

## ERASMUS-Erfahrungsbericht

Persönliche Angaben			
Name:		Vorname:	
E-Mail-Adresse			
Gastland	United Kingdom		
Gasthochschule	University of Sheffield		
Aufenthalt	von:	12. September 2010	bis: 9. Februar 2011

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Bericht (mindestens 1 Seite)
<p>I spent my semester abroad at the University of Sheffield in the North of England. First of all, I have to say that I really enjoyed those five months in terms of the university, the city and the people I met there. The application process was really straightforward. Furthermore, it was no problem to get in touch with the staff of the International Exchanges Unit in order to solve any occurring problems and questions. The University of Sheffield also offers a so-called Orientation Programme for all international Erasmus- and Study Abroad-students one week before the official Intro Week starts. This first week is probably the best way to discover Sheffield, to familiarize with the university and to meet a lot of people from all over the world. In the Intro Week then all the paperwork has to be done, which is less difficult and frightening than it sounds. Everywhere on the campus you find people who are able to help you and the whole organizational process is quite well organized. I also used the very first week to find an accommodation for the following months. I decided to rent a room in a private accommodation with other international students, because it is probably the cheapest way of living in Sheffield and you get to know the 'typical-English-houses-experience' nearly everyone who lived in student accommodation was envious of. In total I paid about £300 per month including all additional costs. One important and money-saving hint for travelling to and within the UK is to book tickets (e.g. Ryanair, Megabus/train, ...) online as early as possible. With this method it is no problem to go to London by bus for less than £5. Sheffield itself is a rather unimpressive city. It still gives the impression of being an old industrial city. Places worth visiting are the Botanical Gardens, Meadowhall (a colossal paradise to go shopping) and the Peak District, which is part of a National Park in the Northwest of Sheffield – with a really wonderful countryside. The University of Sheffield itself is a very good university in my opinion. The size of the courses is really small, so that everyone has the</p>

possibility to participate actively and that it is easier to get responses from the teachers. Probably the most striking aspects of the University of Sheffield are the Student's Union and the IC. The Student's Union is the starting point of everything. There, you can find for example the Information Desk, shops or the box office to get tickets for parties, trips and the cinema. The Union also hosts various societies, volunteering and the 'Give It A Go'-programmes. The latter one is an activity programme where you can try new sports, learn new things, or visit different places for a small amount of money. The IC, or Information Commons, is one of the libraries of the University of Sheffield. Open 24/7 it is a place to learn, to write assignments, but also to meet friends. The only negative aspect about this University I have to mention is that students of English and American Studies are more or less forced to take courses especially for Erasmus-students. This means, that the contact to the British students is limited unfortunately. All in all, the time in Sheffield was a wonderful and challenging time and a great opportunity to become more independent, to improve the knowledge of English, to undergo new experiences at a foreign university in a foreign country.