

ERASMUS-Erfahrungsbericht

Persönliche Angaben			
Name:		Vorname:	
E-Mail-Adresse			
Gastland	England		
Gasthochschule	University of Gloucestershire		
Aufenthalt	von:	11.09.2011	bis: 16.12.2011

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Bericht (mindestens 1 Seite)
<p>The preparations were made - the application was done, the courses were chosen and an accommodation was found and then it was there – my semester abroad at the University of Gloucestershire.</p> <p>I started my journey to Cheltenham some days before the start of University, so, I thought, I had enough time to discover the town in which I was going to live for the next months. I traveled with a bus company from Berlin to London through the Eurotunnel and then from London to Cheltenham with a coach of the national express. Arriving in Cheltenham I was picked up by my landlord who invited me for dinner. The house as well as my room was very small. I lived there with 6 other persons – my landlord with his family and three other students - from Japan, from Southampton/England and from Malaysia. We were a multicultural flat share so to say and we had lots of fun. For my room, which was not bigger than 10m², I paid 300 Pounds per month, which is with the Chemnitz standard very expensive but in England quite normal. In comparison with the student accommodations offered by the University it was even quite cheap. When I asked my friends, I got to know there, about their rents, they told me that they were paying around 90 – 120 Pounds for their accommodation per week. This was nevertheless depending on further ‘services’ like breakfast and dinner which were provided by their landlords or landladies.</p> <p>Why Cheltenham?</p> <p>The University of Gloucestershire has 3 different campuses. One – The Oxstalls – is in Gloucester and the other two – The Park and FCH – are in Cheltenham. Due to my courses which were linguistics and literature and which were held at FCH, I decided for</p>

Cheltenham. It is the town where the majority of students met and it offers a lot of shopping possibilities, Cafés, night clubs and pubs.

Student life – The University, Events and Culture

Even though I had to change the courses I actually wanted, my second choice courses have been great. The course tutors have regards for exchange students and offer appointments for further questions.

One thing being an Erasmus student in another country is that one is never alone and this is for sure. The University offers a lot of ‘Getting to know other students – Events’ and the chance of being on one’s own after those is nearly zero except one is and wants to stay a loner. It already starts at the welcome week which is offered by the university to get the first contacts with the university itself, the people and the culture. I can definitely recommend this welcome week for everyone who wants to study at another university in another country. It is not for free but it includes an accommodation for the first 3 days, lunch and dinner tokens and also a day trip to a city in the UK – for me it was Cardiff. During this welcome week, students are provided with lots of information about living in the country, including how the NHS works, how to work in the country and how to stick to security guidelines. It is about studying at the University, giving support in courses registering, introducing the Student Help Zone and Students Union and is providing Work Shops about online recourses. The University also helps students to find an accommodation if they do not have one yet. Nevertheless, the welcome week is not only about studying and what students have to be aware of when living in England; it is also about party, culture and making friends.

Other services provided by the University are the international café in which international students meet once a week at the FCH chapel and then of course the day trips organized by the international office. The day trips I did have been to the spectacular Lightning Carnival in Weston Super Mare, to old Stonehenge, to the very beautiful roman city Bath and to the German Christmas market in Birmingham. There was also a day trip to London which some of my friends did. The trips were just amazing and the places worth visiting. Besides the day trips offered by the international office, one can also explore the country on one’s own by traveling by train or coach. Gloucester for example is a beautiful city too and can be reached by bus from Cheltenham within 30 minutes. A ticket costs with the student card one pound only. For those who like to travel and who want to visit many places I can recommend the national express’s coach card, which costs for students 10 pounds but which allows getting a

discount of 30% of the normal price.

However, when I stayed in Cheltenham I had the chance to visit the Cheltenham Literature Festival which takes place in autumn every year. Due to my literature seminars I got lots of free tickets from the university for different book presentations and discussions of authors. Another event which is typical English is the Cheltenham Racecourse for which the town is famous for. The opening begins in November but the real big festival starts in March. For everyone who always wanted to bet on a horse, may it also be the wrong one, should definitely visit this festival.

The experiences I made during this semester have been great and I can recommend this to everyone who wants to get in contact with another study culture.

Some useful links:

<http://uk.easyroommate.com/>

www.eurolines.de

<http://www.nationalexpress.com/home.aspx>

<http://megabus.com/>