

A) I am a student studying international Management at the Telfer School of Business and I have been doing my term abroad at the University of Newcastle Business School. As I am only doing one semester abroad, I have to complete 30 ECTS Credits. At Newcastle University, that is equivalent to 6 courses of 5 ECTS credits each. There are courses available that are 10 ECTS credits each as well. The course format is extremely similar to courses at the University of Ottawa. However, it is only 2 hours of lectures per class per week. These may be two one-hour lectures or just one two-hour lecture. On top of this, most classes have weekly or bi-weekly seminars, which are the equivalent of DGDs. In these seminars, you do case studies or other activities surrounding the topics covered in previous lectures.

My courses are as follows:

- **BUS2001 : Case Studies in Practical Management (Semester 1)**
  - Assessments:
    - Oral Presentation (Not for marks, used to deliver feedback)
    - Report (100%)
- **BUS2016 : Introduction to Innovation and Technology Management**
  - Assessments:
    - Report (100%)
- **BUS2039 : Research Methods in Theory (Erasmus/Study Abroad students Sem 1)**
  - Assessments:
    - Report (100%)
- **BUS2129 : Operations Strategy and Management (for Erasmus / Study Abroad Students)**
  - Assessments:
    - Essay (100%)
- **BUS3024 : Critical Perspectives on Human Resource Management**
  - Assessments:
    - Essay (100%)
- **BUS3054 : Strategy, Organizations & Society**
  - Assessments:
    - Exam (50%)
    - Essay (50%)

A key difference between schedules in Canada vs the UK is that in the UK the weeks are not always the same. Each week your class times are different meaning your schedule is completely different week to week. This means you have to stay on top of tasks and be organized to ensure you know what classes you have when in order to always be prepared.

B) British Universities only have 2 semesters per year going from October-January and February-June. For first semester, classes only go until mid-December, with the last day

of classes being December 14<sup>th</sup>. Although exams are in the new year which means I am unable to be here for it, you can get alternate assessments in order to ensure you are back in Canada before Christmas and for the beginning of second semester in Ottawa. As you can see, many of my classes have 100% essays rather than exams and that works out because they are still due in January I just have to submit them online rather than in person. All of my teachers are very accommodating and make life for an international student extremely easy. For the Fall 2018 Term, classes began on Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, however international students had to arrive on September 18<sup>th</sup> in order to participate in an orientation. In terms of flights, I flew over on September 4<sup>th</sup>, which is very early. I had someone to stay with in London which is why I came so early, if not I probably would have flown in on or just before September 18<sup>th</sup>. My return flight is December 18<sup>th</sup>, which gives me a few days after class end to get my things together and perhaps travel for an additional day or two before coming home. Most of my flat mates are going home December 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> depending on their schedule so it is definitely fine to leave then if you wish to get home as soon as possible.

- C) Upon arrival, there are a few things to be done. Firstly, if you are flying into Newcastle airport on the international student arrival day then there will be people from the University there to assist you. From there you take a bus with them to your accommodation and begin all of your registration. I took the train from London to Newcastle, therefore I had to take a taxi from the station to my residence rather than having the University correspondents to help me. Once I arrived at my residence, I went to the reception and got my room key sorted. Additionally, I ordered bedding and a few other items to be delivered directly to my dorm upon my arrival and I picked those up from reception immediately. Once settled into one's room, you must go to campus to get fully registered. You must prove you are therefore you must bring ID and your passport since you're an international student. At this registration, you will also get your student card, which is extremely important. After this registration, you must then proceed to get your General Practice doctor sorted. This just means you pick a location to have as your doctor's office if you ever have any health issues. That is all you have to do right away once you arrive, however the next few days are also important as there are many other things going on. On the first day, you will get a calendar for the upcoming week and you will have to go to a few information sessions that week before regular students arrive. On top of this, there is also a day for course selection, so you do that upon arrival, not in advance. Along with the mandatory sessions and course selection, there are many activities for international students including a night at the on campus bar and many other activities, such as tours around the city during the day. These are not mandatory, however it is a great way to meet fellow international students before it gets very busy.

International students had to arrive a few days before all the other students who were arriving on the weekend. On that weekend, that is when you can pick up your Fresher's kit (equivalent to Frosh week). You should order this online in advance to ensure you get it. Freshers week starts the week before classes and it's a great way to meet people as well as do some things that you otherwise wouldn't have the chance to do.

- D) When going abroad there are many expenses to take in to account. Firstly, the flight to actually get over to England. My flights to London from Toronto round trip cost about \$900-\$1000 CAD. I stayed in London for a little bit before I had to go up north to Newcastle but since it was with a family friend it was free. My train from London to Newcastle cost about 60 GBP however I only booked it a day in advance so if you book it a few weeks before you can definitely get a better price. Taxi from the train station to my residence only cost only about 10 GBP, it is walkable however I had many bags. One expensive thing is the on campus gym which membership for the semester cost 110 GBP. Although this seems expensive, it is extremely convenient as the gym is right beside the accommodation. It is extremely easy to travel out of Newcastle to other cities. The taxi ride from campus to the airport is between 10-15 GBP and flights obviously vary depending on destination. I flew to Amsterdam and it cost 170 GBP (about 300 CAD) round-trip. Additionally I took a day trip to Edinburgh and the train tickets cost about 40 GBP round-trip. The Fresher's week wristband costs 67.50 GBP and with it you get to choose between many activities which change daily. You also get access to bar nights with cover included and some free drinks if you want.
- E) Being a dual Canadian/Swiss citizen, I did not need to apply for a visa. Therefore, I cannot discuss the process. Before you arrive, there are a few things you must do and the university will always notify you when things need to get done. The deadline to apply for accommodation was June 30<sup>th</sup>; however, I applied at the very beginning of June in order to get it out of the way. It is not a first come first serve basis, but I was much more comfortable doing it earlier. I was notified in early July about my room allocation, but I could not accept the offer until August. For course selection, as mentioned above, you complete it upon arrival to the university. It is very simple and you simply get a list of classes you are eligible for and pick out enough to add up to 30 ECTS credits. Additionally, as mentioned above, you are able to purchase items to be delivered and waiting for you upon your arrival. Along with bedsheets and pillows, I bought a laundry hamper and clothing hangers so I did not have to bring any or purchase any when I got there. You can also buy items like towels and other bathroom necessities.

F) At Newcastle University, I am staying in Park View Student Village.

Park View Student Village  
Richardson Road  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE2 4BS

In this accommodation, I get my own room, my own bathroom and I share a kitchen and living space with 7 others. All rooms in this accommodation have 4 guys and 4 girls. The residence is 6 different residential blocks about a 5-10 minute walk from campus and a 10-15 minute walk from the business school. The cost of residence is 135 GBP per week (230 CAD). This residence was built brand new for the 2018-19 school year. Additionally, you must pay for the washer and dryer and it is 1.10 GBP per wash and per dry therefore its 2.20 GBP per load. Park View Student Village is not catered, meaning I have to buy all of my groceries and make my own meals (about 30 GBP per week). There are a few residences where you can get catered which includes breakfast and dinner, however you would still be responsible for one meal a day.

G) My recommendation would be to stay in Park View Student Village. As stated, it is the newest residence on campus, so it has the nicest facilities. It is also situated right beside the sports centre and is a short distance to both main campus and the business school. Although each flat has 8 people, you have your own room so you have plenty of privacy if that is what you prefer. One downside is that the school is currently putting an addition on to the sports centre to make it much bigger so there is loud construction. By the time your term comes around though it should be finished which is another positive that the gym will be brand new just like the residence itself.

H) Newcastle is a beautiful city and the school is amazing as well. Although it is very far north there is still plenty to do and plenty of things to see. Newcastle is consistently ranked as one of the best student cities in the UK as it is much cheaper than other big cities and has great nightlife and other activities. I have met many new friends and had so many new experiences and I am so happy I chose to study at Newcastle University. One thing I like about it is that although it is a big city, everything feels pretty close and the entire downtown area is very walkable. Whether you want to watch sports, shop, travel or just hang out, Newcastle has so many options for everybody and I can't recommend it enough.