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Going on exchange to Nottingham has truly been one of the greatest decisions I have ever made. From the word go this place has been an unbelievable experience and one which I will never forget. Although it replaced the second semester of my second year I was essentially a fresher during my time in Nottingham. Whilst this may not appeal to some, living life as a fresher in the UK was a unique experience which I would highly recommend. It all started with seven wild nights out during Nottingham's fresher week. A crazy university town came alight as I joined kids from all over Great Britain beginning their lives as students. Something which does not happen as much at home is the concept of moving away from your family to study. This meant that no one arrived knowing anyone else, everyone was ready to party, meet new people and get involved.



This is a picture from the silent disco rave night during freshers week. (I am second from the left)

During my time in Nottingham I lived on campus at the great Hugh Stewart Hall. Although I initially did not have the choice of the exact hall I got to live in I was able to choose which campus I would like to be situated on and would highly recommend choosing University Park. There are 14 halls on University Park which all enjoy friendly rivalry. Hugh Stewart was where I met the majority of my friends from the word go which was great as I never had to walk far to meet up with anyone. Hall life was incredible and although the food was pretty average, my fellow students were a great bunch which ensured I was out on the town at least four nights a week throughout the semester. During fresher's week, there is a fair which is where you can sign up to as many of the societies as you please. Whether it be a sport society or a unique interest such as quidditch there really is something for everyone. The actual study whilst on exchange was fairly similar to UQ, although I was made to study 6 subjects which all had a one hour lecture and a few tutorials throughout the semester. The work load probably balances out about even although the passing grade here is just 40%.



This is a picture from the ski trip. (I am second from the left dressed as a bunny)

The highlights of my exchange would have to be-

1. Freshers week- Seven nights out in a row all with crazy dress up themes really sets the tone for the semester.
2. Rag Raids- Every Saturday each hall fills up a double decker bus and heads to a different city around the UK collecting money for charity during the day and partying hard on the bus trip back and into the night at the on campus night club.
3. Ski trip- A must do if you study in Notts. 1000's of students from multiple Uni's around the country embarking on France for a week of skiing and partying.
4. Travel- Ran with the bulls, travelled through the Greek islands and Western Europe, joined in the tomato throwing festival in Spain as well as Oktoberfest in Munich all before and during my time on exchange.
5. Nottingham life- Generally just a great place to study, meet new people and enjoy life as a student.

I will honestly find it difficult to leave Nottingham and would recommend to study here for the full year as I tried to extend my stay and was prevented by my visa expiring. Nottingham has been one of the greatest experiences of my life and I would certainly recommend to anyone thinking about studying in the UK to choose Notts!