

General Information		
Host Country	United Kingdom	
Host School	Leeds Arts University	
Program start & end dates	January 29 th - May 17 th	
Program of Study	BA (Hons) Fashion Design	
Type of Study Abroad	<input checked="" 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.	It was a great experience and I really enjoyed studying abroad for an exchange semester. I learned a lot and it was very interesting and super enriching to experience and an overall great time.	
Arrival		
How easy or challenging was it to obtain your travel documents (visa, permits, etc.)?	Since I went to the U.K. I didn't need a visa or permit so I did not have to worry about this.	
Describe your transportation arrangements to your host country. Would you alter any part of those arrangements?	The plan was fine but because my flight to London was from Calgary in the winter (Jan), the plane experienced a lot of delays, and I was stuck at the airport. However, things like this cannot be predicted so maybe just watch out. Other than that, I took a train to Leeds from London after spending a few days exploring. It is always a good idea to book the train tickets as in advance as possible to get the cheapest price.	
How was your experience clearing customs and immigration upon arrival in your host country? Any surprises?	There were no surprises and it went smoothly.	
Describe how you traveled to your host facility. How long did it take and how much did it cost?	I took a train from London to Leeds since I landed in London and the train ticket cost around £20-£30 since I bought it in advance. It is also beneficial to buy a railcard for £30 while you're there because you get a 1/3 discount off all train tickets which can get pricey. After that I took an uber to the flat I lived in and it was £8-£10 so not too expensive.	
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?	I was very satisfied and they were super helpful and accommodating. They gave me a tour and I was able to meet the program leaders and they gave me a tour of the labs and helped me get inducted (trained) on their machines and etc. There were lots of resources available and they provided allowance for printing too which was really good.	
What help did you receive from the international staff or office?	They arranged a tour of the school for me and also gave a presentation talking about places to go, safety, how the school works, etc. It was very informative and helpful.	
How was new student orientation at the host university? What did they do?	They gave presentations and tips on how modules will be assessed and how we can work to getting a good grade which was helpful since I didn't know anything about the school and how it worked. I was able to get a brief rundown on what classes would be like, etc.	

Housing & Daily Life	
Describe your accommodation in your host country. Were you pleased with this choice or what would you have done differently?	It was good! I took over another students room because they were going on exchange to Italy, so that worked out well. It was also in a student friendly location and nearby grocery stores and bus stops. The only issue was my roommates being a bit incompatible with me, but that was just something I had to live with and it didn't bother me much because I just kept to myself most of the time in the house.
When could you move into housing and how long were you allowed to stay?	I was able to move in as soon as I arrived and I was able to stay until the original owner returned, but since her semester ended later I left earlier before she came back.
What kinds of services and facilities were nearby where you lived (shop, cafe gym, parks, pharmacy, stations...)	There were lots of amenities near me (10 minute walk away). There was a local grocery store, gym, plenty of restaurants and places to eat, pubs, and stores to buy everyday items. There was also a bus stop that would take me to school there, as well as another bus closer to me.
Describe what you did about meals and what other options were available. How satisfied were you with the food?	Eating out was too expensive for me so I would often buy groceries and cook at home. The food was alright but it wasn't the best so I did not eat out much. I liked pub food a lot though.
How close was your accommodation to where you studied?	It was a 40 minute walk but a 15-20 minute bus ride so I would just take the bus everyday. Leeds is very walkable though so I know some people that lived around me that would walk. The bus cost £1.40 if you got the student single ticket.
Academics & Course Registration	
Describe the registration process at your host institution. What assistance was available to you? Were you satisfied?	It was very simple and they had me registered very quickly and I was able to get my student card within a couple days of the orientation. They also have a computer/tech team that helped me set up my student profile and teach me about submitting my work and other important technological things.
What advice would you offer to another exchange student about registration at your host institution?	If you have any questions you can just ask the front desk or anyone in the computer assistance room! They are all very kind and accommodating, as well as super helpful.
What tips to you have for finding the courses and course syllabuses/outlines?	All the information about the course can be found on the university website under the fashion design section, and once you get registered you will have an eStudio account (their version of moodle) and you will get more access to course information on the dashboard.
Academics & Course Registration (cont'd)	
How satisfied were you with the amount of knowledge/skills you obtained from your host?	I am very satisfied and I feel like I have expanded my skill set and tried new things that I would not have been taught at KPU.
How did the style of teaching, and workload compare to Canada? Was it more independent or group learning?	It was very group orientated in the beginning and there were a lot more group critiques. Afterwards it was very 1 on 1 with the professor and they would talk to you about your project specifically and help guide you on where to take it.

How many courses did you take during your time abroad? Are there particular courses you would recommend?	It was just one module/course technically, but that course was worth 60 credits so there was a lot that went into it. There were no options to choose specific courses for me but it was a good module and I enjoyed it a lot.
What was your impression of the computer facilities, library, internet access, specialized equipment and supplies available at your host facility?	I was very impressed with the facilities of the school. They had a library dedicated to strictly all things art related, so it was really nice being able to find books of all sorts to draw inspiration from. They also had a university shop that had affordable art supplies. There was also a café at the school – it was a bit overpriced but it was good. There were also lots of workshops provided to teach you how to do things like book binding or screenprinting and it was all free and all you had to do was sign up online. They had a good amount of studio space, and specialty machinery, but the sewing labs would close at around 5-8pm so it was a bit difficult to sew unless I came in really early since I didn't have a machine at home.
Cost	
Books and Supplies/per term:	Fabric and materials – around £30-£50 (depends on what you get)
Flight:	\$600-\$900
Accommodation/per month:	£542.22
Meals/per month:	£60-£80
Local transportation/per month:	£30
Health insurance/per term:	My insurance was covered by my family's insurance plan
Communication (internet, phone, etc.) – per term	Phone plan was 25gb/month for £15
Travel documents (Passport, Study permit, visa, etc.)	N/A
Vaccinations:	N/A
Personal spending (entertainment and extra travel) – per term	£50-£100
Were there unexpected costs you encountered? What items were less or more expensive than expected?	Watch out for airline fees if the plane is cheap – always make sure to check in to RyanAir 24 hours before your flight because I did not and was charged 55 euros
Extra-Curricular & Social Activities	
What type of organized activities were available to you? What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future students?	There were a lot of events going on and a lot of societies (what they call clubs) that were free to join and you could meet a lot of people as well. They had a lot of workshops to join too. I joined a new club for POC students because I was introduced to it during my tour and I ended up making really good friends from that so I think joining clubs where there are people who share similar interests as you would be a good way to make friends!
Did you travel outside the host location? If so, where do you recommend?	I travelled around Europe and some parts of the UK. Everywhere I went was beautiful but I would just recommend going to places where flights are cheap! I went to Paris for a couple days and the plane ticket for a round trip was only around \$50 so it was super worth it. I really

	liked spain and the bigger cities like paris and milan but I think just take the chance and go on a trip if the tickets are cheap because it is so exciting discovering new places.
What opportunities were there to work or volunteer? Did you require special permits to do this?	I did not work or volunteer since I would have needed a work visa, but if you really needed to there were lots of shops nearby so I am sure there would be opportunities.
Health and Safety	
Describe any health/safety concerns or issues you had during your experience.	I did not have any extreme health or safety concerns since Leeds is a relatively safe area.
What helped you keep safe and healthy? Did you access any health care supports and if so how was the experience?	I think just keeping a good daily schedule and not putting yourself at risk was what I did and I was fine. I did not need to access any health care supports as well.
What wellness supports did they offer at the University? Were there counselling or medical services?	They had lots of support services at the university. Lots of counselling, financial aid, etc. There was an office where you could go to them for any type of issue and they would help you out so it was very nice.
Personal and Cultural Connections	
Were there any cultural differences you had to adjust to? Were there language barrier issues?	It was mainly just the people and some of the accents were a bit difficult to understand at first. I had to learn some British terminology as well but other than that it was fine. I also had to adapt to their ways of life like the pub culture etc.
What part(s) of the country and culture did you most appreciate?	I appreciated how honest everyone was. I also appreciated how walkable everything was, I was able to walk to a lot of the places I wanted to go to or take a short bus ride.
How was it traveling alone and making friends?	It was a bit nerve wracking at first, but after I settled in I was able to open up and be more comfortable being myself. After that making friends came very naturally and I left with a lot of new connections.
How were you treated by local people? By university staff and faculty? By students?	They treated me normally. There aren't many Asian people in the uk with a north American accent, so people would be a bit surprised when they first met me, but other than that everyone in Leeds was very kind and accepted me as a student in their course.
How accommodating are they to students with a disability? Were there any accommodations offered?	I am not sure how they treat students with disabilities since I did not experience that, but they had lots of facilities for students with a disability. There were not any accommodations provided since I was not a first year student, but finding housing in leeds is very easy and some people I know do it even a month before having to move in.
How is the situation for students who are visible minorities in your host country?	England does not have many minorities so you do stand out from the crowd when you are one, but I realized that students and the younger crowd don't treat you any differently, it's just the older group that might judge but they don't do anything drastic. The uni was very inclusive though. I think they are also less aware of offensive things to say because some of their terminology for things are things I would

	not hear in Canada, but that was just apart of their language (e.g. they wouldn't say "Can we eat chinese food" they would say "can we get a Chinese")
How welcoming are they to for those who identify as LGBTQIA+?	LAU was very welcoming and supportive of the LGBTQIA+ community. A lot of the students were part of it and also hosted many events for it too.
Overall	
What are 5-10 important things other students should know before going to your host country/region?	
1. Get a debit card where you can exchange money through the bank – I used wise and it was great	
2. It is a very old but small place so the buildings are all very historical and everything is a lot more compact	
3. Less diversity but it's not anything bad, just different than what we are used to	
4. Food options may be a bit sparse compared to Vancouver – not as good but higher price point because of the currency	
5. Leeds is a very student friendly city and a lot of the accommodation and shops are placed conveniently for students	
6. Lots of student friendly activities as well – get unidays or student beans, or just ask because most stores have a 10-15% student discount	
7. Everything is within walking distance – city is extremely walkable so if you like walking that's good	
8. If you want cheap meals look for a Tesco and get the meal deal for around £3.50 – comes with a main, drink, and side	
9. Grocery stores I tend to go to that were the cheapest were Sainsburys and Morrisons	
10. Pub culture is very strong there, a popular pub is called Wetherspoons and it's a huge chain, get the Wetherspoons app and you order from there – very cheap but yummy meals too!	
What was the most rewarding part of your study abroad experience?	Being able to experience fashion design in the UK was very nice as it is a completely different concept than what I am normally taught. I learned a lot about fashion design and enjoyed being able to be creative and artistic.
What was the greatest challenge you faced during your experience abroad?	I was never properly introduced to everyone in my class so it was a bit difficult fitting in because everyone thought I just appeared out of nowhere until I explained that I was an exchange student.
How has your perspective changed as a result of your study abroad experience?	Yes for sure, I have a whole new outlook on life and I realized that the world is truly such a large place with lots of opportunities.
What else do you want to add about your study abroad?	I had a great time and I highly recommend LAU to other students if they have the chance to go 😊

Below is a space to share any photos



Photos from Kirkstall abbey in Leeds

Corn exchange in Leeds – place with lots of small businesses, fun to roam





Above: group trip to York with friends, Below: Pub food from Spoons



Rainy Leeds



York



Otley run photos: Group picture



Otley Run is a famous pub crawl in Leeds that people do on the weekends and the rule is to always be in some sort of costume, rain or shine.



Pictures from my classroom



First english breakfast! Final decision: I don't hate beans



One of the photoshoots I did for my project



Cool Harry Potter looking building in York