

Dear Students,

We hope you enjoyed your semester abroad and would love to hear more about it! This questionnaire is designed to give you the opportunity to evaluate your student exchange experience and provide feedback useful for the improvement of the program. Feel free to detail any other information or tips that you think might be useful for students planning to participate in student exchange in the future.

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

First Name: Roy

Last Name: **Bleicher**

E-mail: Roy.bleicher@post.idc.ac.il

School:  RISS  Israeli School  Computer Science  Business  Communications  Law  
 Psychology  Government

Degree:  BA  MA

Year:  1  2  3  4

### HOST INSTITUTION

Name: University of Birmingham

School: School of Social Sciences

Country: United Kingdom

Exchange Occurred: Fall Semester 2019 for a semester.

The exchange experience began in Spetember and ended in December.

Did you get a scholarship or grant?  Yes  No

If yes, please provide the scholarship name: Erasmus+

The scholarship or grant was provided through A private organization under EU administration

Did the host require proof of English proficiency?  Yes  No

If yes, which of the following was requested? TOEFL

Did the host institution require proficiency in the local language?  Yes  No

If yes, please specify the language: English

### PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

How long did it take to receive your official acceptance letter/package? In terms of weeks 2 weeks before arrival

## Visa & Health Insurance

Did you require a visa?  Yes  No

If yes, where did you obtain information on visa application instructions and regulations? N/A

What documents were needed to process your visa?

Passport  Acceptance Letter  Proof of Accommodations  Proof of Health Insurance  Proof of Financial Capability

Proof of Scholarship  Criminal Record Check  Proof of continued studies at IDC  Other Please specify

How long did it take to obtain an appointment at the Embassy/Consulate? In terms of weeks N/A

Once all required documentation was provided to the Embassy/Consulate, how long did it take to receive your visa? In terms of weeks N/A

Please indicate your estimated cost of visa and visa related matters. 0

Did you require immunizations prior to travel?  Yes  No

If yes, please specify: Meningitis, Tetanus, Polio, Diphteria, Measles, Mumps and Rubella

Did the host institution require additional Health Insurance?  Yes  No

Estimated cost of Health Insurance and other essential medical expenses: 0

## Travel

With how much anteriority was your plane ticket purchased? ~3 months

Estimated cost of travel expenses: 4000 Shekels

## **AT HOST INSTITUTION**

### Arrival & Location

Did the host institution provide an airport pick-up service?  Yes  No

Did the host country require registration with local authorities (apart from immigration personnel) upon arrival?

Yes  No

If yes, please describe (Did you need an appointment, did you register at the police station, at the ministry of interior etc.? N/A

Where is the university located in relation to the city? Outskirts

Is the university campus easily accessible through public transportation? Yes No

Which of the following does the local transportation system include? Bus Train Rail Train Taxis Ferry

University Shuttles  other Please specify

Please describe mobility within the city and to the surrounding areas. Please specify

### **Housing & Meals**

Was on-campus housing available? Yes No

Was off-campus housing assistance available? Yes No

When did you make housing arrangements? Prior to arrival Upon Arrival

Where did you live? On-Campus Off- Campus Host Family  other Please specify

Who did you live with?  Local Students  International/Exchange Students Alone Other Please specify

What was your estimated cost of living? ~3000 GBP

Estimated time making housing arrangements? ~1 hour

Did your university offer a dining plan? Yes No

If yes, what did it include? 52.5 GBP's worth of food, distributed across the week

Did you purchase a university dining plan? Yes No

What were your estimated expenses on food per month? 150 GBP

### **International Office and Academic Courses**

Please Indicate your field of study: Business

Did you take courses in other disciplines? Yes No

If yes, please specify disciplines taken: Economics

When did you register for courses?  Prior to arrival  Upon Arrival

What was the standard course load per semester? 6 courses

Was a wide selection of English courses offered?  Yes  No

Where accommodations available for students with disabilities?  Yes  No

Was the staff at the International/Student Exchange Office helpful in accommodating your class schedule?  Yes  No

Was the university staff easily accessible and responsive to your enquiries?  Yes  No

Where the facilities adequate?  Yes  No

Please write all other relevant details you deem helpful to future students. Please describe as much as possible

### Leisure

Please check all recreational activities available:

Student Union Programs  Buddy Program  Movies  Theater  Dining  Hiking  Water Sports  Outdoor Sports

Dancing  Bars  Festivals  Gym and Athletic Facilities  Museums  Site Seeing  Shopping  Concerts

Hillel/Chabad  Guest Lecturers  Organized Trips  Other Please specify

Did you travel to other cities in the host country?  Yes  No

If yes, please specify: Cardiff, London

Did you travel to neighboring countries?  Yes  No

If yes, please specify: N/A

What activities did you partake in during your free time? Student societies. Too many to list here...

Did you join any of the university clubs?  Yes  No

If yes, please specify societies within the university, competitive STEM teams (Robotics and Formula Racecar), etc.

What do you recommend as the must see places? Must do activities?

With the impressive financial boost from the Erasmus, it is very possible to explore much of the country and even Europe, pending Brexit. The societies are highly recommended, specifically because there are so many that can suit your interests nicely. Membership isn't a big problem and no previous experience is required to do nearly anything

Please add all additional information, comments and suggestions here.

The University of Birmingham is a great place for many reasons- for one, there are no exams during the term, and instead only essays are required. Mostly the university's services are responsive and effective. The buildings are old from the outside and very modern and comfortable from the inside. There are hundreds of societies to join with no interviews, and many of them can teach you skills or be fun to meet and greet new people with similar tastes (literally, as there are wine-tasting and Hummus societies).

Birmingham is a great place so long as you can make the most of it!

We would appreciate any pictures, videos, or other visual materials that can be placed on our website for future students to see!

