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Degree Program at TAU: MBA

Host University: Warwick University, UK.

Exchange Term: September 2019 to December 2019

Exchange Experience

About the country and city:

The United Kingdom is a region comprises four beautiful countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. All these countries are very unique from each other.

There are lots of places to visit around the UK while you are studying. There are many options of where to live while studying at Warwick Business School (WBS). You can reside in Coventry, which is the nearest town to the school. However, the housing is expensive and the town is a bit sleepy. The other two options are London and Birmingham, and both are big and have lots of activities, including good nightlife and wonderful places to enjoy a beer. Birmingham is cheaper and the total commute is around 40 minutes by train to reach WBS.

If you are taking courses at the London Shard campus, it is better to stay in London. The accommodation can cost upwards of GBP 1000 /month but London will give you more options to enjoy your free time.

About the Host University:

WBS has two campuses – Coventry and London Shard and I took courses at both.

The Coventry campus is a beautiful and huge campus, surrounded by different schools. They host the best automobile school which is in tie-up cooperation with the Jaguar and Land Rover research center. The atmosphere is very pleasant with

university students lingering around small pubs near the school. The staff is very helpful and will guide you well. Exchange students are mixed with the Executive MBA students and thus the atmosphere is very corporate and the learning experience from peers is enormous.

The courses are over a period of four days. After a long day students sometimes go out for drinks, but rarely stay out long due to extensive school hours (from 9 until 6.30) and because they prefer to complete the majority of assignments and group work during the course itself.

The student union is a 10-minute walk from the business school and they are very helpful.

The career center is quite active; once you register to the WBS portal you receive all the links to the career center. You then need to visit the career center to setup a personal meeting with one of the career advisors. It is advisable to set up a meeting within the first few days of your arrival at WBS. Based on your interest, they connect you with various groups and you can start networking. They also feature events where companies come and present and you get a chance to speak to the company representatives.

London Shard Campus is a standalone floor in the Shard building and they usually host courses there. There aren't as many student activities at this campus. However, it is located in one of the most iconic buildings in London and the view from 23rd floor is breathtaking; you can visualize the entire city from this building located next to the Thames River.

Courses and professors:

The professors are more academically oriented and I wished they had a bit more industry expertise. However they did bring some business experts to come and present in class, which was very interesting.

The courses were interesting but I recommend checking with the university the format of the courses and the attendees, as sometimes due to a low number of students, the school cancels some of the courses.

Accommodation

It is preferable to get a shared apartment where you can cut costs. There are websites like spareroom.com and zoopla.com where you can find accommodation options and talk to the agents and homeowners. AirBNB can be a bit expensive.

Visa:

Israeli and EU citizens are not required to have a visa, however if you are non-EU citizen you might be required to hold a visa. If you are non-Israeli and applying for a visa from Israel, I would recommend doing so at least two months before your flight, as the passport stamping is not done in Israel but sent to Turkey from the visa processing center.

Transportation:

Transportation is a variable cost here as it can be as expensive as 10 times the price if you book a bit earlier. For students there are seasonal passes but for exchange it is not a good option. There are weekly passes as well and the information center at the railway stations can provide you with information. For ticket bookings use websites and apps like Trainpal which do not charge you a booking amount in addition to the fare (as many other apps do).

Insurance and Health Services:

Accidents, Emergencies and GP are covered free of cost by UK NHS. However, I would advise purchasing personal medical insurance, as other costs like going to a MD or follow-up treatment by MD's post-accidents is not covered.

Living expenses:

Living expenses in London are around GBP 1600/ month for basic accommodation and food. In Birmingham and Coventry, the expenses are around 1000GBP/ month. All additional expenses are not included (drinks, nightlife and travel).

Food:

You can get all kinds of food in the UK, from Fish and Chips to Mediterranean to Indian and Thai and Chinese food. The supermarkets like Tesco and M&S Food are open 24 hours a day. The price of groceries varies from shop to shop and location to location.

Night life:

The UK has good nightlife; London is a city which never sleeps. They have good pubs which are open throughout the night and don't forget to try their beers and gins. You will love it.

Tips:

Be careful while travelling in London as robbery is common; be aware of your belongings at all times.

Remember if you are planning to travel, book in advance, you will save a lot.

You might take few days to understand the British and Irish accent and also different people from around the UK have very unique accents.

Pack good, warm clothes as it gets very chilly and windy. Also carry an umbrella, it rains frequently.

General experience:

It was a wonderful experience to travel in the UK. I visited most of the places and interacted with the locals. The learning experience was quite unique and different. It will be a memorable journey for me.



International Business Negotiations



London Shard Campus



British Museum



International Business Group



London Christmas Market



Scotland Edinburgh Castle



Road trip in Scotland



Digital Innovation Class