

Date: 21st of August 2022

Final report from exchange semester from spring 2022 - January to June. The semester was spent in Birmingham, England, at the Birmingham City University (BCU). The courses studied were: Event and Project Management (20 ECTS point), and Jewellery and Objects (10 ECTS point). Given the field of study, the university is located in the Jewellery Quarter in Birmingham. The two courses were located in the Jewellery Quarter but in two different buildings. Both buildings are new and renovated, easy to navigate in and the facilities are of high quality. The workshop at the campus, where I studied the course Jewellery and Objects, was nice and tidy, but the staff were more strict than what I'm used to at KEA, therefore it took some habituation. The teachers were nice and understood that it took some habituation before the settlement was complete. Honestly I had kind of a rough start, because the communication wasn't great and I was unsure and confused about which campus to go to first and how to get there. But it all got sorted out and the staff at the main building are very sweet and helpful.

But I also don't have that much to say about BCU and the lectures we were attending. We were only in school about 1,5 days a week, on Tuesdays from 1pm to 4pm and Thursdays from 09.30 am to 03.30pm. The teachers were nice and helpful even though sometimes things were a bit out of hand and it seemed like they didn't have control over things. Given that the course's lectures weren't many hours per week I would still say I learned a lot on both courses.

But all in all it was a very good experience and exchange semester! I would recommend going, to everyone I know. I have met some amazing people, who I'm now friends for life with! I would never want to be without this experience.

For my case I was staying at an accommodation called LakeSide, which is a part of the UniteStudent's accommodations. The places were nice and tidy, the rooms are a good size and so is the bathroom. There was a 120x200cm bed with storage under it, desk, closets and drawers, so you can store your stuff. The kitchen is big, has two refrigerators, a stove, two sinks and a lot of cabinet space and it is shared with 7 other students. There is also a huge dining table where all 8 students can sit.

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Birmingham city is a very old, industrial and large city, actually the second largest in England. There are some really nice places in the city centre, and a lot of ongoing improvement of the city. However the city have some to offer, but after you have walked around for some days but there is a great infrastructure which makes it manageable to visit other cities. I would recommend visiting the city centre, the library in the city centre, take a walk to Cannon Hill Park, visit the Jewellery Quarter and walk along the canals. There are also some great pubs and even some historical ones. Here I would recommend one named The Old Joint Stock Pub and Theatre close to the St. Philip's Cathedral. Birmingham City Centre is also a lovely place if you are in for a shopping experience or some delicious food. One of the many good things about Birmingham is the cultural diversity. There are so many different cultures in Birmingham, and people are very welcoming. Additionally to the many different cultures, there's a lot of different and amazing food to taste. A very culinary experience. When you have visited the city centre I would recommend a short walk to the part of Birmingham called Digbeth. In Digbeth you will find a lot of vacant buildings at the moment. But other than that Digbeth has a lot of other potential there's a lot of new bars, vintages boutiques and much more.