

Retour d'expérience de ma mobilité internationale

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[Angleterre] – [University college Birmingham]

Agenda¹

I.	Your overall feeling after your semester abroad.....	2
II.	Before the travel.....	2
A.	Preparation.....	2
1.	Visa.....	2
2.	The flight.....	2
3.	My luggage.....	2
4.	Bank account.....	2
5.	Insurance.....	2
B.	Housing.....	2
1.	Where to live.....	2
2.	Find a flat or a room.....	3
3.	Cost.....	3
III.	When I arrive at the university.....	3
A.	Inscription at the university.....	3
B.	Information on the university.....	3
1.	Courses.....	3
2.	Advice on “contrat d’étude”.....	3
IV.	When I life there.....	4
A.	Safety.....	4
B.	Phone and Internet.....	4
C.	Events.....	4
D.	Sports.....	4
E.	Eating.....	4
F.	Go to the university : bus, car, bike.....	4
G.	Travels.....	4
H.	Any other information you would have liked to know about.....	4

¹ To update the agenda just click right on your moose

I. Your overall feeling after your semester abroad

Overall, I really liked my experience abroad I met nice people and had interesting courses. The only thing to consider is that Birmingham is nice city for the university, clubs and bars and shopping but not a very interesting city otherwise. And you have to be ready to still wear sweatshirt and coats in May.

II. Before the travel

A. Preparation

1. Visa

I didn't need a visa because it was an Erasmus semester of less than 6 months but because of the Brexit make sure to check with the questionnaire at this link: <https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>

2. The flight

I flew from Montpellier to Paris (Charles de Gaulle) and from Paris (Charles de Gaulle) to Birmingham with Air France
I book my tickets 1 month in advance, I had 2 big luggage, 1 carry-on and my handbag and for this I paid 230€.

3. My luggage

What is the most important is an umbrella!
It is much colder in Birmingham than in Montpellier so don't forget a big coat and good shoes.
Then because the room is almost completely empty is you have room in your luggage you should take towels, sheets, dishcloths anything you can think of.

4. Bank account

For the bank account I had to change bank and I created an account at Boursorama, I have the simplest option (I think), with free card and more importantly free pavements in pounds £.

5. Insurance

I didn't need to change my assurance because all of it was covered already.

B. Housing

1. Where to live

I recommend living in the Maltings which is the student accommodation provided by the school for many reasons. It is easy to book on the university website, every Erasmus student lives here so it's easier to be with your friends and better for your safety (especially if you're a girl) when you come home from a night out.

2. Find a flat or a room
3. Cost

For the room, I had a single ensuite room with means you have a room for yourself and your own bathroom inside. But it is very expensive 2 620€ for the semester (4 and 1/2 months) = 3100€

You can have a room with shared bathroom that would be less expensive or have a room shared with a roommate and in this case, you have the bathroom in the room.

In all cases you share the kitchen with your “flatmates” between 5 and 8 people.

III. When I arrive at the university

A. Inscription at the university

When I arrived at the airport, I was welcome by someone from the university because you can book a service of pick up from the airport. It is free so I recommend it.

They pay for the taxi to the accommodation.

When you arrive at the accommodation, they give you all the information.

For the courses we had a meeting the first day with the Erasmus manager and we check with him if our courses were good.

For any paper you go see them at their office.

B. Information on the university

1. Courses

The courses as a similar format then French ones, 3h class separated in 2h of lecture (CM) and 1 hour of seminar (td).

Consumer insight: a bit similar to the course of marketing in L2 semester 2.

- 2 assignments, 1 report (1000 words) and

Digital marketing planning: the most interesting course I have

- 1 assignment: report (3000 words)

Advertising psychology: this course is very different to what I have done in France

- 2 assignments, 1 report (1500 words) and 1 video (10 minutes)

2. Advice on “contrat d’étude”

For the courses, I recommend choosing the ones you like most on the list but it’s not sure that you will be able to take them, not all courses are available to Erasmus students and some courses might happen at the same time.

IV. When I life there

A. Safety

It's like every other big city, no problem during the day, during the night better to not be alone if you are a girl.

B. Phone and Internet

I kept my French internet mobile package because it is less expensive then taking one in the UK. And you have Wi-Fi everywhere in the university and in the accommodation.

C. Events

For events, with social media the guild of student (bde) shares the events

D. Sports

You can do a lot of sports, badminton, basketball... and there are also 2 gyms
Some sports are free, the gym is 55£ for the semester

E. Eating

For grocery shopping I recommend going to Morrison, it is 15 minutes away by foot because it is the less expensive store. Otherwise, there are 2 Tesco and 1 Sainsbury 5 minutes away.

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

I go to the university on foot, it's 15 minutes away

G. Travels

I went to London and Oxford by bus for less than 20£.
You can go to the airport for 5£ by train (10 minutes)

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

Life is more expensive than in France.

If you have any questions, you can contact me by email:

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V. Photos

Photos of my room (all the rooms are almost the same)



The view from my bedroom



Picture of the canal (5 minutes from the accommodation)



Picture of one side of the maltings (the accommodation)



Picture of the city

