

## ERASMUS-Erfahrungsbericht

Persönliche Angaben			
Name:		Vorname:	
E-Mail-Adresse			
Gastland	Großbritannien		
Gasthochschule	University of Sheffield		
Aufenthalt	von:	12. September 2010	bis: 08. Februar 2011

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Bericht (mindestens 1 Seite)
<p>Sheffield, a beautiful and lovely city in the north of England, was my home for one semester and it was an experience which I don't want to miss. When I applied for the semester abroad, I've never heard of Sheffield before to be honest. But after five months, it became as familiar as my home town Chemnitz.</p> <p>The application procedure was actually very easy. It was done online and almost everything which was needed from the University of Sheffield could be sent by e-mail. After applying, all the prearrangements had to be done such as booking the flight, probably the best way getting to England. Therefore, in September I took the plane from Altenburg to Standsted and then went by bus heading toward Sheffield. Arriving there was a shock in the first place because I was overwhelmed by the students who warmly welcomed and helped us with the luggage. The reason why students were welcoming us was because I participated in the Orientation Programme which took place one week before the Intro Week. The Orientation Programme is optional, but it is very helpful since there are a lot of talks about different issues which are useful for students living and studying in England. Besides, the advantage of this week was that participants not only got breakfast as well as dinner, but also they had a place to sleep for one week. During this time, I looked for a private accommodation because the University accommodations were too expensive for me. Actually, it was rather easy to find an accommodation, but few landlords wanted to let their properties for only one semester. In the end, I lived in a house with five other people (three Germans, one Italian and one Finn) and had to pay 60£ a week which is favourable for British conditions, but it has to be mentioned that the English standards are not as high as in Germany.</p> <p>The Intro Week, on the other hand, is basically for students to choose their courses and get registered. If students aren't satisfied with the courses they chose, it is possible to simply drop it from the student's record later on using the add/drop form. In this week, there were also a lot of activities and fairs which had many freebies for freshers. After the "Fresher's Week", the actual semester started and lectures took place. One fact was very striking and annoying as well. The university offered a number of courses which are for ERASMUS students only which again means that there wasn't really contact to local students. So, I had one literature and one ELTC-course, a placement test based language course, which were especially for ERASMUS students. Nevertheless, the courses were very enjoyable because the teachers were very friendly and helpful. The strange thing was that we were allowed to address them by their first name. Additionally, there is a Reading Week in each semester giving students the opportunity to prepare for courses and evaluate afterwards or to finish assignments.</p> <p>The University of Sheffield is indeed a very modern university. The Information Common (IC), for example, is a study space with 24-hour access to books and other materials as well as</p>

computers. The IC isn't the only fascinating university building. The University of Sheffield also has a students run union which was completed last year. There are not only clubs, bars and cafes, but also several shops in which people can buy food or souvenirs. There is even an auditorium in which students can watch the latest films or classics as well. Moreover, there are also various spaces to sit and relax as well as to study. The Student Services Information Desk (SSiD) can be found in the Students' Union, as well. The SSiD helps students concerning any problem, whether it is concerning exams or financial matters, the staff always have a ready answer. The Union offers a lot of activities as well. Students can choose from a large number of societies including architecture to zoology. There is also the possibility to take part in one of the many Give it a Go activities, giving the chance to try new things without joining a society. Simply buy a ticket from the box office, which is in the Students' Union as well. The box office sells also tickets to all the other activities including day trips, parties or visits to the cinema.

Sheffield doesn't only offer a modern university, but also a nice city centre with its shops (a lot of them give student discount) as well as beautiful and interesting places all over the town. Although Sheffield is "England's 4<sup>th</sup> largest city", it has a feeling of being rather a big village than a big city. It is in fact easy to walk and get to certain places very fast (the university buildings are within easy reach in contrast to Chemnitz), though Sheffield is very hilly. I also had the feeling that wandering in Sheffield is safer than in Chemnitz. In Sheffield people can perfectly wander around in one of the numerous parks such as the Botanical Gardens or Weston Park - not for nothing Sheffield is called the greenest city in Europe.

All in all, this semester was an awesome experience. There were some difficulties like getting used to the northern accent as well as to the more expensive currency, but if you want to study in a student friendly city with a well-organised university, Sheffield is the right choice.