

United Kingdom

Disclaimer

This paper might be a bit boring, and some of it might not really apply or make sense now, but it might be useful to print it and take it with you to UEA. Basically, it's a list of things that confused me before I got here, and things I wish I had known. It's boring because it doesn't really talk about all the wonderful things that have happened this year. Just wanted to put a note here to say that studying abroad was one of the best decisions I have ever made. I just want to say that even though this paper is about all the dull things, the year as a whole has been completely amazing.

Ok, now here's all that other stuff:

Preparing before you leave

The summer before I left was pretty hectic. I was trying to get all the paperwork sorted so that I had everything ready for the trip. My advice to future students is to get started early. Send your visa application as soon as you know you've been accepted. It takes a few weeks to process everything (unless you go to the office in L.A. in person). I found it helpful to make a binder of all the paperwork I needed. This binder included: acceptance letter, bank statements, medical insurance, travel insurance, copies of all important documents (passport, social security, ID, etc.), all of the paperwork sent to me from the university, contact phone numbers, directions to the university, travelers cheques, registration packet, list of classes that I wanted to take, and leaflets from OIP. In the end, I didn't end up needing to use anything in this folder, but it made me feel like I was covered no matter what happened.

I decided to fly into Norwich airport instead of going through London. It ended up being a really good decision. If you fly to London, it's a 40 min tube ride from Heathrow to the train station, and then a 2 hour train ride to Norwich. If you fly into Norwich, you will most likely only have to wait 3 minutes in customs and there is no way you will get lost in the tiny airport. The airport has private cabs that will cost you up to 15 pounds to get to the uni, but if you call ABC cabs, 01603 666333, on a pay phone you can get there for only 8.

Packing

Rule number one: you don't need as much as you think you do. I packed two suitcases weighing 70lbs each (because that was the airline's limit) and also a small carry-on bag. I quickly found out that in England I really didn't need to pack shorts or sandals. I also brought too many pairs of shoes (6) and not enough warm clothes. Its hard to imagine while sitting in sunny California that I might need to wear boots because there will be snow on the ground. The good news is, whatever it is that you forget to bring you can purchase here. As a basic packing list, I would say bring these items: 3 pairs of jeans, shoes you can walk in all day, shoes to keep your feet dry and warm, shoes to go out in, one warm coat, one sweatshirt, lots of socks, t-shirts, one or two dressy

looking tops, and a sweater. You can buy scarves, hats, and gloves in the market place when you get here.

Academic life

The academic system is different here than it is at SFSU. In my experience, there is a lot more reading, longer papers, but fewer exams and tests. Less time is spent in the classroom (I guess because you need a lot of time to read everything). It is important to do the reading.

The grading scale is different than at home also. They don't use a 100% scale in the same way that we do. Things are broken up like this:

70 and above	first
60-69	2-1
50-59	2-2

From what I understand, most students aim for and get 2-1's. A first is quite an achievement, and a 2-2 is not bad, but a little disappointing. Since my grades have not gone back yet, I am not sure how these translate, but my guess is that a 2-1 is an A, a 2-2 is a B, etc. But don't take my word on that one (I am still waiting to find out). That's just how I would relate the way people react to getting these different marks.

The courses are all organized pretty well, and they stick to the syllabus. Unlike at home, the teacher will rarely remind you if something is coming up. You just have to read your syllabus all the time and know what is happening. One time I didn't do an assignment because the teacher didn't mention it in class. Let's just say that only happened once... But they really take those syllabi seriously, so read yours all the time.

The students are not quite as talkative as they are at home. I thought it would be easy to make friends since I was a drama student, but it was actually more difficult than I thought. Only one or two people came up to me on the first day to say hello. I volunteered for lots of projects so I could meet people and get involved, but people were still slow to warm up. This is one of the major reasons I recommend studying here for a whole year. A semester just isn't long enough to really get to know people and the culture. Anyway, all I want to say about students is that they are really great once you get to know them, but, in general, slow to warm up. It's a good idea to ask people to have tea after class; something casual to get to know classmates.

Housing

I decided to live on campus because I thought it would be a good way to meet people and would also save me a commute from town. I have been very fortunate with my housing. I live in the University Village (a 10 min walk from campus) and have my own bathroom and a shared kitchen with 5 others. The price is about \$500 a month I think. But all the prices are listed on UEA's accommodation website.

I get along with most of my flatmates and have made some great friends by living here. Almost everyone on my floor is about 20 years old, but in their first year off college. Since I am 21, this worked out very well, but if you are in your mid 20s, you might prefer to get a house off campus. Sometimes the on-campus environment is noisy, but I haven't had many problems. UEA has a wonderful social atmosphere, and no matter where you live there will be lots of opportunities to meet people. For me, living

on campus has been a good decision. I recommend it to anyone who wants to meet a lot of students, and doesn't mind the occasional noise or mess.

If you are planning to live on campus there are a few other things you should know. Waveney terrace is the ugliest one, but it's also the cheapest. The rooms remind me of SFSU's freshman housing, to give you an idea. Almost everyone I know who lives there, however, loves the social environment. Norfolk and Suffolk terrace (the pyramids) look really cool from the outside, but are kind of dark and dingy inside. The kitchens have big windows with a gorgeous view of the lake, though. The Village in a 10 minute walk away, and it's a little more quiet than other residences. The rooms are small, but you get your own "shower pod." Think cruise ship bedroom... Nelson Court is really good. The rooms are big, and it's right next to the drama studio. And Mary Chapman Court isn't even on campus, it's in the city center, and you would need to take a bus in. It really depends how much you want to spend. As you might guess, the more you spend, the nicer your room will be. If I had to do it again I would still pick the Village (even though it doesn't sound as cool as things like "constable terrace" which sounds way more English-y). Out of all the people I know who live on campus, I would say only about 5% of them are unhappy with where they are living. And the uni is pretty good about helping people who are unhappy with their placement to find something else.

I also know that the accommodation office has a limited number of houses that they rent out to students in the city. My friend took advantage of this. If you'd rather live in a house off campus, but want help finding one from the uni, go by the accommodation office the first week of classes.

Money and Banking

England is expensive. No matter what they say in the meetings before you leave to study, England is much more expensive than San Francisco. A student here told me that they call it "rip-off island." Before coming here, you should know that the cost of living is a lot higher. If you want to go out for a meal, you will spend between \$10- \$20. And that's for something like a burger or spaghetti. Beers cost around \$4-8 per pint and a return bus ticket into the city center costs \$5.

I did all my banking through my bank at home. I was able to use my ATM/credit card here with just the normal fees from home. I wouldn't recommend bringing a lot of American cash over here with you. The best rates are from the bank. Exchange places (especially the airport!!) will charge you too much. Also – check your limits on your cards at home. My bank was able to increase my daily spending limit so that I could make my housing payments. It's easiest to get things set up with your bank before you leave. Calls from here are expensive. And it's an 8 hour time difference...

Phone

I opened a bank account here with NatWest because I wanted to get a cell phone plan, but it took a long time to start it, and so I just got a "pay as you go" phone. If you want to be on a plan, get a bank account early, because the contract you will have to sign is for a whole year. Best price for a phone was from Orange phone. About \$75 for the phone, and calls from 40 cents per minute. Text messages (more popular than calls here) are about 25 cents each.

My parents and I decided that they would call every Sunday. If I receive calls on my mobile phone, it doesn't cost me anything. So my parents got some kind of calling plan to call me... I am not sure what they are using. The idea is, if your parents want to talk, have them call you. Won't cost you anything. It would be even cheaper if you get a landline, but living on campus it seemed to be a bit of a hassle, so I just use my cell. If you live in a house that has a telephone, you will probably get much better rates.

Health

Luckily, I have been very healthy all year. If I had been sick, I would be covered under England's national health care. I think that only applies to students studying for the full year, but I am not sure about that. Girls might like to know that contraception in the UK is free. So you don't need to buy it at home before you come. The brands may be different, though, I am not sure. Other medicine may cost you a bit, but it's close to the same prices in the U.S. I got one prescription filled for about \$12. The health center is free and the nurses are friendly. It works the same way as the one at SFSU.

If you do get a prescription for something from the health center, they will ask you to take it to a chemist. This means pharmacy. I was really confused when I thought I would have to find some random scientist.

Transportation

In Norwich, there are a lot of buses. Three of them (25/26/27) go from the city center to the university. It costs about \$3 for a single (one-way) ticket and \$5 for a return (round trip). I bought a bus pass from the travel shop on campus for \$250 (135 pounds) and it is good for a whole year. I think that is the best thing to do. You don't have to worry about having change that way. You don't need exact change for the bus, because you pay the driver and he will give you change, but they get angry if you pay in paper money. Just use coins.

If you want to take a cab, there are lots of different companies. I use ABC just because it was the first number I wrote down (01603 666333) and they have been really good. A one-way trip from uni into the city center is between 5 and 6 pounds. If you get enough people together, though, it can be cheaper than taking the bus!

Shopping

Like everything else here in the UK, shopping is expensive. For clothes, look for a store called H&M. It has reasonable prices and cute clothes. If you are looking for a store like Mervyns, look for Primark. Clothes are really cheap and they also sell blankets and pillows. Something that surprised me is that not many things go on sale. Ever. But in January (right after Christmas) the sales begin. The whole month is a great time for shopping. Every store will have a sale.

Boots is a store similar to Walgreens. It has a pharmacy and typical drug store items. They also have good prices for film and digital photo processing and they sell boxed sandwiches that are pretty popular. Department stores (like Macy's) here are called Debenhams, Marks and Spencer, Jarrolds and John Lewis, to name a few. If you are crafty and looking for art supplies in Norwich, John Lewis is your place. I searched everywhere for yarn and finally found it there.

Norwich has a market right in the middle of the city center. While I was not used to shopping at places like this at home, I was pleasantly surprised at the variety of things I was able to get there for great prices. It's a good place to go for bags, scarves, gloves, and many more useful items.

Chocolate

If you like hazelnuts, you are in the right place. Cadbury is good. So is Kinder Bueno. Best chocolate I found in England is at Café Nero. It's called Novi, and it's from Italy, and it's wonderful. They have them at the register. Thornton's is the posh brand that has its own store and is good for gifts.

Eating things other than chocolate

Bella Italia offers 50% off to students on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Exchange St restaurant (across from Jarrold's). You have to make a reservation on Wed to get the discount. Here is the phone number: 01603 767171. Can you tell I go there a lot? There is a chain called Wetherspoons that has the best drink prices in town, and also dinner deals. Two meals for about 6 pounds (which is cheap!). Since it is a chain, there are many Wetherspoons in England. The tricky thing is that each has its own name! In Norwich, two popular ones are The Bell Hotel and Lloyds (at the Riverside). Once you start eating there, you will know how to spot more. Also check out the Belgian Monk's "Dubbel Deal" from 5:30 to 7pm weeknights. Good food and for half the price. But really, guys, the rumors are true. The food is expensive and not very good. So just make food at home. But if you need a night out, check out these places.

Pubs

The campus has its own bar that is very popular with the students. They have pretty good drink prices, too. As I mentioned a second ago, Wetherspoons chain have the best drink prices in town. My favorite pubs are The Murderers and The Fat Cat. Fat Cat is a bit out of the way (might have to take a cab) but its won best pub in Britain for a couple of years or something and its right in Norwich! The Belgian Monk also has a good variety of beers. I keep hearing that Norwich has a pub for every day of the year and a church for every week. It just may be true. So there are lots of places to check out.

Meeting People

As I mentioned before, UEA has a terrific social atmosphere. In the first or second week of term, make sure to go to "SocMart." This is where all the clubs and societies set up tables and recruit new members. They have clubs for everything. No matter what you're into, there should be something that will fit your style. It costs between 3 and 10 pounds to join the different clubs and socs (societies), so I suggest picking only 2-4 of them. You will probably find that one or two on them will end up being your favorite and all of your time will be put into those. I joined 4 but I only really like one of them. Which one was my favorite? Glad you asked. It's the Fell and Mountaineering Club. They take trips to places around the UK and go hiking. Each trip is about 35 pounds for the weekend, which includes food, travel, and accommodation. You will need to have some hiking boots and a few other things, but this is a great club to

join if you want to see more of the UK (and like to get out and do some mountain walking).

I found that the people in the clubs and society are much more social than people I met in classes. Drama classes are a little different, I suppose, but in most of my classes, it was difficult to really talk to people. Don't despair if you aren't going out with people after classes. Join a club or society and get to know your flatmates and you will always have something to do.

Dating

I remember Mr. Y saying to dump whoever you are dating before coming over in the orientation. He's right. If I learned one lesson this year, maybe it was that guys aren't worth worrying over. So that's my advice. Take it or leave it, but seriously consider it because it's not any fun to be sad about some boy when you could be enjoying your new home and country.

Dating people in Norwich is much different than SF. It's a very couple-y city. I guess since it's small, a lot of people are in serious relationships. In San Francisco I assumed that everyone was single, but here I assume each new guy I meet has a girlfriend. I am usually right. I did get a lot of free stuff when I first got here, though. Free drinks, free dinners, etc. Sometimes the guys here follow you around for too long after they've bought you a drink, so be careful. It's all fun at first, but nowadays, I buy all my own drinks. Wouldn't want to get stuck in one of those couples I see everywhere.

I thought it was important to date someone to get a better understanding of the culture here, but now I think I can see things a lot clearer being single. This city is a great place for groups of friends to go out and there is always something going on. I wouldn't worry too much about getting in a relationship. Personally, I would avoid it. But maybe that's just me.

Travel

Travel as much as possible. My favorite thing about England is that it is so close to other countries. See as much as you can while you are here. Budget airlines (see the list of websites at the end of this paper) can get you a flight to Europe for as low as \$60 round trip. The flights leave from London, though, so you have to add another \$40 if you want to take the National Express bus to the airport. From Norwich, fly out of Stansted airport. It's a little over 2 hours by coach.

If you plan to go to Scotland by rail, I suggest buying a brit-rail pass before you leave. Or have someone in America send you one. STA travel sells them. Otherwise, it's almost cheaper to fly.

What were my favorite places to see, you ask? Well, I really liked the southwest coast of Ireland. But my favorite city so far is Venice. I went for reading week. I read on the plane...

From Norwich, you can take day trips to Cambridge for as low as 10 pounds. Get a Young Person's Rail Card. It will save you money. Some other nice day trip cities are Ely (which has a really great cathedral) and Sheringham (a cute sea side village). Cromer is another sea side town.

So was it worth it???

Yes. Completely and absolutely. My best year of college and maybe the best year of my life. It's hard, don't get me wrong, and sometimes it can be lonely or scary or weird or confusing, but it's worth it. I could write a whole paper about all of the wonderful things I've learned or about the great people I've met, but you will find that all out soon enough. You have a year of amazing experiences ahead. I just hope this paper answers some questions or helps a bit. Don't worry about whether you will have a great year, though, because you will.

Helpful Websites

www.uea.ac.uk UEA's homepage

www.xe.com Exchange Rates

www.nationalexpress.com Bus to take you from Norwich to the airports in London

www.gner.co.uk National Rail UK

www.statravel.co.uk STA travel UK

www.ryanair.com or www.easyjet.com Budget Airlines

<http://www.uea.ac.uk/intranet/> UEA intranet – sources for students

<http://www.uea.ac.uk/menu/admin/rsd/accom/> UEA accommodation website

dmbfansf@hotmail.com This is my Email address. I will try and answer any questions you want to send my way. Especially if the question is “hey, do you want me to send you some chocolate from England?”

Phone

ABC taxi 01603 666333

Norwich dialing code 01603

Emergency number 999

Health Center UEA 01603 592172

Security Calls UEA 01603 592352

Emergency call UEA 01603 592222

Another Essay-----

University of East Anglia 2006**Little about Norwich:**

It is a wonderful place, a place that has a medieval history about it. So many cute little streets, just a great atmosphere to it. They say it is a city, but in reality it is a big village people are very friendly and willing to help. Campus is close to the city center and all the stations, train and bus.

Getting into town:

Get a BUS PASS!! It is worth it, it will cost about \$145 but it is more then worth it. You will be going into down a lot and it will pay for itself with short trips. It is a yearlong pass, which will let you go and come from town unlimited. Also get a rail card, it will save you so much money when you travel outside of Norwich. Getting into town

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take the 25, 26, or 27 they will all take you to town and back. The 25 are the faster one it will say "riverside/ Rail station" from campus and all the ones in town will say "university". All of them will take you right to the front of campus, 25 is just the faster one. It does not go all the way around the town like the 26 or 27.

Banking:

If you want to open an account here, then I would say open on right one campus. There are three different branches, Natwest, HSBC, and Barclays. I open one at Natwest, it was very simple. You only need to bring in your passport and a letter showing them that you are living on campus. That is all you will be asked to do, and within two weeks you will have an account. HSBC was saying it will take about three weeks and you have to fill out a form on line. While this is easy, however you will not get your account name and password until later. I did not even go into Barclays to ask how long it would be, because they have a rule which stated you would HAVE to leave 2,000 pounds in your account at all times. Not something that very affordable...

Phone:

If you want to get a cell phone here you might want to look into a 'pay as you go'. This is what I used and if worked great. All you need to do is go into town get a phone and a SIM card. You will then get a card where you can add money to your phone. So you will be just adding when your time runs out. It is what most of the students use here. Text messaging is HUGE!!!! If you are going to be getting a phone go with the company "Orange" it has great deals with Orange-to-Orange calling. Which is what most students here have Orange, and on Wednesday is something called 'Orange Wednesday;. Where you can get into the movies two for one, on top of student prices. So you will be paying like 1.40 pounds each. To call home you might want to get a calling card. Also look into Skype. It is very big in Europe and FREE!!! All you need is to download it on your computer and have your parents do the same. You can call each other and talk on line it doesn't cost anything for anyone. So you are free to talk as long and often as you like.

Drinking/Smoking

Welcome to England! A place where drinking is VERY much apart of the culture and is hard to get away from it. If you are like me, who is not a drinker, you might feel a strange at first but it is ALL RIGHT to just have a soda. You will find coming from California, were smoking is not allowed inside buildings, it is hard to get away from the smoke. People love to smoke here; you will smell like smoke when you get back from the Pubs, the LCR, or the Waterfront. But often people are very considerate about it if they do smoke. Also just watch your drinks when you are in town, nothing really happened but just keep an eye on your drink.

Getting to know your flatmates:

This is one of the most important things you can do. The day the 'fresher' start to come, and you are in your room, leave YOUR DOOR OPEN. This is the only way you will get to know them. You might be like you do not want to hang out with freshmen's but I have to tell you that they are the nicest people. Even though you might be 3 to 4 years older then them are great. Go to all the activity in the first week of school, all the

dances or hanging out with your flatmates., Go to the dances at the LCR (FYI the LCR/Union House had the best and cleanest bathrooms!) and anything dealing with new students this is the ONLY way that you will meet more people. I got very lucky and got some GREAT floor mates, they made me go to all their events and anything else they had. In all honestly I spent my whole year here hanging out with my flatmates, they are some of the greatest people I have ever meet. I know many of the people did not get along with their flatmate. If just depends on how willing you are to get to know each other. I know for me many nights all of us would just end up sitting in the hall or hanging out in someone's room for hours talking to each other about anything and everything.

Housing:

Housing here is very different. You can pick where you want to live and each has a different price. I lived in Waveney, the one that everyone made fun of. It was the ugliest, run down place; however it was the BEST for making friends. It has been said that it was the best atmosphere, and they were RIGHT! ☺ Sadly Waveney is not there anymore!! It was very much like Mary Ward or Mary Park (but worse). The thing about it is it is very friendly because you can go to other floors and halls with out having someone open the door to let you in. The new building you can only get into your hall only because you need a key. Which makes it very hard to make friends outside of the six people you will be living with. The new buildings, like Colman, Kent, Victory all are the same. They have smaller rooms then we did, however that was because of having their own bathroom in their room. Their kitchen was HUGE! The rooms are very nice, they look like hotel rooms from the inside, but from that outside the look like rooms on a boat. Most of them are very close to campus, just a five-minute walk to the center of campus. The Village is far, I never really saw this until I was moving out. It is in the way back, in front of the main campus gates. I cannot tell you anything about Mary Chapmen because I never saw it. It is in town somewhere, I just never ran into.

Homesickness:

This is going to happen no matter how much prepare yourself. I knew I was going to be homesick, but I did not realize it until the first night I moved in. I cried so much, and the next day I woke up and there are not many people on your floor (home students do not move into until couple days later) you fill like you want to go home. THAT IS OKAY!!!! It is okay to feel this way, but it gets better. You will be surprised at how many people feel this way, many times it helps to get out of your room and talk to your floor-people or do something. It will get better, and before you know it you will forget you are not at home.

Shopping:

Well, for those of you who think San Francisco is expensive, then you will find England very expensive. In Norwich there are many open markets, in the city center. The market is a great place, you will find so many nice things and it is not that bad in price.

So don't bring a lot from home. If you are looking for cheap things to make your room homey then I would say go to QD, it is a very cheap store (I got a rug, three plates, three bowls, a flower vase, and three medium size baskets for about 15 pounds). Also, there is Poundland right across from QD. There are two malls in Norwich, there is Castle Mall (under the Castle) and Chapelfield. Chapelfield is the newest mall, which opened in Norwich. It actually opened the second day that I got there. Both are very nice, but still many of the stores are on the \$\$\$ side. There are a lot of cheap stores around, and seeing that you will be there for a year only, it really does not matter what kind of store you shop in. There is also a place called 99p world. I just found this place my last two weeks here. It is HUGE!!! With a lot of things that can come in handy for your room. It is next to ROY'S (you might want to ask about this, that is another cheap store).

What to bring/ how to get to school:

You don't need as much as you think you do. Pack your bag and then take half of it out! Trust me!!!!!! You will most likely be shopping while you are there and it will be so hard to pack when coming home. Shipping is very \$\$\$ so that might not be part of your plan. Plus I don't think you want to bring all of your bags from the airport to Norwich. If you fly into Heathrow it is a LOOOOONG tube and train ride. If you take the National Express (the bus) it will take four hours. However, the National Express will take you right to the campus. But it will cost around 30 pounds. So that might be the best thing to do if you are coming here for the first time.

Travel:

All I can say is GO FOR IT! When are you EVER going to be able to travel around Europe with a group of friends and get cheap deal because you are a student. Explore what this country has to offer! It has such a RICH history! There is so much to see here, you will not know where to start! The best places to get some help on what to see is go to the Travel shop on campus, and talk to your floor mates. Many come from such great places, and are willing to sit down and tell you what there is to see. There are many cheap airlines around, so you can find great places to visit for not that much. A lot of international and exchange students went on trips during reading week. I have to say I was one of those people, I did do some reading on the plane...

Safety:

Norwich is a very safe area. It is like a village a lot of family around. So safety had not been a big deal, but always WATCH your things. I had this field trip to this Renaissance House, for my history class. On there way there or back I stole my purse. And I had to stop all my cards and bank accounts. Not something that you want to do. It had all my photo id in it, which I lost and had my credit cards maxed out. Lock your door when you leave, a lot of laptops went missing this year. If you are on the ground floor, remember to lock your windows also.

Going home:

I would say this is something that you have to think about for yourself. I know when I was told, everyone says don't do this. However I did go home for about two

weeks and traveled for a week and spent a week at my cousin's house in West London. I did not want to go home but I had to for some family reasons. I have to say it was nice to be home for a while. However, I was glad I only stayed for two weeks because I knew if I stayed longer I would be homesick when I got back. If you do go home, try to be back for New Years, it is just something different to experience. I went into Central London on New Years Eve. It was crazy, and very packed, but something very cool.

Class:

Classes are very different then the way they are at home. The teachers will not tell you do read or remind you that you have an essay to do. In the seminars they will ask you about the reading and if you did not read, well let's just say that will be the last time you don't read. The essays, which are turned in, are time and dated stamped, so even if you are a minute after the due time they WILL take points off. Don't be worried when you get your essay back and it is like 50 or 60. The grading system here is very different.

They have

First ← 70 or higher

II I ← This is what most people try to get

II II ← Normal

III

Summary of all rabble above:

It may seem it is not as easy many people make it out to be. It takes a great deal of time trying to get use to all the changes that will occur; but it is more then worth it. It will become easy. From the language (even though it is English) to the way to look when crossing the streets it is hard to get use to things. There will be many times you will feel homesick and might even cry. Yep, that WILL happen. No matter how much you want to come here, there will be times when you want to go home. Most people did not know when they had their first class. **GO TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THAT CLASS!** Like what they told us in the orientation back at State, "I ASK" (yeah, I know t you will be sick of it and be making fun of it, (we all did!) but it is very true.) UEA is not very good at sending information they will send it but it will take A LONG time and many times you will not even get it. The best way to get any information is to keep e-mailing your school of study. I never got a written paper saying I have houses; I had to keep e-mailing them to ask for information. They still did not send anything in the mail; they said that it is not important. **SO KEEP ALL OF YOUR E-MAILS THAT YOU SEND TO THE SCHOOL! PRINT THEM OUT AND TAKE THEM WITH YOU! THIS IS VERY IMOPORTANT!** Have a great time make the most of it because it is a great place!!

Is it worth it???

YES! I can't stress that point any more. This has been one of the best years of my life. I got to go and travel, meet some great friends. I loved it so much; I spent the last week crying because all my friends were leaving at different times. You will be surprised how close you will get to people in your short time here. It is so great!!! Good luck and have a blast!!!!

Important sites that might be helpful:

www.ryanair.com ← cheap airlines

<http://www.uea.ac.uk/intranet/> ← school sgh

If you need anymore information about anything let me know, I will be more then happy to help

shrutisp@hotmail.com