

Report

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Title of research project: none

1. Preparation (planning, organisation and application at the partner university)

Besides the accommodation there was basically no preparation needed in advance. Managing the enrolment was pretty easy; I just had kept in touch with the international office in Preston by phone and e-mail. Once I handed in my formal application with all my data the informed about everything via e-mail. Due to curriculum changes I was not able to choose my modules before I came to Preston. I sorted them out and signed up for them in Preston.

2. Journey (organisation, costs)

The international office of Preston sends an e-mail to all the expected international students, offering a free airport pick-up service from Manchester-Airport one week before the "real" uni courses start. That you are able to attend the orientation week. I really would recommend your attendance there, to get in touch with other students.

I decided to do this, so I just booked a flight to Manchester Airport, grabbed a coffee after I arrived and waited for the pick-up service. This will be first time you get in touch with other international students.

3. Accommodation (costs, kind of accommodation, etc.)

Once you handed in your application form you will get an e-mail from the international office asking whether you would like to stay at the official university accommodation. University accommodation is basically one of the cheapest student accommodation in Preston, although it was really expensive compared to German standards. I took the opportunity, booked and paid for it in advance (about € 1.400 for 3.5 months). One hint, DO NOT pay for the orientation week, unless you do not receive an invoice! Because the money you pay in advance does not include this week. You basically have to pay it in Preston. However, some of the students did not pay it and never got charged. So try your best and you can save about £ 80. In general the accommodation itself was one of the worst things all about my stay in Preston. I personally have never (and will never again) lived in such a flat before. I shared the flat with four other students. I was lucky because three of them were

international students as well. My room had the size of approx. 6 sqm, the window was leaky and my radiator was leaking, which caused a couple breakdowns of the flats heating system (on weekends of course), so there were at least three weekends with no warm water and working radiators. I can tell you, a heater is a good investment.

4. Partner University

The study conditions at UCLAN are excellent; they have the latest technical equipment a library which opens all the time and with a huge variety of books. I did courses of „Construction Management“ programme, which is basically made for international students. It was easy to understand the lecturer. I did three modules, so I had university three days a week. The modules of UCLANs master programmes usually do not end with exams, I had to write a few essays to pass the modules. However, the things I learned in England were not really helpful for a later occupation in Germany. I personally would recommend writing the Studienarbeit there, the staff of UCLAN is really kind and they will support you in any way.

5. Living (city/country, culture, food, communicating, jobs, etc.)

I have never been to England before and one the first things I have experienced that life in England differs completely from life in Europe. I think living there is more comparable with living in the United States, especially when it comes to food. The entire nutrition is built up on fast food and the healthy food is not really affordable. But I have to admit, that the pubs-burgers taste great and of course, you drink a beer or more in the pub. The whole pub culture is really big in England and they offer great deals for students, especially during their “Student-Nights”, where you can get “a beer for a quid”. Going there is a great way to get in touch with other students. Another way of getting to know other people and having fun is to join one ore, two or even more of the universities sports clubs and societies. If you want to improve your English or any other language you also can join one of UCLANs language courses. You have to pay for the sports-membership and the language courses. UCLAN also helps its students to find jobs, so there might be the possibility of earning a few extra “quid's” to finance your life there. The city of Preston is a great place to start trips to other destinations in Great Britain. You can get to Manchester or Liverpool within 45 minutes and London is just about two hours away. For that you should get a railcard at the station, which is better version of the German “Bahncard”.

6. Summary (best and/or worst experience, final words or advices to your fellow students)

All in all I had a great time in Preston. If you are an MBM student, I would recommend writing your Studienarbeit there. Other recommendations are, do not pay the one-week extra fee for the accommodation, attend the orientation week, join a sports club or a society, travel as much as possible and never forget the umbrella, when you leave the house.