

ERASMUS-Erfahrungsbericht

Persönliche Angaben			
Name:		Vorname:	
E-Mail-Adresse			
Gastland	Großbritannien		
Gasthochschule	University of Sheffield		
Aufenthalt	von:	19.09.2009	bis: 06.02.2010

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Bericht (mindestens 1 Seite)
<p>One thing I noticed when I came to the University of Sheffield was that paper work was not as important as in Germany. Our Chemnitz University of Technology pays much attention to those issues, but to the people in Sheffield it was more important to give a warm welcome to all the foreigners who came there.</p> <p>When I applied for the semester abroad, I also felt that their International Exchanges Unit was very helpful and kind. They answered every question I had to ask them about the Learning Agreement and the Letter of Confirmation very politely. I arrived before the so called Intro Week started, and even then there were masses of Sheffield students with signs saying: Need help? They would immediately come up to you and carry your luggage (which is massive, since you have a full semester ahead of you). I have to say that I was scared not to find the point where all students were to collect the accommodation keys, but that was not a problem at all because the students there were there to help. However, I had the feeling that the accommodation was a bit pricey, but you should not compare the UK to Germany in this respect I suppose. Assuming I would go there again, I would definitely look for private accommodation since it is cheaper.</p> <p>In general, studying in Sheffield leaves you with the impression that if a country has enough money to spend on education, it can only be of benefit for its students. What I liked most was the IC, which is one of the uni libraries, where you could actually eat something while studying or writing your essay. Moreover, the library was huge so academic work was easy to do. Also it was a kind of social meeting place where students could meet to talk. The library staff would also be very helpful if e.g. problems with connecting ones pc to the local network occurred.</p> <p>Another aspect I would like to mention is that the student village as well as the campus are very safe places. At night security cars controlled the area, and of course there is CCTV everywhere. I never felt anxious to walk home alone when it was late. Additionally, the university had established a bus service for women, which would take them home at night.</p> <p>As for the seminars I took in Sheffield, I can only say that the teaching quality is much better than it is at Chemnitz UT. The courses are not overcrowded so that everyone understands the lecturer. Unfortunately, when I tried to sign up for courses other than the ERASMUS student courses the lecturers would politely try to make me take the ERASMUS courses. I found this annoying, since one of my goals was to improve my English knowledge, which was not possible in a course full of foreign students. Still, I enjoyed all of my courses very much and learned a lot about other cultures.</p> <p>For most of the students who are planning to go abroad social activities are the most important issue. I can only say that no one will become a social pariah in Sheffield. At the beginning of the semester you get a plan with a variety of socials and parties you can visit. In case you do not very much appreciate University parties, there are lots of pubs, clubs and bars in the inner city, which cover almost every musical preference you might have. From my point of view, it is easy to socialise with people in Sheffield with that mass of events. The city itself is nice as well, so make sure to go there for a bit of sightseeing or shopping. The Botanical Gardens, Ecclesall Road and Meadowhall are only three places you should visit.</p> <p>All in all I can say the following about my semester abroad: It was an experience I would like</p>

to recommend to every student, because it shows you so many things about other cultures and about your own as well. Secondly, prejudices you might have can be right or wrong - you can only find out if you visit the country. When I came home again, I noticed how cosmopolitan Sheffield actually was, especially when it comes to tolerance and acceptance of other cultures. I would definitely go there again if I had enough money, which is an issue but should not keep you from visiting Sheffield.

