

**Nottingham Trent University**  
2nd semester 2013(February – June 2014)



**Things to know before departure**

First of all, you need to book your flight ticket to UK. The semester will start at around the beginning of February. So, late January is the most proper arrival time because you will have some times to explore the city, transportation, accommodation, and any other activities in Nottingham. Second of all, you need to find the accommodation; my suggestion is to find some flat that located within the walking distance to the university because it is convenient and also allows you to save the costs of using public transportation, which is quite expensive in this country. Once you had your flight and accommodation booked, you will be able to apply for visa. The visa application needs to be done not less than 2 months before departure because the process of document checking is quite long. Do not forget to check your email for acceptance letter from NTU, they will contact you via email and will tell you the directions and everything you

need to know. UK weather during January to April is very cold. So, winter clothes like coats, scarfs, socks, and gloves are important things to prepare. Nottingham is two hours away from London; so, you need to also book the train or coach ticket from London to Nottingham on the arrival date. Don't forget to recheck the tickets or any other documents that you need to bring it with you on the departure day, which includes flight ticket, passport, train or coach ticket, and accommodation contract.

### **How to survive in the first week**

When you arrive at London, you can take either taxi or tube to the train or coach station. It is very important to arrive on time because the train will leave immediately at the time stated in the ticket. In Nottingham, the city is quieter and more peaceful than London. The university is located in the city center area; so, you can easily find restaurants, cinemas, and shopping centers around that location. You need to check carefully the direction from your accommodation to the university and also learn how to get there.

It is quite expensive to eat outside and the foods in this city are not very tasty but if you would like to try the local restaurants here, there are several good places for example, Piccolino, Nando's, Sizzi, Man's, Higo. Most of them located in the city center area and within the walking distance from the university. If you prefer cooking by yourself, there are also several Asian shops, which sell a variety of Asian foods, ingredients, and seasonings.

Since everything is all located in the city center area so, you may not need to use any public transportations. However, in the case that you would like to travel to other parts of Nottingham, there are three ways to travel in this city, taxi, bus, and tram. I generally take bus because it is cheap and convenient, you can also use the student card for ticket discount. Taxi here is different from Thailand and also different from London, most of the people here generally call taxi to pick them up, not go find taxi by themselves on the street side like in Thailand. You can find the taxi numbers very easily on the Internet. For tram, I never get to use tram when I was in Nottingham because tram lines pass on limited location of the city so, I prefer bus since it has many service lines and stations that cover all part of the city.

The local people here mostly are not very friendly but they are nice and willing to help if you have any queries. There are a lot of Asian people here, mostly Chinese. So, it is very common when you walk along the street and some foreigners say "Ni hao" to you. In this city, every shopping mall and department store will close at around 6-7 pm. So, the city will be very quiet in the evening. There are not many activities to do in this city. However, if you like to go to the tourist attraction places, there are the places called Nottingham Castle and Wollaton Hall and Dear Park, I have visited these two places, it was very nice and beautiful.

## How to prepare for studying



The UK study system is very different from Thailand. First of all, in one course that you applied, you will have both lecture class and the class called seminar. Lecture class in UK is very similar to Thailand; however, the number of student in one class is very large, about 300 to 400 people. On the other hand, seminar class separates students into smaller group, about 10 people per group, you will get a chance to communicate and share your opinions in the classroom. The seminar class will help you understand more about the subject and also it is a good opportunity for you to talk to local and other international students.

Most of the modules usually weight 100 percent on final exam. It does not have an attendance checked like in Thailand. Therefore, you needn't have to attend both lecture and seminar class if you do not want to, but from my experience, seminar class benefits you a lot because the tutors will explain the topics in detail and as I've mentioned, it will help you understand more about the subjects. There will be an old exam papers posted on the website about 3-4 weeks before the exam date. Hence, you will know what the exam format will be like and you can also practice from those old papers as well.

I found the study in Nottingham Trent University very interesting and I've learned a lot from the subjects, tutors, classroom environment, and my classmates. It might be a little difficult for you at the beginning to adjust yourself to the new study environment but in the end, you will find yourself having better thinking and communication skills, which are rarely being improved in Thai study program.

## Life style and activities

In UK, people are more confident, friendly, and more sociable than in Thailand. In the university, there is a group called student union, it will organize trips or events and send invitation to you via email every week for example, one-day trip to Lake District, York, or Kent. Also, UK people love to create parties and they love to hang out at clubs and bars. Do not hesitate to occasionally join these events because you will get to know a lot more people from different countries, it is a very good chance to have new friends and learn different perspectives from people in different cultures.



There are many Thai students in Nottingham, mostly at the University of Nottingham, which located a little far from the city center area. You can join them on Facebook Nottingham Thai society. The Thai students there are very helpful, you can ask them if you need any helps or have any queries. Also, Thai society occasionally organizes the parties; you can connect to them and get the tickets in their Facebook page.

For me, one semester at Nottingham Trent University is a very good experience. If you decided to go to this university, remember to spend your 4 months wisely. Apart from study, joining events and activities to meet new people and make new friends. I strongly believe that you will have an unforgettable moment and finally, you will think that time flies so fast and the 4-months period is actually too short.