

Erasmus Exchange Report

Nottingham Trent University (NTU)



Nottingham Trent University – Arkwright Building

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Study period: 5th semester - September 2017 – January 2018

Before Leaving

Accommodation

The most important thing to sort out before leaving is accommodation. It would be too much of a hassle to arrive in Nottingham and not have a place to live, as most accommodations in Nottingham need all kinds of documents and at many places, you have to prepay part of or the entire stay some time in advance, if you don't have a UK guarantor.

There are many accommodations to choose from, but bear in mind, that most places are only willing to rent out for a full year at the time. Then you have to find a tenant to take over the contract. It shouldn't really be a problem. Just post in the Facebook group called "Nottingham housing for internationals/Erasmus". There are always people looking for a place to stay.

I stayed at a place called "The Cotton Mills". An old lace factory rebuild to student accommodation. It was fairly cheap and only a couple kilometres from the city centre – a 25 minute walk. I choose The Cotton Mills due the fact that they were the only place I could find, that were willing to rent out a room for less than a full year.

If possible, make sure to get the correct end date from NTU before booking accommodation. I was originally supposed to study until the end of February, but had my last day a NTU the 31st of January. So I had to pay for accommodation I UK throughout February even though I was in Denmark.



"Cotton Mills"

Financials

My stay in Nottingham ended up being quite a bit more expensive than I first expected. It is easy getting in to the habit of eating out and going out most days. The prices are generally a bit lower than danish prices but it all adds up. So if you haven't got a big savings account it could be wise to contact your bank before leaving for exchange and make some arrangement.

I applied for 10-15 grants but didn't get a single one, so don't count on financing your stay abroad with grant money.

Remember to flash your NTU student card everywhere. You will get a student discount at bars and restaurants 9 out of 10 times.

Getting there and around

It would be the easiest to take a plane to one of the London airports and then a train to Nottingham. Train fares are quite expensive in UK, so it is a good idea to book well in advance. Getting around in Nottingham is easy. Pretty much everything is within walking distance, but if you are feeling lazy, taxis and Uber is very cheap (if it is not raining!). Taxis generally only accept cash.

Nottingham Trent University

If you want to be an architect, NTU is perfect for you. If you find the construction and management part of AT more interesting, look elsewhere! The main focus of the projects we did were design and design justification. The construction side of things were very basic and the management part non-existing. We also had a course focusing on Revit, but agreed with the course-leader that we didn't have to attend, because it was so basic (how to open Revit, how to make a wall etc.).

NTU is a very nice university – won best university of UK in 2017 and the Architectural Technology undergraduate course should be among the best in the country. All the facilities of NTU are great – especially the AT and architecture faculty in the Arkwright Building which is an old cathedral.

The Boots library is a nice place to study, but get there early (before 10) it will fill up very quickly. Since it was built, the student count at NTU has increased 10-fold.

Going out

More than half of the population in Nottingham are students, so the city never sleeps.

Nice places to eat:

- The Southbank Bar (city). Always 50% discount on food for students. Try the "Trentwreck" after a night out!
- Pieminister - a traditional English pie
- Memsaab - gourmet indian food. Listed on the Michelin guide!

- Hand & Heart – try the Sunday Roast, but book a table in advance
- BUNK – Wings & drink!
- MOD pizza – fast and good
- Bar Iberico
- Annie’s Burger Shack – probably the best burgers in Nottingham!
- Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem (The oldest inn in England)

Nottingham has a lot of “secret bars” around Hockley. The entrances are often unnoticeable but look for security staff standing in front alleyways or make a quick google search for “hidin bars in Nottingham”.

Try the cask beer!!! Most students in Nottingham only drink cider and Carlsberg, but do yourself a favour and go for the cask beer (especially the many IPAs) – it is liquid gold! Nice places to go out:

- Boilermaker
- Be at One
- Six Barrels
- The Southbank Bar – live band most Saturdays
- The Organ Grinder – go for the Infinity pale ale!
- BUNK
- Nottingham Beer Festival – Do it if you are in the city during the beer festival!



Wollaton hall (Wayne Manor)



Notts County



Traditional English Sunday Roast



Boots Library