



ARCHITECTURAL TECHNOLOGIES  
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# ERASMUS EXCHANGE REPORT

Nottingham Trent University

## Introduction

My name is Deima and I was an international Architectural Technologies and Construction Management 4th semester student at KEA when I decided that I want to take a semester abroad. The reason behind my decision was mainly because I was studying two years at KEA and I wanted a “fresh breeze” in my education as well as to learn things from a different perspective and step out of my comfort zone. When I had a chat with our international coordinator Sophia and explained what my goals for this exchange were, one of her suggestions were Nottingham Trent University in England. There was not a lot of information about how things taught there, because it was a new partner University, so I had to do some of my own research to make my final decision. The more I researched the more I started to like the NTU. It was not far away from Denmark, it had big campuses and interesting courses. It was a cozy student city with walking distance to everywhere. Moreover, the rankings in the internet about university were good as well. Therefore, I decided that it was worth trying and applied for it.

## Nottingham Trent University (NTU)

### *Classes & Lecturers*

We had four main lecturers in the course: Tom, Vince, Richard & Andy. The one that was standing out most was Vince. He was our senior lecturer, very strict but fair, likes to criticize and “provoke” you, so you would get out of your comfort zone and see things from another perspective. He likes to have the last word in a discussion. You would think that everyone would try to avoid him but it was actually the other way around. When it came time to choose a tutor for your project discussion, everyone wanted to talk exactly with him.

I had four different classes at NTU:

- Construction Technology
- Technology & Design Studio
- Planning, Development & Survey
- Integrated Design & Communication

In **Construction Technology** classes, you will get a better understanding of construction design and technologies behind it, why buildings are constructed the way they are, material choices, structures and drawing by hand in scale.

We had a lecture and a seminar every Monday where we got an assignment afterwards, which we had to hand in digitally every Wednesday.

In **Technology & Design** Studio classes, you are going to learn about technical aspects associated with building environments and performance requirements.

We had this class every Tuesday followed by a seminar afterwards where you have a chance to talk to the teacher, ask questions face to face, and get everything explained. Sometimes there were up to four lecturers in the seminar to answer your questions.

In **Planning, Development & Survey** you are going to learn about building regulations, planning applications, local authorities, SWOT analysis, building permits and all the legal stuff. We had a project where we had the whole week of surveying where we actually learned how to do it professionally. How to read data and write it etc. We had a guest lecturer for that project that was an educated surveyor.

In **Integrated Design & Communication** classes, you will learn mostly about Revit. They are still using CAD there, so they have classes on Revit and how to use it. They also learn how to use some other programs like InDesign and helps you to create a professional CV.

We went to some study trips with the class organized by school. One of them was a trip to Birmingham. There we experienced the difference in architecture between Nottingham and Birmingham.

NTU will provide you with all equipment needed: safety shoes, helmet, high visibility vest etc.

## Campuses & class facilities

NTU has six campuses: Arkwright, Newton, Maudsley, Bonnington, Waverley & Chaucer. Most of our classes were in Newton, Arkwright, Maudsley & Bonnington. All campuses are relatively close to each other like five minutes' walk. Newton campus has a big canteen.

Class facilities are big with new modern teaching equipment, projectors on the walls etc.



Court yard between Arkwright & Newton



Studio in Arkwright



Studio in Arkwright





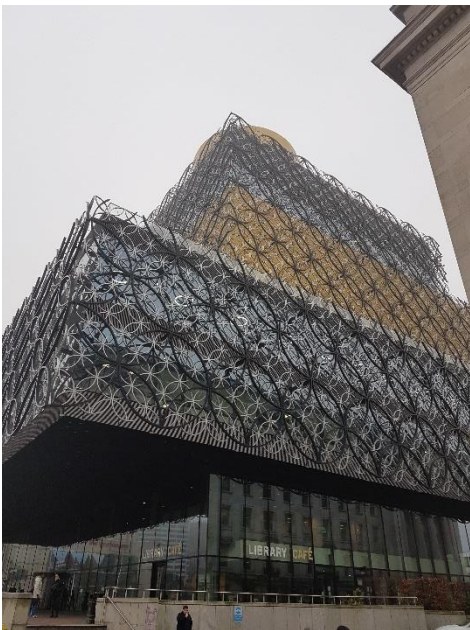
One of the  
Newton's  
classrooms



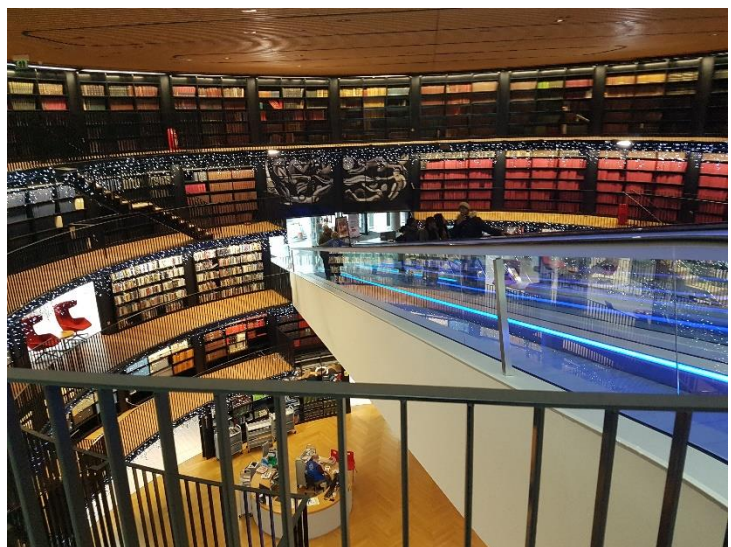
Revit classes

## Conclusion

Overall, I think my exchange was successful and useful since I have learned many new things that I think I would not have learned in KEA. It fulfilled my education. There I have learned how to start a project from the very start, from scratch since we did not get the design of the building for the project and we had to come up with our own design and then defend it why it is looking like that. Not like in KEA where we typically get the design of the building and then work the changes from there. Another thing I liked about NTU that they have real “live” projects running. There you get the chance to communicate with clients face to face, hear their wishes and requirements, and learn to “filter” what is possible and what is not. If you do get a chance to go to exchange, my honest advice to you is to do it. You will get so much out of it.



Library in Birmingham



Inside the library in Birmingham

## Social and Cultural Experiences

Nottingham is a student city. Everything in there is practically adapted to students.

So do not forget to ask everywhere if they have a student discount, because many places do offer that.

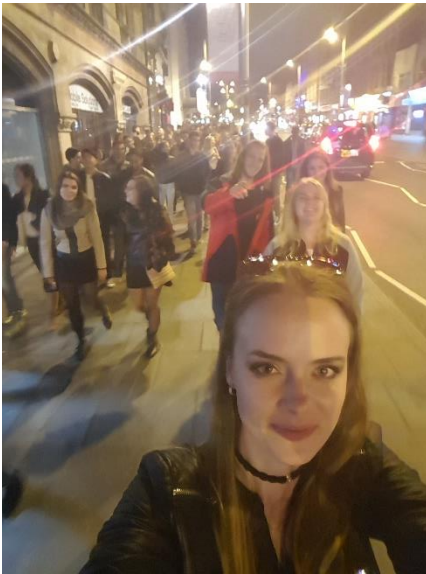
There are many ways to meet new people and socialize in Nottingham. We went to visit many places with a group called City Life Nottingham. They offer trips to other cities for students, local pub-crawls every week, typically every Thursday and Friday.

For nightlife, Nottingham has some good clubs as well. Do not get surprised if it is Wednesday evening and you are seeing many people dressed as if they are going to Halloween party because probably they are going clubbing to “Ocean” club where it is a requirement to be dressed as if you were going to a Halloween party. Other clubs that are popular there:

- Pryzm
- PopPom
- Lacehouse
- Coco Tang
- The Boilermaker

Most students do go out on Wednesdays & Saturdays because in these days clubs and bars offer student discounts.





Pub-crawl in Nottingham



Pryzm club

### Things to see & visit

Every year in October there is a Goose Fair in Nottingham. If you are coming at that time, it is necessary to experience.







Another place to visit is Wallaton Park that is located just a bit outside Nottingham. There was filmed The Batman movie.







## Practical Experiences

### Accommodation

When you get the confirmation for your studies in Nottingham start looking for a place to stay. The system there is that you have to pay for the whole year of your stay for the accommodation because they do not do half year. Therefore, this is what we did as well. Then you can sub rent your apartment to others and get your money back for the period that you will not be living. That should not be a problem because there is always exchange students coming and leaving. Do not wait to the last minute to find a place because all the cheap and good places are “grabbed” fast.

### Travelling around

Since it is a small city, I rarely used public transportation. You can walk the city around on foot. They do have busses and trams that does not cost much. The whole day ticket costs like 2,50 pounds.

Even though the flight tickets are cheap to and from Copenhagen, the train tickets to the airport (I traveled from Luton) can be expensive. Sometimes it can reach up to 80 pounds one-way so it is important to book your ticket as soon as possible when you know that you will be travelling somewhere.

## Food

Fast food is much cheaper there that is why there are many overweight people. Food in general is not so expletive. Many supermarkets around like Tesco & Sainsbury's. I personally preferred the "Arabian" grocery stores, because the quality of the food was much better and the prices were lower.

Big variety of restaurants and kitchens. Moreover, the prices are friendly. Just if you are going to eat Thursday to Sunday, make sure to make a reservation. Good places gets packed quickly and then you will have to wait.

Some recommended restaurants:

- George's
- Bill's
- Coopers
- Rocket at Saltwater
- Spanky Van Dykes
- Wagamama
- The Ugly Bread Bakery

## Conclusion

I am happy I chose Nottingham. No regrets there. I have learned many new things at NTU, have met many amazing people, and had amazing experiences. Even though the city is small it felt like a big city because it has everything needed starting from entertainment, public attractions and shopping finishing with bars, clubs and fancy restaurants etc. I can highly recommend NTU for you exchange. I am sure everyone who is going there is going to have the time of his or her life!



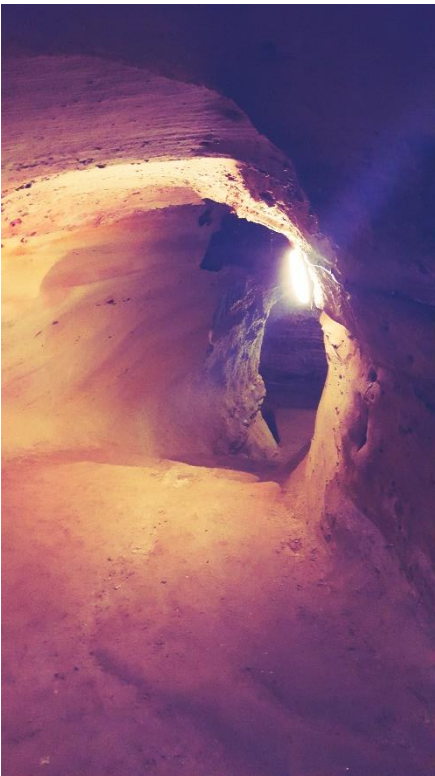
## Photos



Robin Hood Statue



Nottingham Castle



Caves



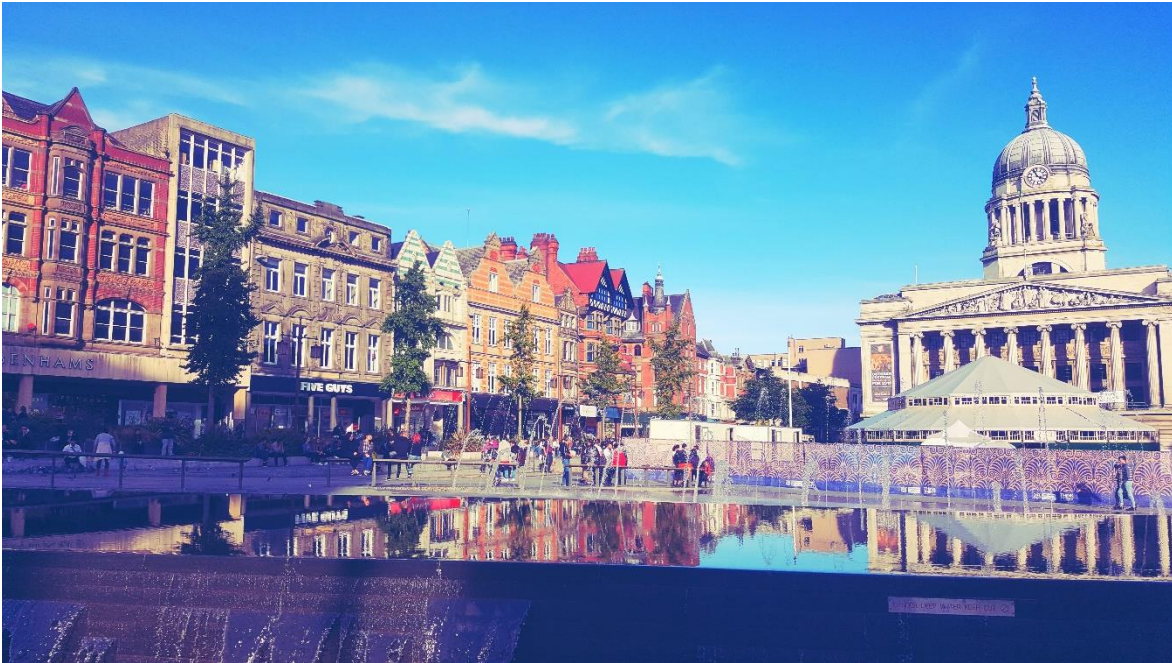


Oldest Pub in England



in the Nottingham's Castle



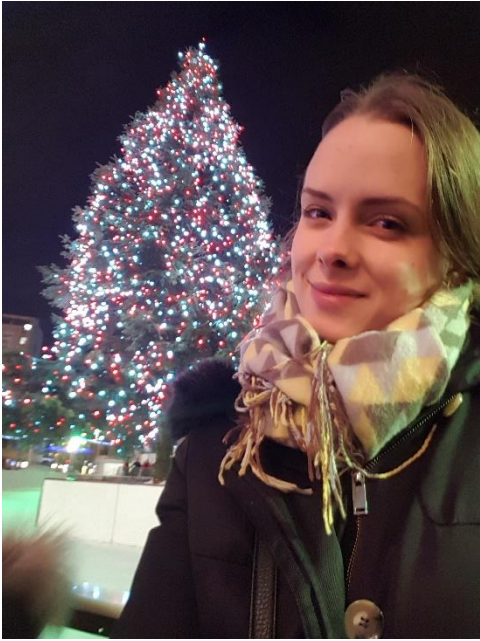


Market Square



Attenborough Water Reserve





Christmas tree at Market Square



Christmas market



Queuing in England is very important



View from the studio





Arboretum Park



Walking Street





Halloween



Trip to Manchester



First day at NTU



and the last day in UK