

UQ Program: Bachelor of Arts/Laws, 3rd Year

As clichéd as it sounds, the past 6 months have been the time of my life – sunbaking in Greece, skiing in Austria and sailing down the Nile in Egypt have been but some of the highlights of my hectic exchange. I chose to study at the University of Nottingham as it is a Universitas 21 member and I had heard good recommendations from past exchange students. And they weren't wrong!



Dubrovnik, Croatia. The view from the top of the walls was amazing!

Nottingham is an amazing student city – many places sell drinks for a pound, taxis are always around with competitive fares, and food is so cheap! I chose to go into Catered Halls because I didn't want to have to worry about preparing meals; however, this route is not for those with weak stomachs – the food is less than satisfactory, and most meals you will end up having to choose from a variation of potatoes cooked in different ways (one meal we had three varieties of potatoes to choose from!) Decent salad is also hard to come by, but in terms of ease,

catered is by far the best option.

In terms of academic experiences, I was only taking subjects from my arts degree (International Relations) whilst studying abroad, and I found the requirements for both the assignments and the exams to be extremely similar to the standards expected at UQ. Although, the best part was that a pass is only 40% - which meant that by the time exams rolled around, I only needed some ridiculously small amount to pass; affording me the opportunity to travel the whole Christmas holiday rather than revising!

And travelling was certainly the highlight of my exchange experience. Nottingham is great as a base city from which to travel. The East Midlands Airport is but a short taxi ride away (or a long bus trip). Cheap flight operators such as BMI Baby and Ryan Air fly to many destinations from there, which meant most weekends a group of us would jetset to somewhere exotic on the European continent. If you aren't too picky about your destinations, the best thing to do is wait for the sales that regularly appear on their websites – we flew return to Portugal for ten pounds, and the same to Ireland!

All in all, an amazing experience – one I wouldn't change for the world!



Christmas with a difference – Lily and I drinking hot chocolate and riding on a horse drawn sleigh. Magical!