

STAP Experience Report

Nottingham Business School (Nottingham Trent University)

United Kingdom

Fall term 2024/2025

13.09.2024 – 24.01.2025

[REDACTED]

B.Sc. Business Administration

Courses taken:

1. Introductory Financial Management
2. Accounting in its Organisational Context
3. Corporate Financial Analysis

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My exchange semester in Nottingham allowed me to meet a variety of wonderful people from all kinds of backgrounds and enrich my understanding of the UK as a country. It furthermore strengthened my business and finance understanding.

The university:

The Nottingham Business School (NBS) is part of the Nottingham Trent University and located at the city campus close to the city centre. All lectures and seminars are held in modern rooms and lecture theatres within walking distance of both each other and the accommodation.

Next to a very rich welcome week with daily parties and activities, the university and the student union offer a wide range of societies to join and meet others. They can be found on the student union's website <https://www.trentstudents.org/opportunities/societies>.

Close to the city campus, and connected to the university, a general practitioner is based and available to help with medical worries. I did not have to pay anything there but this might differ in future years.

The NBS is not to be confused with the University of Nottingham, which has a separate entity with a separate campus.

Courses:

It is important to understand that one cannot choose single modules but has to commit to one of around 20 pre-constructed programmes. In my case, I chose the "Business Management & Accounting & Finance" programme, which contained the courses I listed on the cover page.

Overall, the academic level is lower than at the University of Cologne and more school-like. This impression results from the large share of seminars (two hours per course per week) of the weekly in-person schedule and the interactive way they are held. The lectures (one hour per course per week) are supposed to complete the learning of the week. Officially, most work is to be done at home however, where the preparation for the seminars and the learning itself is supposed to take place. One

should not worry about not having time to do other things however, given a minimum level of prior knowledge.

It is also not necessary to worry about the exams, which are very manageable and predictable. Differences to Germany lie in their length (3-4 hours) and the option to choose from tasks.

The final grade is also determined by the attendance in the seminars, which make up for 15% of the grade. In the case of Corporate Financial Analysis, there is also a group case study which accounts for another 25% of the grade. In order to pass, all of the grade's elements need to be passed, which requires 40% of the points in the exam / group work and a 40% attendance-level in the seminar.

Since the seminars are very helpful for the exam-preparation, I would not miss too many of them.

Requirements:

They required a certain level of English, the current requirement should be visible in the WEX database. I needed to take a Toefl-test, which you should do well in advance to avoid troubles.

Preparations

The most important thing is to apply for a room at the Sandby Hall student accommodation since the capacity is limited. Even though being quite expensive at around 1000 Euros a month, the opportunities to connect are priceless and the room is sufficiently equipped for that time. One should not expect a modern or luxury bathroom however.

One will receive two plates, a fork, a spoon, a knife, a glass and a cup, which are good enough to not bring anything from home. The bed linen however are completely synthetic and were replaced by most students. For that, I'd recommend a group trip to Ikea. Therefore, in my opinion, you do not need to bring any of that. The kitchen is also equipped with a basic set of pots, pans and other stuff.

Travelling

I got to the UK by plane since this is the fastest and easiest option. Since most of the French arrived by train, I assume that a green travel alternative is also possible but takes quite a while.

Going to Nottingham, one will usually land in London, Birmingham, Manchester or at the East Midlands Airport. From there, I'd definitely take a coach (Flixbus or National Express) because the luggage compartment of the trains is limited and mostly occupied, leaving one with the option to stand for the two hour ride. The coaches however are way more comfortable in that respect.

For weekend trips and limited luggage, the trains are fine. For them, I'd definitely recommend getting a railcard, which saves 1/3 of each booking for a one-time payment of 30 Pounds. In case of a delay, the train operators offer a delay repay scheme which might further lower the costs on average.

Accommodation

As previously implied, I'd without a doubt choose Sandby again. Sandby Hall (the third floor to be exact) is the only accommodation for international students, which explains the urgency of booking. Given this unique status, the third floor is a very international space.

The room is comprised of a (quite short) bed, a desk, a cruise ship-like bathroom and a wardrobe. It is also quite small.

Each kitchen, of which there are two, is used by around 25 people. It was not too full at any given time however since the dinner times varied from home country to home country. Even though being cleaned weakly, they can get dirty and unpleasant.

The location of Sandby Hall is brilliant, with around 5-10 minutes of walking to the university or city centre and 20 minutes to the train station. There is also a tram stop and the university's general practitioner nearby. On the other hand, the central location leads to a lot of noise at night.

Life in Nottingham

Nottingham's main attractiveness to me was the location in the middle of the UK, which allowed us to easily travel to many other places by train. A tip for car enthusiasts is the Morgan factory near Worcester, for which one can book tours. Apart from that, we also saw Manchester, Liverpool, Cardiff, London, Cambridge, Grantham, Norfolk and Lincoln. Other popular destinations were Scotland and Ireland.

Another very important aspect of the Nottingham experience is the nightlife. For many, clubs like Rock City or the infamous Ocean's became second homes. The pubs are also worth mentioning and visiting.

Restaurants are mostly either pubs or fast-food chains but a bit of searching yields fantastic restaurants apart from those.

In general, life there was great, but one should not expect the poshness and wealth of London.

Conclusion:

My time there was amazing and I do not regret going there. It is especially well suited for students who prefer free time over academic challenges and want to explore the wonderful place that is the UK.