

## Living the Yorkshire dream



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I have a bachelor's degree in business and economics and worked for a large oil company for several years. My thesis was on sustainability reporting, which sparked my interest in sustainability and the difficulties of adapting current business practices to the needs of society and nature.

The Sustainability and Business programme at the University of Leeds is based in its School of Earth and Environment. I am able to learn so much from my professors and my fellow classmates, who come from different countries and completely different academic fields. During lectures and group work I enjoy the challenge of solving problems from various perspectives. The course has given me the opportunity to expand my knowledge into environmental and social sciences. The rapport between professors and students is very casual. We students can request guest speakers and topics for extra seminars, and will go to the pub together after these sessions.

Last November they organised a field trip to the Humberside, which is a region in East Yorkshire that is highly affected by flooding due

to climate change. During the trip we saw how the community is coping with flooding and we were able to speak to businesses in the area. They welcomed our questions and were very open about the challenges their businesses are facing on their journey towards greater sustainability. We even took part in a beach clean-up and visited the Living Seas Centre, where we saw the region's wide variety of wildlife.

One of my favourite projects so far was a group project that involved establishing a sustainable business. We created our own body scrub made from used coffee grounds and natural oils and developed a business plan and marketing strategy for it. At the end of the semester, we even had the opportunity to sell our product to other students.

The University of Leeds has a beautiful campus with a unique blend of architectural styles ranging from old Victorian and ancient Greek-style buildings to the futuristic looking business centre. There are parks, cafés, pubs and libraries on and off campus that make studying more fun and are the perfect place to chat with classmates between lectures.

The student union provides a lot of fun and relaxing activities. I joined the Black Feminist Society and African and Caribbean Society and made great friends who helped me settle into Leeds and feel at home in a new country.

The first semester has been a lot of work but a truly amazing experience. I am deeply grateful to the British Chamber of Commerce in Germany Foundation for helping me accomplish my academic goal. |