The advantage of living in Castle Leazes is that it's about a 10 minute walk from both campus and essentially forms a triangle with both campuses. It's also situated a huge park right next to the football stadium (soccer) where the Newcastle United team plays.

However, there is always a downside to everything. Since it's one of the oldest residences, the facilities in the rooms aren't the greatest or the nicest. Each student has their own room and washbasin (a mirror and a sink) which is great, but you share a washroom and kitchen with the floor (12-16 other people) and those facilities can get smelly and dirty. Not to mention that it's considered the party residence so you might be kept up at night but a simple call to security should fix it.

Overall, I have no regrets about choosing this accommodation but I'm hoping this info will help you make a more educated decision.

G) Work Term

Not applicable since your student visa prohibits you from working in the UK during your exchange.

H) Comments and Recommendations

I think I made small comments here and there across this essay but some recommendations I would have would be to organize yourself for your classes you don't fall behind. Instead of buying textbooks, always check the library first because all the books on the reading list can be found at the library and taken out on a long-term loan of up to 5 months which will save you lots of money. Even if you don't like clubbing or partying, go to at least one because the night life in Newcastle is something I've never seen before. Finally, join some of the universities hundreds of clubs and societies. Just like uOttawa they have clubs for almost anything you can think of. I joined the Salsa society with a few friends and it's been so fun to do after class.

I) Personal Experience

My time on exchange so far has been completely life changing. I know that's super cliché but it's true. I'm learning about similar topics, but from a new perspective from people who've done business around the world and experienced these cultures firsthand. Listening to the answers students give to open questions makes you think how different yet similar you think to them. The people I've made friends with also come from everywhere around the globe and have knowledge and cultures that differ from mine. I met Dutch students, Australians, Swedes, Germans, Africans, French, Spanish, Mexicans, Chinese, Indian, of course British people and so many more. I've been learning new sayings, trying new foods and even trying to learn a new Language (Ich spreche Deutsch). I've climbed huge mountains, seen cities that haven't changed in 1000 years, visited one of the first countries to legalize prostitution, stepped inside Anne Frank's house, admired works of art from the best artists in the world and even visited the Harry Potter film locations.

Overall, I'm excited to bring all these new experiences and memories back with me to Canada to share with my friends and family. The next time I take a vacation, I'm hoping I'll be able to travel anywhere in the world and know at least 1 person from that country. If you're on the fence about applying for an exchange, just know that I think everyone deserves to go on exchange at least once in their life in order to experience just a little of what the world has to offer.