



EXCHANGE REPORT

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NOTTINGHAM TRENT UNIVERSITY

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Introduction

The reason for me going on exchange was that I wanted to get the English perspective on my education since I normally study in Danish. I knew since the 2nd semester that I wanted to study abroad, primarily because I felt the professional English was lacking. Therefore, I focused on English instead of getting a nice tan Spain or Italy. I told Sophia that I wanted to study in an English speaking country and she purposed Nottingham Trent University in England. I ended up leaving for Nottingham with 3 other KEA students.

Before leaving

Before I left, for England I tried to study all the previous exchange report, which were all good but none of the reports explained the basics such as how to get to the university. So here goes the basics.

Getting to Nottingham is quite easy especially since their public transportation works compared to the Danish. However, the large stations and all the people can be confusing but this is the time to remember the English people are all very friendly and super service minded so asking for help is always easy.

Going back and forth, I tried a couple of times now and here are the routes I prefer.

Plane from Copenhagen to either Birmingham or Manchester and then a train directly to Nottingham. This is all quite easy and the plane tickets go for around 500 DKK with SAS youth, the train can be quite expensive if you not buy them off-peak. Always check the train before buying the flight ticket.

Accommodation

When you look at accommodation in Nottingham from home, you see all these amazing student accommodations located right in the middle of the city centre. However, stop dreaming since 99% of these places only rent for a whole year. This clearly limits the field since it will mostly be smaller rooms in shared houses that will be available for shorter periods.

Of course it depends on what you expect, personally I prioritized an en-suite room meaning having a private bathroom. It is far from everybody who needs this, which will make the search both easier and cheaper.

I ended up living half an hour walk from school, but I did get my own bathroom at a reasonable price for the short period. Check cotton mills (<http://www.cottonmills.co.uk/>) to see prices etc. It is not the best part of the city and not the most central location but we never had any problems. The rooms are quite old and you share a kitchen with 4-5 others who are most likely a lot younger than you, which means their abilities to clean after themselves might be lacking.

Nottingham Trent University

I never thought about how big the university would be before I left for Nottingham. I knew it would be larger than KEA but I had no idea it would be this massive. When we just arrived, we took a taxi from our accommodation and told the driver if he knew where Nottingham Trent University was, he just looked at us and said yes I think I have seen it before. We then found out the whole city is built around the campus and the whole city is full of students.

In general, the teachers over here are much more qualified and you are never in doubt about how much money the school gets in when you see the facilities etc. However, all the quality the school and teachers offers is the quality the students are lacking. Our class consists of people in the age of 18-19 year olds and their discipline is was shockingly low.

The architectural technology programme is much more architects oriented than in Denmark. It is a lot of designing and not how things are built; I found this quite exhausting since it became too subjective for my taste. Luckily, the programme is still wide enough for you to learn other things that might catch your interest.

The classes we had:

Planning, development & survey: We started with land surveying and moved on to condition surveying. This module's projects always finish with a report

Integrated design & communication: This is the module where they teach programmes such as InDesign, AutoCAD, and Revit. When we arrived, they just started on Revit, which resulted in the module being *optional* for us since it was VERY basic.

Construction technology: Personally, I looked forward to this class since this is where details are drawn. However, they focused on the thought process that leads to the results. To get this process you apparently need to draw by *hand*, which I personally dislike. They did move on to CAD software after a few projects, which meant we spend quite a lot of money on drawing equipment for almost nothing.

Technology & Design studio: This is the module with all the big projects and where "Vince" the head of the programme teach. This module is much like the projects we get at KEA but on a smaller scale.

To conclude on the school, it was a good experience because of the qualified teaching. Nottingham Trent University won "Best university in England 2017", which should speak for itself. The projects at NTU are much smaller than back home but this means a lot more smaller projects.

Nottingham city centre

Nottingham is quite a small city after you have been here for a couple of weeks. The city centre is always pulsing with life and offers everything you might need. However, when you get just outside the city centre Nottingham is not pretty. Outside the city centre is old industrial neighbourhoods and ghettos, which might sound scary but it is not – it is just horrible to look at.

Nightlife

Even though the outside of Nottingham can be quite scary for some people, the city centre is not. For example Nottingham won "The safest nightlife in England 2017", which is clear when you are out at night. The nightlife offers a broad variety of pubs, bars and clubs and here you will find something for every taste.

Places I will recommend:

The boilermaker: A low-key cocktail bar with drinks at reasonable prices and a wide variety of spirits.

Southbank: Our favourite sports pub, plenty of screens, happy hours and most important 50% off all food for students at all times.

Organ grinder: A pub on the way to our accommodation. Owned by the blue monkey brewery, which are the only beers they serve – and they are amazing. The beer "Blue monkey: Infinity" is worth a trip to Nottingham alone.

Six barrels: A more modern pub in the city centre, it is a great place to go before getting drinks.

Conclusion

Nottingham is exactly as you would imagine a university city to be like. It offers a whole lot of fun when you are off school, both during the day and night. The school is good and are in a constant development, which only affects the students positively. The teaching at NTU is highly qualified but not the same as in Denmark but the difference is also part of the exchange experience. We had a problem of getting the end dates to fit with the start dates at KEA, which meant they had to make a special exam for us earlier. It is important to be aware of this since they were not happy to be making special exams just for us.