

I. Your overall feeling after your semester abroad

Help : How was your experience abroad? If you could go back 1 time, would you go to this university and why ?

II. Before the travel

A. Preparation

1. Visa

When I have arrived in Birmingham I didn't need any visa since the UK was still in the European Union. However, after the brexit you might need a visa if you go to Birmingham in 2021.

2. The flight

I live in Lattes centre (line 3 of Montpellier's tramway) with my parents so I had several choices. The most affordable way was to take a Ouigo from Montpellier to Paris for 16€ and then a flight with Air France from Paris to Birmingham for 120€.

The flight from Paris to Birmingham is operated in CDG airport and there is also a train station in the CDG airport so if you're smart you can select a ouigo from montpellier to the CDG airport and the flight from CDG to birmingham. In this situation, you don't have to cross Paris with all your luggages.

If you want to fly from Montpellier you will have a stop in Paris anyway and this was more expensive.

3. My luggage

With Air France you can bring with you without paying any additional fees 1 big suitcase that will be stored in the cargo compartment. Then you can bring in the plane with you 1 small suitcase and 1 backpack.

4. Bank account

I personally had to open a bank account because my current french bank had a lot of fees when I was paying with my card or when I needed to withdraw cash.

I opened an account with the Lloyd bank. They need 3 documents : your passeport, your student ID and a proof of address.

The student ID is given the first day you will register at the Uni and the proof of residence is also given 3 days after you registered.

You can also use an online bank because quite often they have no fees with their card even if you go abroad. My friend had a Boursorama bank account and it has no fees in any situation.

However I recommend to open a bank account if you plan to work because it is mandatory

5. Insurance

I didn't need any additional insurance since i'm a european citizen. My french insurance was enough. However if you wanna work in the UK you need to create an account and get a national insurance number.

B. Housing

1. Where to live

I lived in the Maltings, which is one of the two campus accommodation. The other one is Cambrian Hall. The maltings is 15 minutes away from Uni while Cambrian Hall is 1 min away from Uni.

I would recommend to live in the Maltings because this residence is bigger, safer and you will have more students inside and there are a lot of french students too!

The laundry machines rooms are easy to access and the maltings has "the guild space" and they organize event, buffets etc all year long so this is a living place!

If you like to party, the predrinks are almost always in the maltings.

2. Find a flat or a room

Once you applied for the university you will be able to apply for the Uni's accommodation and you have to sort the accommodations in 3 wishes. My list was :

- 1. The maltings - double room*
- 2. The maltings - en-suite room*
- 3. The maltings - single room*

3. Cost

If you go to Birmingham with a friend of yours and you plan to live together i recommend to go for the double room in the maltings. You will pay £788 per month for the room but you will divide it by 2. It's around 440€ per person then.

You'll have your private bathroom for the two of you.

In Cambrian Hall the bathrooms are shared. The bathroom is the link between the neighbors.

III. When I arrive at the university

A. Inscription at the university

I registered the day after my arrival, it was very clear and easy and the staff is always here to help you. You will receive your student ID during this registration.

B. Information on the university

1. Class

The operational finance for hospitality class was very nice because we were no more than 15 students enrolled. The assignments were practical and entertaining, I do recommend this class and the level is not high compared to Montpellier Management.

The Finance for enterprises class was more into real finance and a bit more complicated but still very affordable for a MOMA student. The lectures were 1hr long with a 2hr seminar and the lecture is usually crowded (around 100 students) while the seminars don't exceed 25 students.

The last class, leading people in tourism was also interesting, easy to understand and the 2 teachers were amazing. The assignments are also very practical!

2. Exam

For every module (matière) you usually have around 2 assignments. Among these assessments you usually receive the instructions 1 to 2 months before and then you have to upload it online. Sometimes you are required to write a report, sometimes you have to create a powerpoint and sometimes you will have to attend a final exam at the end of the semester. It really depends.

IV. When I life there

A. Safety

I never had any problem in the city even though I used to go out very often (at least twice a week). If you are a girl, I would however recommend not to go back home alone after 9pm. It's quite similar to France. Girls are less likely to get harassed by men in England. British people are very open minded

B. Phone and Internet

I do recommend to have a phone package from France with internet data and a french number and then you will be connected to the public wifi in the accommodation and at Uni. I used to communicate with my family thanks to whats'app but you can still send SMS/MMS as UK was still a european states in early 2020.

C. Events

D.

If there's a big event in the city you will hear about it thanks to the guild of students. Otherwise, you're free to check it on the internet. I haven't heard about a lot of events outside the Uni (concerts etc..)

E. Sports

Luckily, UCB opened a new gym facility at Moss House (a new building) in february 2020. The gym is new, clean and nicely furnished. You also have a gym in the Maltings which is very convenient for the weekend! You have a lot of associations within the Uni if you want to play football, basketball, rugby...

F. Eating

Check your mails very often as in february 2020 we had free buffet every tuesday and thursday! It was in the guild spac (in the maltings) and all you had to do was to collect a voucher at the reception. However when you will need to do grocery shopping, I do recommend to go to Morrison's (15mins walk from the Maltings) because the prices are cheap and the quality is good. I recommend to go with friends and buy a lot of stuff so you come back by uber (£3 or £4 maximum for the all ride). If you need just few things and live in the Maltings you have a Tesco Express 2mins away from the accommodation.

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

Wherever you live in the student accommodation you will walk. 15minutes from the maltings and 5mins from cambrian Hall.

H. Travels

I only stayed in Birmingham for 2 months before I had to go back to France because of the Coronavirus. Anyway, I still went to Slovakia, Austria, Bulgaria, London and Manchester. I do recommend to :

1 : travel by train if you wanna visit England (buy the railcard if you plan to travel by train it's very worth the price)

2 : download the trainline app!

3 : You can reach the birmingham airport for £3 maximum from new street and moor street (both are 15mins walk from the maltings)

4 :London's airports are also easy to reach but more expensive. Sometimes it's worthier to pay the train to london and the flight from london as it's usually cheaper.

5: If you go to scotland, go by plane from birmingham, it's cheaper and takes definitely less time.

6 : Dublin's plane tickets shouldn't exceed £30

I probably have a lot of other tips so feel free to contact me by instagram, messenger or email

I've written them down at the end of the page

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

I would love to help you with your trip!!!
Feel free to contact me here

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Enjoy Birmingham as much as you can, you don't know what tomorrow will be made of !!
Rémi

