

General Information			
Host Country	England		
Host School	Leeds Arts University		
Program start & end dates	Sept 2023- January 2024		
Program of Study	Creative Writing		
Type of Study Abroad	<input type="checkbox"/> Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> UMAP exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
General Evaluation			
In a couple of sentences, summarize and explain your general evaluation of your experience.	Overall my experience at LAU was incredible. I loved my teachers and the way the content was structured. They made every student feel seen and inspired us to be dedicated to the craft of writing.		
Arrival			
How easy or challenging was it to obtain your travel documents (visa, permits, etc.)?	It was easy because I was in the UK under six months, so no visas were required.		
Describe your transportation arrangements to your host country. Would you alter any part of those arrangements?	I would've tried to fly into Manchester instead of London. Easier to take a 2-hour train instead of a 5-hour bus.		
How was your experience clearing customs and immigration upon arrival in your host country? Any surprises?	Very smooth, no hiccups.		
Describe how you traveled to your host facility. How long did it take and how much did it cost?	I paid 30 pounds to take the bus from London to Leeds and then walked to my hostel accommodation.		
Orientation and Assistance			
How satisfied were you with the assistance available to at your host school? Were there people and resources available for you for support?	Host school was lovely and very helpful. International department was the biggest help.		
What help did you receive from the international staff or office?	They let me use their printer/scanner for documents and they assisted me while I applied for a UK passport.		
How was new student orientation at the host university? What did they do?	I didn't land until after the orientation.		
Housing & Daily Life			
Describe your accommodation in your host country. Were you pleased with this choice or what	I lived in a hostel which had its pros and cons. There was no place to study, but I had a built-in community of people that made moving countries alone less lonely.		

would you have done differently?	
When could you move into housing and how long were you allowed to stay?	I moved into my volunteer hostel job/accommodation the day I got to Leeds.
What kinds of services and facilities were nearby where you lived (shop, cafe gym, parks, pharmacy, stations...)	Grocery store was 15 mins walk away and so was the city center.
Describe what you did about meals and what other options were available. How satisfied were you with the food?	I bought my own groceries and did my own cooking. Groceries are cheaper in the UK, so I was happy with that. There's a decent and inexpensive café at school as well.
How close was your accommodation to where you studied?	It was a half hour walk away.
Academics & Course Registration	
Describe the registration process at your host institution. What assistance was available to you? Were you satisfied?	It is a set program, so when you apply you are automatically placed in the according year and classes.
What advice would you offer to another exchange student about registration at your host institution?	Don't be afraid to reach out to the course leaders.
What tips to you have for finding the courses and course syllabuses/outlines?	They are all online, however UK arts school has a very holistic approach to learning and it is very different than what's on the page. So, ask your course leader for more details.
Academics & Course Registration (cont'd)	
How satisfied were you with the amount of knowledge/skills you obtained from your host?	I was extremely satisfied. I felt more engaged and in tune with the type of writer I'd like to be when at LAU than any other place I've been.
How did the style of teaching, and workload compare to Canada? Was it more independent or group learning?	Vastly different styles of teaching. Requires a lot more independent time keeping than Canadian schools because everything is due at the end. It is more holistic and geared towards your professional future in the UK, however it sometimes lacks the structure necessary to be successful grades wise.
How many courses did you take during your time abroad? Are there particular courses would you recommend?	I took two modules and I would recommend both to any student. Inhabiting the Writing Workshop was more of a standard creative writing class, and Writing as a Change Maker was about exploring your responsibility as a writer and the way you can impact the world with your work.

What was your impression of the computer facilities, library, internet access, specialized equipment and supplies available at your host facility?	Internet access was good and librarians were very helpful and will order in anything you'd like pretty much.
Cost	
Books and Supplies/per term:	20 \$ notebooks, pens.
Flight:	1200\$
Accommodation/per month:	18hrs of work a week
Meals/per month:	200 pounds
Local transportation/per month:	100 pounds to visit other cities
Health insurance/per term:	389\$
Communication (internet, phone, etc.) – per term	15 pounds per month
Travel documents (Passport, Study permit, visa, etc.)	Passport
Vaccinations:	
Personal spending (entertainment and extra travel) – per term	
Were there unexpected costs you encounter? What items were less or more expensive than expected?	Trains were more expensive than I'd anticipated.
Extra-Curricular & Social Activities	
What type of organized activities were available to you? What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future students?	Lots of arts workshops available to students. Very cool.
Did you travel outside the host location? If so, where do you recommend?	York and the Lake district would be my ultimate recommendations.
What opportunities were there to work or volunteer? Did you require special permits to do this?	I volunteered at a hostel. Would've work at the University if I got the Visa.
Health and Safety	
Describe any health/safety concerns or issues you had during your experience.	Nothing more than Vancouver.
What helped you keep safe and healthy? Did you access any health care supports and if so how was the experience?	I carried an alarm when I was walking alone at night.
What wellness supports did they offer at the University? Were	There are counsellors.

there counselling or medical services?	
Personal and Cultural Connections	
Were there any cultural differences you had to adjust to? Were there language barrier issues?	Not particularly, however I was raised by Brits. Maybe cars on the wrong side of the road.
What part(s) of the country and culture did you most appreciate?	The history and innate coziness.
How was it traveling alone and making friends?	Making friends was easy living in a hostel and being in a small school program.
How were you treated by local people? By university staff and faculty? By students?	Everyone was lovely.
How accommodating are they to students with a disability? Were there any accommodations offered?	I was given assistance as someone with a learning disability.
How is the situation for students who are visible minorities in your host country?	It is a predominantly white school and I have heard complaints from friends who are people of colour about how their voices are heard in the school.
How welcoming are they to for those who identify as LGBTQIA+?	Very welcoming and inclusive of the Queer community.
Overall	
What are 5-10 important things other students should know before going to your host country/region?	
1. They leave everything to be due at the end of the semester so be ready ahead of time.	
2. Look both ways when you cross the road.	
3. Transportation is expensive.	
4. Take vitamin D, lots of rain.	
5. Explore the surrounding areas and ask locals their favourite spots.	
6. Get fish and chips after a night out, it's a must.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
What was the most rewarding part of your study abroad experience?	Being independent in a foreign country and going to an all arts University.
What was the greatest challenge you faced during your experience	Time management with school.



abroad?	
How has your perspective changed as a result of your study abroad experience?	It made me look at the Canadian school system differently
What else do you want to add about your study abroad?	It was incredible. I'd tell anyone else to do it.

Below is a space to share any photos