

General Information			
Host Country	United Kingdom		
Host School	University for the Creative Arts		
Program start & end dates	January 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2023 – May 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2023		
Program of Study	Interior Architecture		
Type of Study Abroad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> Independent	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
General Evaluation			
In a couple of sentences, summarize and explain your general evaluation of your experience.	As a whole, I loved my entire experience. I will say there were problems with organization on the Host School side, they were slow to respond and overall just lacked the support someone needs to be able to be successful in an exchange program. I am a mature student that has been abroad before and that helped as well as my personal need for organization, so that was fine for me, but for others that may need the extra help that would be more needed from the Host school as well.		
Arrival			
How easy or challenging was it to obtain your travel documents (visa, permits, etc.)?	I did not need a student visa because I was studying for less than 6 months in the UK, but I was also not able to work. If you wanted to work as well, you can apply for a working holiday visa if you are under 30 years old.		
Describe your transportation arrangements to your host country. Would you alter any part of those arrangements?	I ended up booking a last minute one way flight to London, UK. I was meant to start on January 24 <sup>th</sup> and then a month before they told me the dates were actually January 11 <sup>th</sup> . The only thing I would alter is the notice I had received the information so I could have booked flights more timely. Otherwise, I took the tube and the train to Canterbury and the travel research I did on my own paid off and it was seamless and easy to get there without a vehicle		
How was your experience clearing customs and immigration upon arrival in your host country? Any surprises?	Arriving into the UK was almost too easy as well. With a Canadian passport you don't even speak to a customs agent and you bypass that area through electronic gates that scan your passport. If you have a VISA that you need to validate though, you would need to go speak to an agent.		
Describe how you traveled to your host facility. How long did it take and how much did it cost?	I took a plane to Heathrow airport, then the train into London. From London there is a highspeed train that I prebooked and it took me right to Canterbury. I did take a taxi from the train to the university, but I could have walked as well.		
Orientation and Assistance			
How satisfied were you with the orientation and student assistance available to at your host school?	That was non-existent. I arrived and was able to get into accommodation fine, the communication with the accommodation manager was better than the actual university. I got an email from my tutor a week before I started class with an assignment that the rest of the class had for a month before. I was also not told that I needed the ID card on me at all times to scan into the buildings and that also took over a week for the school to sort out, even though they knew of my		

	arrival. I was also surprised that the Head of the Architecture school never once came to introduce themselves to me, I half met them halfway through the semester. I am thankful that I met some classmates the first day that took me under their wing and showed me around the school and Canterbury area, but they didn't even know they had an exchange student joining the class.
What help did you receive from the international staff or office?	None. I had to chase around the registrar to get my ID sorted. KPU international staff were always responsive and gave a ton of information to prepare students before going, but once there I didn't need KPU assistance.
<b>Orientation and Assistance (cont'd)</b>	
How was new student orientation at the host university? How did it suit your needs?	I did not get orientation.
What was it like to adjust to the culture of your exchange site? Were there people and resources available for you to talk to about what you were experiencing?	I adjusted very quickly, the UK can be similar to Canada. Overall I felt like I fit right in and got along well with classmates and made friends quickly.
<b>Housing &amp; Daily Life</b>	
Describe your accommodation in your host country.	I lived in the Student Halls, I was put into the ex-warden suite that only had 2 bedrooms instead of 6 like all the others. It was dated and could use a facelift but it had a kitchen and laundry available to me and I had my own ensuite bathroom with shower and toilet. The room had a desk.
When could you move into housing and how long were you allowed to stay?	I moved in right when I arrived and I was able to stay until I was done the semester. I moved out two days after my hand in because I was going travelling, but I probably could have stayed a bit longer if I needed.
What kinds of services and facilities were nearby where you lived (shop, cafe gym, parks, pharmacy, stations...)	Canterbury was a 7-10 minute walk from campus. It is very much a student town, but there was a gym and grocery stores within a 5 min walk and then Pharmacy's, park's and shops were all very close within the city. There was also a café on campus that did 2 pound lunch deals
Describe what you did about meals and what other options were available. How satisfied were you with the food?	I would cook at home for dinner the majority of the time, and same with lunch or I would go to the café on campus for lunch and Tesco's grocery store is 5 mins from campus so sometimes a meal deal.
How close was your accommodation to where you studied?	The student halls I lived in was on campus but there are other, more modern options off campus that are all within a 10-25 min walk.
<b>Academics &amp; Course Registration</b>	
Please describe the registration process at your host institution. What assistance was available to you? Were you satisfied?	Registration was done VIA email before I arrived as they only had specific classes at my level that I would be in.

What advice would you offer to another exchange student about registration at your host institution?	Depending on the program, I did have to follow up frequently for information to get sorted on both ends.
What tips do you have for finding the courses and course syllabuses/outlines?	I was able to find classes on the website, but for the most up to date and in depth information, I needed to have the international staff at UCA email me the information
<b>Academics &amp; Course Registration (cont'd)</b>	
How satisfied were you with the amount of knowledge/skills you obtained from your host?	At first, it was quite challenging because my project was very self driven and I didn't know how to approach it after coming from my classes at KPU being very directed. After completing my project however, I feel like I did learn so much because I was given a lot more time to sort out things that I don't have time to do at KPU because of such a heavy workload.
How did the style of teaching, and workload compare to Canada? Was it more independent or group learning?	It was a mix of independent and group work which I enjoyed. KPU has specific classes and each class has its own workload that overlaps with the others and it can seem extremely overwhelming at times. Where at UCA, you have a tutor that you see 2 days a week to go through where you are in your project and then 3 days are self directed study to work on the tasks that the tutor gave. You also have a presentation every two weeks to practice your skills and show the class where you are in your project as well.
How many courses did you take during your time abroad? Are there particular courses you would recommend?	I took 2 classes that was the equivalent of 4 KPU classes, credit wise. I took Projects 04 and Creative Practice
If applicable, what impact did the language barrier have on your learning?	None, they speak english
What was your impression of the computer facilities, library, internet access, specialized equipment and supplies available at your host facility?	The workshop and laser cutters and Rhino lab were impressive because that is not something we have as open access to at KPU. The library was much smaller, but the campus is also much smaller.
<b>Cost</b>	
Books and Supplies/per term:	I spent probably \$400 on modelling supplies
Flight:	\$1300 round trip
Accommodation/per month:	\$250/week - \$1000/ month
Meals/per month:	Varied - \$300/month
Local transportation/per month:	0 – walked everywhere
Health insurance/per term:	Included in tuition fees at KPU
Communication (internet, phone, etc.) – per term	Cell phone - \$25/ month – 15 pounds Internet was included in the halls

Travel documents (Passport, Study permit, visa, etc.)	0 – already had Passport and Visa not needed
Vaccinations:	0
Personal spending (entertainment and extra travel) – per term	\$600 over the term maybe. \$3500 – travelling after the term through Europe for a month
Were there unexpected costs you encounter? What items were less or more expensive than expected?	The UK is expensive, but taxes are included in all costs and tip is not needed. Nothing unexpected though because I researched and planned
<b>Extra-Curricular &amp; Social Activities</b>	
What type of organized activities were available to you? What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future students?	There were a few clubs you could join that were set up by the student union. There was also weekly evening talks set up in the school of architecture, that brought in guest speakers to talk about their experiences and network which was nice.
Did you travel outside the host location? If so, where do you recommend?	I went to London a few times in the term to meet friends and see the sights. Its very close to Canterbury. Once term ended I went to Paris and Amsterdam with friends that came to visit me. Then I backpacked on my own to Athens, Santorini, Zagreb, Pag, Vienna, Prauge, Berlin, Hamburg, Copenhagen and Stockholm.
What opportunities were there to work or volunteer? Did you require special permits to do this?	You need a visa to be able to work, I was not able to so I cannot give information on this.
<b>Health and Safety</b>	
Describe any health/safety concerns or issues you had during your experience.	None.
What helped you keep safe and healthy? Did you access any health care supports and if so how was the experience?	Registering with a GP is easy and quick and you have access as soon as you arrive.
<b>Personal and Cultural Connections</b>	
How successful were you at making friends with local (not international) people and students?	I immediately made friends with my Flatmate and then people in my class because we had to work together. Some were from Canterbury originally, and then others from around the UK. There were also some international students as well. I was the only exchange student. I made friends quickly and I have left with a lot of friends.
How did you find it adjusting to the culture of your host site?	I found it very easy. The biggest adjustment was which way to look for cars coming because its opposite to Canada
What, if any, cultural differences did you find particularly challenging?	The main differences were the differences in what things are called. How we say things in Canada can be different to what they interpret in the UK. For example: Pants for us is Trousers for UK because pants in the UK is underwear for us.
What part(s) of the culture did you	I am struggling with the cost of things now that I am back in Canada, I

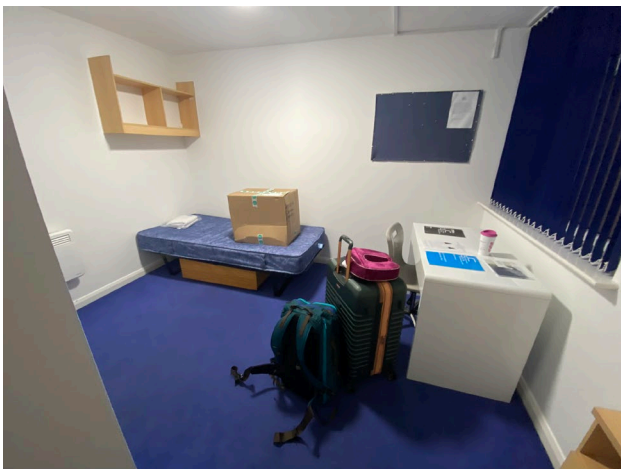
most appreciate?	appreciate that they INCLUDE the taxes in their posted prices. Genius
How were you treated by local people? By university staff and faculty? By students?	I was treated very well, everyone was welcoming and wanted to know everything about Canada and my travelling.
As far as you could tell, how easy would it be for students with disabilities to study at your partner university?	I think it would be easy for students with disabilities because it was very accessible and in classes they provide a lot of assistance to students who reach out and need it.
As far as you could tell, for students who are visible minorities in your host country?	UCA was very open and welcoming to everyone
For students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered?	UCA was very open and welcoming to everyone

**Overall**

What are <b>five</b> important things other students should know before going to your host country/region?
1. Do your research on where to live and the area so you know how to get around and proximity to things
2. Figure out your Banking/ how you will pay for things as quick as you can (Recommend Wise)
3. I brought some modelling tools and I am glad I brought them so I didn't have to re-purchase
4. The UK has a service for students where you can buy a package with the basic housing needs and that can be ready and delivered for the time you move in so you don't need to go out and shop right away if you are jet lagged - <a href="https://www.unikitout.com/">https://www.unikitout.com/</a>
5. Don't over pack, you will end up going back with more than you came with and you will be back with the stuff you left behind in 5-6 months.
What are <b>ten</b> important things you would tell another student who is going to your host facility/agency?
1. Everything mentioned above
2. If this is your first time away from home and you are feeling scared, remember it is only a short period of time and you will be home before you know it. You will gain perspective and amazing life experience.
3. I lived by the "yes man" mentality and said yes to all opportunities that sounded interesting and fun to me. The school will also have activities and you should research and attend things to immerse yourself in the experience
4. Don't be afraid to ask questions and seek out help when you need it. Either with KPU or the Uni you choose
5. Budget wisely, not every meal needs to be eaten out and you can still do a ton of awesome things for free in the UK. Splurge on the things you deem important!
6. If you are planning to travel around as well, the UK has amazing places within the country that are worth visiting and trains are very accessible
7. London is expensive!
8. Planning in advance will give you the budget friendly options for travelling

9. Try and be open minded about what you want to get out of the experience. You cannot plan everything that will happen but it will all work out if you can go with the flow.	
10. HAVE FUN! The learning part is important still, but the experience is once in a lifetime.	
What was the most rewarding part of your study abroad experience?	My project outcome and the people I met. I had more dedicated time to working on the project in this term and I felt really accomplished with the final product because I was able to be more invested in the growth of it. The people I met were a bonus and I am beyond grateful that I now have friends that I will have forever because I went to UCA.
What was the greatest challenge you faced during your experience abroad?	The biggest challenge was the lack of communication I got from UCA to get things going for me and I had to be more proactive and a bit naggy to get information from them.
How has your perspective changed as a result of your study abroad experience?	I don't feel like I have changed a whole lot, but I got to see how different teaching styles can affect your education and what you get out of it. I also got to see how different economies are affected by the same things. It was a great thing to see and now I have even more life experience to take home with me to my day to day and education back in Canada.
What else do you want to add about your study abroad experience?	All in all, I had an amazing experience and I wish that everyone could have an opportunity like this. KPU made everything easy and accessible to me, considering I never thought I would be someone who could do this. I am grateful for this experience and I hope my information helps push someone to make the decision to go abroad for a semester.

**Below is a space to share any photos (this is optional and may be shared on our website).**



**UCA student housing (Ensuite bathroom as well)**



**Me (coral dress) and my friends from school**



**Canterbury Cathedral**



**Canterbury Cathedral Gardens**



**Great Stour through Canterbury**





**Interior of Cathedral**



**London**



**London**



**Tower Bridge London**



**London**



**British Museum London**



**Canterbury Cathedral Gates**



**London City Hall**



**London**



**Canterbury**



**Models I completed through term**