

Sarah Thams: University of Leeds (Semester 2, 2010)

UQ Program: Bachelor of Science

If someone was to tell me I had been living in a dream for the last 6 months, I would totally believe them. This exchange has been so amazingly incredible, exciting, life-changing and just the best time of my life! Seriously, a MUST do!

At first you don't know what to expect moving to a new city, not knowing anyone, but once you arrive in this splendid City full of thousands upon thousands of students you know you're in for an amazing time.



Leeds definitely is a student city, with incredible amounts of young people it is definitely the hot-spot of the UK for uni life.

Fresher's week (orientation week) was a non-stop 7 days of partying, meeting people, exploring the city and getting to know your fellow college students.

This mentality didn't die down much during the semester at Leeds Uni and never would you find yourself bored or lonely in this city. Living in university student accommodation was one of the greatest experiences; I had so much

fun and met some great friends.

Leeds University is a renowned university and well respected in England. I am studying a Bachelor of Science majoring in Biomedical Science. The transition from UQ was an easy one and although there were certainly some differences in the style and approach of teaching and learning there are also a lot of similarities. The lecturers are all great academics of their fields and were so approachable and friendly. There are so many sporting teams, social teams, every team you can imagine and the Leeds Uni Union is so proactive. There are always great trips on offer to like a ski/snow boarding trip in Val d'Isere in France, day trips to Liverpool, Cambridge, Manchester and Oxford. So much is always happening and plenty to get involved in.

Leeds is such an affordable and often quite cheap city to live in. Because it is a student city there are so many places to eat, drink and visit at such a small price. Food is cheap, cosmetics and clothes are cheap, it's amazing and going out to pubs, bars and clubs is again not very pricey compared to Brisbane. There is never a shortage of places to go out to, the night life is insane and the English people are definitely great company!

Leeds is in such an amazing position in the UK and there are so many unbelievably

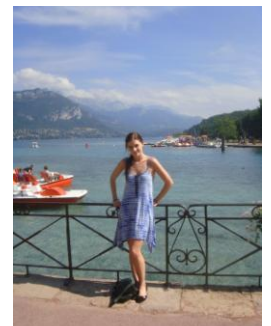
cheap bus, plane and train deals that allow you to travel not only around the UK but all over Europe. I frolicked in France, sunbaked in Spain, cycled around Holland, climbed castles in Edinburgh, drank beer in Berlin, marvelled at the beauty in Copenhagen, learnt how to drink a pint of Guinness in Dublin, shopped in London (of course) and also darted to many other places around England. It is so easy to do and you just have the best time dashing away with your new friends to an exotic European city for the weekend. So many moments of uncontrollable laughter, happiness and good times, I would do it a thousand times over.



Berlin

I cannot stress enough how much you just HAVE to do an exchange, especially in Leeds. It was the most incredible experience; life-changing, unforgettable, stimulating and AMAZING . The

things you learn, the people you meet, the experiences you have and share with others you meet on the way, it is something I will hold close to my heart for the rest of my life. Exchange definitely makes you step out of your box, test your independence and build character. No time to be shy or hide behind insecurities, exchange is where you let go, live for the moment and have the time of your life. Living in this student city in an English college was a once in a life-time opportunity and no number of words can explain or illustrate just how great it really was.



France

