

Cosima McGrath: University of Manchester

UQ Program: Bachelors of Journalism/Arts

Studying abroad at the University of Manchester was amazing and I would strongly recommend it to anyone considering going overseas. I'm currently enrolled in a dual degree of Journalism/Arts, majoring in Creative Writing and English Literature. The most difficult thing I found when looking at universities was simply trying to choose what subjects to take! The University of Manchester had so many interesting subjects on offer. My lecturers and tutors were fantastic. They were all passionate about their subjects which I found really inspiring. I found the assessment somewhat daunting (the essays and exams are slightly different to UQ) but there was a lot of help on offer and in the end there was no need to stress.



Enjoying dinner at the Trafford Centre

Going on exchange was also a great way to meet new people from all over the world. Manchester has an International Society that organises barbeques, film nights and trips around the UK (my favourite trip was to the Peak District and Chatsworth House which is where they filmed the Keira Knightley version of *Pride and Prejudice*). The trips are an excellent way to see areas of the UK you wouldn't think to explore. I would recommend paying the small fee to

become a member of the society (you'll save a lot of money on trips).

Manchester has a really lively student life especially in the Fallowfield area. There are comedy nights every fortnight at the Campus bar and lots of quiz nights on offer at the nearby pubs. I recommend the Grand Central Wetherspoons pub. It has cheap food and a nice atmosphere. Another great place to go to in Manchester is the Trafford Centre. It's about 45 minutes bus ride from the city centre and is apparently Europe's biggest shopping centre!

Here is a short list of other places to visit in Manchester:

- The Arndale Centre – huge shopping centre
- Manchester United or Manchester City football stadiums
- Royal Exchange Theatre
- John Rylands Library Deansgate
- Northern Quarter – great if you like vintage shopping, quirky cafes and tea shops

When you're on exchange you should definitely take every opportunity to travel. I travelled to Amsterdam, Rome, Edinburgh, Wales, Barcelona, Nice and Paris to name a few and managed to find cheap fares on the Ryanair and Easyjet websites. For travel around the UK I would recommend Megabus. It takes slightly longer than the train but it is very cheap.

Going on exchange to Manchester has been an amazing experience. I have thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of my trip and would definitely recommend it.