

I. Your overall feeling after your semester abroad

Due to the covid situation, I had to do my semester online but I learned so many things and discovered new ways of learning. Moreover, this semester was the opportunity to discover new courses that I did not have in France. Even if the courses were online, students were so lovely that you easily make friends.

If I could back in time, I would not change anything! The university is extremely well organized, and you receive excellent support from teachers or the UCB team.

II. Before the travel

A. Preparation

1. Visa

I did the online mobility, so I did not need a Visa but since January 2021, you need a visa to go to England. You can ask for a Student Visa or a Standard Visitor Visa and you have to go to Paris to apply. You will receive your Visa in about 3-4 weeks.

2. The flight

Unfortunately, I did not take the plane, but I would choose KLM or AirFrance for about 80/100 euros per flight from Montpellier. It is a little bit more expensive than low-cost companies but the price of the luggage is lower and you have more options.

3. My luggage

4. Bank account

I am at the CIC Bank, and they have a special option for students on Erasmus. This package allows students to pay in European countries (and other countries) without any fees so it is interesting so that you do not have to open a bank account that can be expensive in some banks.

5. Insurance

B. Housing

1. Where to live

Unfortunately, due to my online mobility, I did not have the opportunity to live in Birmingham.

2. Find a flat or a room

I really recommend The Maltings. This accommodation is part of the university and it greatly facilitates your venue. You just have to apply on the UCB website. The building is about 10 minutes away from the university and it is an excellent place to meet new students and make friends.

3. Cost

A room at the Maltings costs around £126 per week and you have to pay a security deposit at the beginning of £100. The process is convenient, after having applied for an accommodation, you will receive the answer and you just have to sign the contract and pay for the security deposit.

III. When I arrive at the university

A. Inscription at the university

The inscription was dematerialized. Everything is done on the UCB website. You will have to enter different information such as your ID card but also your visa number. The process is well explained and really easy to follow.

If you go abroad and you are not studying online, after your enrollment, you will receive a student card to enter in the building and have access to different activities such as the library.

B. Information on the university

1. Courses

At UCB, each course is 10 ects. It means that you will have three courses to choose.

I chose:

-Enterprise Start-up Studies: it was an online format, you have 2h of lesson each week and 1h of tutorials per week. I was pretty surprised by this course because it is more oriented toward launching a start-up rather than learning theory.

It was really interesting, the teachers (Mr Pung and Mr Margetts) were really understanding and nice.

Concerning the exams, we had to do an infographic presenting the start-up (which counted for 50%) and the second assignment was to create a video explaining the marketing method used to launch our business.

I would really recommend this course because it is a different format than in France and it is really interactive.

-People and Organisations

It was an online course and I enjoyed it. It is focused on the Human Resources Management and the teacher miss Caffrey explains the different lessons really well. The course is clear and the teacher is available for any questions. Moreover, the UCB university has a special

website for student ('ENT') and every teacher send his/her course on this website so that you have every lessons in advance.

Furthermore, the course is well organized, during the 2h course, you will discover theoretical courses and after, during the 1h tutorial, you have to work in pairs on a text with several questions.

The exam is a text with questions that you will have to give in June. The Teacher explains really well what you have to do, and you have 2-3 months to do it so it is not stressful.

-Hospitality and Tourism Customer Experience

This online course was also interesting. It was focused on the different standards a restaurant, or a hotel must have to facilitate the customer experience. This course was new for me and I really enjoyed it because the course is simple and clear. Regarding the exam, we had to do a report of 1,500 words on a hotel that we have chosen. This exam was well directed and relatively easy, it counted for 50% of the grade. The second exam was a PowerPoint to do with audio commentary on a restaurant. We had to choose a restaurant and evaluate it regarding several criteria (the food, the service, the décor...) and we had to present the findings on this PowerPoint.

2. Advice on "contrat d'étude"

I would recommend reading the module description and try to stick to the same program when picking your courses. For instance, my module "Enterprise Start-up Studies" and "People and Organisations" were in the same program called Business Enterprise but the module "Hospitality and Tourism Customer Experience" was in another program. I had the chance that my courses were not the same day but when you chose courses from different program sometimes you can have courses that are during the same time so it can be difficult to handle.

IV. When I life there

A. Safety

B. Phone and Internet

C. Events

D. Sports

UCB has many Sports teams that you can join (football, netball, cheerleading...) and it is an excellent way to meet new students. You can discover all the teams in the "UCB Guild of Students" website.

E. Eating

The UCB University has a degree in culinary art so every day the class prepare a new menu at a very low price. The menu is available in your 'ENT'.

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

G. Travels

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

To conclude, I was greatly surprised by the University support. When you are enrolled, you have access to many facilities and support. For instance, you can book a librarian every week to help you with your reading references.

Moreover, you can book 30min per week with a teacher to help you with your assignments. Finally, you have access to Grammarly and other facilities to assist you.