

Welcome to The Liftoff ✈️

Global Opportunities newsletter!




QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST

CAREERS,
EMPLOYABILITY
AND SKILLS

Sharna studied International Business with Spanish in Deusto and followed it with a work placement in Barcelona.

Deusto is a beautiful university in a beautiful city – I felt welcome right away especially thanks to the wine and cheese welcome party! I picked courses that I felt would help me get the most out of my time there.



These included several business classes, Spanish lessons and a class on Basque culture and language. Classes were small and informal, with more focus on group work and continual improvement rather than exams! The Erasmus community in Bilbao is unlike any other!

There is an organization on Instagram called HappyErasmusBilbao who are very integrated into the fabric of the university and the city. On my first night me and my new flatmates went to the first Erasmus event of the term - and the rest was history!



Starting my work placement in Barcelona required a different routine. It certainly felt more settled than a study exchange! Having a steady structure and financial support helps you explore the city even more! Internships can sound scary and even if you feel you are unqualified, I recommend applying to everything!

Here are my top tips for preparing for life in Spain:

- A lot of accommodation is organized through local agencies which will take a small fee and often need two months rent as deposit. This can be a very large lump sum to fork out!



- **Reach out to other Queen's students in your year who are in the same country as you - even if you don't know them that well! I have become considerably closer to people on my course, and reached out to people that I might not have had the chance to before. Everyone is in the same boat and appreciates another friendly face**



- **In Spain, it's very important to remember that everything is done very (very!) last minute including organising accommodation**
- **Life admin is important and confusing at times – if stuck ask for help and a general rule of thumb is to have everything printed out, twice!**

Five things I learnt from my exchange:

Sadie studied Geography at the
University of Amsterdam





“1. Time management. Amsterdam is a world-leading university – I knew I would have to meet the academic challenges and balance that with the excitement of being in a new city and juggling a couple of hospitality jobs, I very quickly learnt how to schedule myself to effectively manage my time, ensuring I kept on top of my academic performance.”

“2. The value of community. Moving to new city in a new country can be quite overwhelming. It’s important to put yourself out there and make as many friends as you can. You’ll very quickly find that you make lasting friendships with a range of people from across the world.”

“3. Learn the language. English tends to be the language in Europe adopted by international students, but I would recommend however that you make an effort to learn some conversational terms in the language of the country you live in. This will really open you up to locals and enable you to learn more about the culture you’re immersed in.”

“4. Ride a bike. This one may be more applicable to Amsterdam than other cities. Riding a bike however not only enables you to be independent and free to move on your own terms, it’s also great for exercise, your mental well-being, and your bank account.”

“5. Stay open. Try new things. Immersing yourself into a different culture allows you to try your hand at things you may never have done before. Take this as an opportunity to learn about different ways of living, whether that’s sports, food, academia, social events etc.”



Study Exchange

Checklist



- ☐ Made my funding application (if applicable)

- ☐ Received confirmation my travel risk assessment is approved

- ☐ Checked any visa requirements

- ☐ Checked my passport is in date

- ☐ Checked I have the appropriate insurance

- ☐ Checked my flight booking

- ☐ Arranged onward travel (if applicable)

- ☐ Checked I have the address of my accommodation

- ☐ Made my School aware of my placement

- ☐ Checked the FCDO website for tips on travel

For those of you about to depart take a look at our checklist to give you confidence you're ready to go!
Happy packing!
Global Opportunities Team

**Look out for the next edition of
The Liftoff** 
coming in September.

Don't forget, if you have any queries just pop us an email at goglobal@qub.ac.uk or book an appointment with one of our team [here](#)