

STUDYING IN MULTICULTURAL MANCHESTER

Manchester is a lively and inspiring place to live and study. Both the university, with its thousands of international students from 154 countries, and the city itself, with its multicultural flair, offer a great atmosphere to study environmental and development policies.

Walking around the city, I see people from a lot of different cultural backgrounds. At night I can go out to dance salsa, eat delicious Middle Eastern and South Asian food in the Curry Mile, have a typical American Thanksgiving dinner, meet with friends in Chinatown, go to the German Christmas market or just drink a pint of beer in an English pub. Most of my friends come from different countries, which makes conversations very interesting. Particularly when greeting each other, funny situations can also arise, as everyone has different customs – from handshakes to hugs or kisses.

Having studied International Economics and Development in my undergraduate programme, I chose to broaden my horizon by pursuing my postgraduate programme in Environmental Governance. In my core courses, I am learning about key issues and challenges regarding environmental policies, and current debates concerning climate-change mitigation and adaptation, carbon trading, water privatisation, and energy-demand management. Furthermore, I have a lot of optional courses that I can freely choose from the whole Faculty of Humanities. As I am interested in interdisciplinary topics in environmental and development policies, I chose my courses from the Institute for Development Policies and

Management to learn about rural and urban development, disaster management and environmental reconstruction. I am especially focusing on grassroots community-based approaches to natural-resource management in the water, forest and mining sectors.

Located in North Western England, Manchester is not far from the Peak District, the famous Lake District and Snowdonia National Park in Wales, which all offer perfect hiking routes. Furthermore, both London and Scotland are reachable within a few hours by train. For the next term, I have already chosen interesting courses and made plans with my friends to go hiking in the Scottish Highlands and to travel to different cities in the UK. I am therefore really looking forward to gaining more experiences in 2015.

Finally, I would like to thank the British Chamber of Commerce in Germany Foundation and British Airways for the scholarship, which is greatly supporting my studies in Manchester.



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(currently in Manchester)