

I. Your overall feeling after your semester abroad

[Help : How was your experience abroad? If you could go back in time, would you go to this university and why ?]

My experience abroad was great. I had the chance to go in UCB (University College of Birmingham) with a classmate. We adapted and integrated very well and quickly. After one week already, it was like we lived there for months.

This university is so beautiful, very modern, meals are not expensive and there are a lot of things done for the students. You can book 30 minutes per week with a teacher to ask for help if there is something you don't understand or if you need advice about the work you have to submit. However, if you pay attention to the world ranking of universities, UCB is not really one of the best. Besides that, I really recommend it, I would grade it 3 out of 5.

GRADE : [a grade between 0 and 5]

=> 0 (I do not recommend this semester abroad to my best friend) - 5 (I totally recommend this semester to my best friend)

II. Before the travel

A. Preparation

1. Visa

[Help : Do I need a visa ? If yes, what is the process ?]

You don't need a Visa.

2. The flight

[Help : what flight did you take (the company name, airport etc.) and when did you take your flight ticket]

I took a ticket on Air France's website, with Flybee. I bought the ticket in the beginning of December for the 24 of February. I took a train from Montpellier to Paris Charles de Gaulle. The train ticket cost me 21€ (Ouigo) and the flight 121€.

3. My luggage

[Help : what to not forget in the luggage (what was useful and what you would like to have taken)]

I took one big luggage of 21kg and my little suitcase. It was enough, I was surprised to see that the weather was actually nice. It was warmer than in France, I had a big Parka in which I was too hot, no need to take a huge coat or something like that. Don't forget to take an adaptor for the plug. Besides that, I don't see something very useful that you shouldn't forget. The best way to get to know the people in the beginning is to go out with them so maybe some clothes to go out but you can dress chill it's like in France 😊

4. Bank account

[Help : did you have to change bank? To respect some amount requirement on the bank account etc.] I had an account in Boursorama. With this bank you can travel abroad without having some bank account fees when you take money or use the card so I didn't have to bother with that.

5. Insurance

*[Help : What insurance did you subscribe to ?]
I subscribed to the GMF.*

B. Housing

1. Where to live

[Help : Do a google maps capture and circle the area you recommend to live in (and the one you do not recommend)]

The best places to live are the accommodation of UCB. The first one is Cambrian Hall, it is just in front of uni. Rooms are maybe 10m² and you have to share the bathroom with your neighbor (in your room you have both a door giving on the bathroom, it's like a little corridor between the two rooms).

Then, you have The Maltings. It's a bit more expensive because rooms a bit "cuter" and you have your own bathroom. It's 15-20minutes away from Uni by feet.

I was sharing a room with a roommate, then it was cheaper and the room was around 25m² (In the maltings).

However, the rent is really expensive so if you can find a flat by your own it could be cheaper. You should live between new street, and Grainville Street (couldn't find a good map, sorry).

2. Find a flat or a room

[Help : How did you find your flat? Do you have any recommendation]

My flat was in The Maltings, so I found it with UCB.

3. Cost

[Help : How much should I plan for a room or a flat?]

In Cambrian, it's around 480e the room. In the Maltings, a single room is about 580e (very expensive for 10m²). A twin room is 450e.

If you have a friend you can share the room with, it's a good alternative.

III. When I arrive at the university

A. Inscription at the university

[Help : How was the process, what did you have to do?]

When arriving in the Uni, you have to bring some papers to the Erasmus coordinator. You have also to do your Student Card in the first days, it's quite fast.

B. Information on the university

1. Class

[Help : for each class tell us how was the class, what did you like and not like, would you recommend it for the next student?]

First, because of all this Corona thing, most of all stayed like 2 months or less, so we don't have the full experience about classes.

Enterprise Start-up Studies: Interesting and interactive class where you don't really have theoretical courses but practical. You'll have to create flyers for a company you want to create and things like that.

External Environment of Businesses: If you did ES in High School, courses are a bit like economic and social sciences but deeper. It's interesting. The seminars (td) are a bit more dynamic and interesting.

Marketing Dynamics: It's linked with external environment. It's interesting as well, practical and theoretical. You'll see how you can give the image you want for a product, how consumers think and things like that.

2. Organization of the Class

[Help : tell us the duration of the class, the volum of work, the behavior of teachers etc. ?]

Each class is one hour in amphithéâtre. Then you'll have a break of 20 minutes before going to the seminars for 2 hours. If you follow the class and see it a bit at home after, the volum of work is fine. But, when you have to submit assignments, then the volume of work is more important. You have to spend time on your assignments, do a bunch of research (websites, newspaper, books...).

3. List of courses and recommendation

[Help : list your different courses and let us know what do you think : level (easier, same or harder than the 1st semester course at MOMA, what you liked about the content, how is the class organization, who is the professor). Finally, for each class, tell us if you recommend the course.]

Start-up Studies: The teacher is AnnaMarie. This class asks for a lot of involvement, you have to stay focus and work a lot. But, it's very interesting and it will actually learn you real things. It's a bit hard, but if you do what is ask for, it's all fine. The class organization

is one hour in class, and then 2 hours in the computer room. I recommend this class if you are interested in creating your own business.

External Business Environment: It's quite easy if you still remember of the ES class (and if you did ES). It's just things to know, like different types of marketing methods, how GDP works, PESTEL and things like that. As said before, one hour in class and 2 hours seminars. In seminars, you will have to think more by your own to complete the work. In the beginning of the year, I was bored in this class because it was easy but then it becomes much harder. The teacher is Paul Carless. I recommend this class if you are really interested in Marketing.

Marketing Dynamics: It resembles to external business environment, but it's more oriented toward customers and differentiation from competitors. The teacher is Paul Carless as well, maybe it's why it looks like his other class. It's not very hard, in this one it's really learn the courses and that's all (at least until now it is that, I'm still following this class maybe it will become harder). I don't really recommend this one if you already take external business environment, and it's a bit more "boring" because it's theoretical and that's all. But, still interesting if you like Marketing.

4. Exam

[Help : How was the exam? Format? Duration? Grade]

I'm still not done with all the exams and they don't release all of them at the same time, so I can only speak about those that I already took. You should know that It's not like in France with one final exam at the end. It's paper work or things like that you have to hand in during all the semester, and that you have to do at home with a lot of sources (you will see that you need to reference all the sources you used by alphabetical order and with the exact date you accessed this website or whatever). They really pay great attention to the referencing and your grade will largely depend on the quality of sources you used, and the referencing of it.

For Start-up studies, until now, I had 2. The first one was an infographic on canvas about a business I could start. You had to give communicate the business concept, the target market, the fundings you will use, the location and a lot of things like that. The second one was with powtoon, we needed to use the business we created before. Then, we had to say how we would communicate and promote our business (social media, flyers, free samples). We had to give the schedule of each methods, if it was going to be successful, plan the cost of each and things like that; it had to be very detailed.

For Marketing Dynamics, that was an essay and an infographic. The first one was about a sport brand and you had to say which strategies they chose. The infographic was about a Fish&Chips in London and you want to implement one in Birmingham. We had to provide the target market, the 7p's and things like that.

For The external business environment, it was an essay about implementing Spotify in an emergent country of your choice (Pestel analysis).

IV. When I life there

A. Safety

[Help : Is it safe? Is there areas or times I should avoid]

I didn't have any problems during those 2 months. Obvioulsy you should avoid going alone in little streets at 3am, but it's like that for every place in the world. Among people who were there for a year or more, they didn't have any safety issues as well.

B. Phone and Internet

[Help : How to be able to call and have internet]

In Uni and in the accommodations place (The Maltings and Cambrian Hall), your computer and phone should connect automatically as it is the same thing than in Montpellier (Eduroam).

C. Events

[Help : How to know about the events?]

If you live in one of the accommodation place, there are sometimes flyers in the corridor of the flat about events coming in the week. Or you can check on facebook as you can do in France.

D. Sports

[Help : What sport can I do ? and how?]

There are many many sports you can do. You can do Zumba, pole dance, football, tennis, cheerleading and many other. You can as well lift weight for very cheap because there is a sport room in the university that cost 20 for 6 months, and a little one in the Maltings as well. You just have to go to UCB website to see all the sport, and to go to the gym in the Uni to fill in a little paper and pay so you can be a member.

E. Eating

[Help : Any recommendation? Or good tips (e.g. an international house buffet)]

In the Maltings, every Tuesday and Thursday there are meals offered. You should definitely go there even if you live in Cambrian, in the first place to socialize (there is a ping-pong table and many board games in the room), and in the second place to save some money. Near the library, there is a wetherspoon in which you can eat a lot for cheap as well.

F. Go to the university : bus, car, bike

[Help : How did you get access to the bus, car or bike]

Bus is very very expensive (4,6 the ticket) so you should go by walk. We were going everywhere by walk, to the store, to the event, to the uni.

G. Travels

[Help : What do you recommend and what do you not recommend]

You can take the train to London for 20 or cheaper sometimes. You should go to Liverpool which is a very beautiful town with many things to do. You can as well go in countries near with plane, it is very cheap (Dublin, Edimbourg).

H. Any other information you would have liked to know about

[Help : What would I liked to know if I could have gone back in time]

Sometimes classes are from 11am to 2pm with only 20 minutes break at 12. You should eat well in the morning or go to the Uni cafeteria buy something really fast.

As well if you have to buy things for your room, don't go to Ikea which is 1h30 away by bus. Just to Primark home where it is very cheap and cute.

V. After your semester abroad

A. What are you planning do to?

[Help : What do you want to do next year]

I want to do a Master in Marketing.

B. Did you apply for master? Where did you apply for a master?

[Help : where did you apply for a master]

I applied at IAE Lille, IAE Orléans, IAE Lyon, IAE Poitiers and king of everywhere in France.