The Newcastle Gateshead Millennium Bridge

Thanks to:
The Gilman Scholarship program, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, School of Molecular and Cellular Biology and the Study Abroad Office

Photos:
All photos are courtesy of Ashley Doruelo except for the photo of St. Jame’s Park and the Gilman Scholarship logo.

If you have any questions or are in need of advise please feel free to contact me:
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Studying Abroad Successfully at

Newcastle University

A Gilman Guidebook by

Ashley Doruelo

A brief how-to handbook on the University of Illinois Molecular and Cellular Biology Study Abroad Program at Newcastle University in England
Part III: Making the Most Of Your Experience

Explore the Area

Leazes Park is right on Richardson Road, a great place to run or picnic. It's located behind St. Jame's Park Football stadium.

St. Jame's Park is just off of university campus. This is where Newcastle Rock plays.

Tynemouth and Whitley Bay are nearby beach towns only a couple stops away on the Metro!

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Abbreviations:

• NU= Newcastle University
• MCB= Molecular and Cellular Biology
• SAO= Study Abroad Office
• UIUC= University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign
• AY= academic year
• uni= university
• module= class
Introduction

So, Who Am I and qualifies me to give advice on studying abroad?

Hi, my name is Ashley Doruelo and I went on the Molecular and Cellular Biology pre-medical Newcastle program for the academic school year of 2011-2012. The photo above is of me right outside Alnwick castle, famous for the inspiration of Hogwarts from the Harry Potter series. My purpose for creating this guidebook is to help students execute their study abroad experience as my Gilman Scholarship project.

Part III: Making the Most Of Your Experience

In the City continued...

- Bank: It's not necessary to open a bank account, though many people decide to so money can be wired from the states. Think about this before you leave to determine what will work best for you.
  - Some local banks: Barclays, Royal Bank of Scotland, Lloyd's (many banks require your CAS, a confirmation that you attend NU)
- Living: you'll soon learn of the UK grocery stores: Tesco, Sainsbury's, Waitrose, Marks and Spencer's, and Wilkonson's
- I recommend the local market for inexpensive and fresh food Grainger Market

Your First Week in Newcastle

Lastly, I highly recommend participating in what is called NU’s Fresher’s Week (freshers= freshman). You pay for a wristband and it is your ticket to many planned events and parties that would otherwise cost a lot more money if done separately. I participated in mud- buggy racing, took a bar tending class, did a tour of a museum, and attended a grub crawl.

Note: This guidebook can be used for any student but may be most useful for those wishing to study at Newcastle University.
Part I. Deciding to Study Abroad

The Program
This study abroad program is targeted towards pre-health students, specifically pre-dentistry and pre-medicine. Students may take courses that fulfill requirements in Molecular and Cellular Biology, physics, and biochemistry. The program is specialized in that it allows students to take medical school courses alongside UK medical students as well as an opportunity to shadow physicians. See UIUC study abroad website for further detail.

MCB Newcastle Program:
https://app.studyabroad.illinois.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=10358

Step 1: Apply Through UIUC’s Study Abroad Office
Fill out online application on study abroad website, don’t forget to include letters of recommendation and transcript!
Study Abroad Website:
http://www.studyabroad.illinois.edu

Step 2: Apply for Visa
Once you gain acceptance from Newcastle, you must apply for a UK student Visa. Full details on how to apply are on the website:
http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/countries/online/?langname=null

Items I included in my Visa Application
- Printed application (w biometric stamp)
- Appendix 8 (Tier 4 form)
- Passport
- Photocopy of Passport
- Passport Photo
- Letter of Acceptance (CAS Form)
- Budget Sheet
- Tentative Class Schedule
- Bank Statement (w adequate $ for program)
- Birth Certificate
- Copy of Birth Certificate

Part II. Making it Happen

On campus
Since majority of a module grade is based on exams, students don’t receive much written homework or assignments. This leaves time to explore Newcastle.
- Sports Teams: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/sport/
- Clubs: http://www.societies.ncl.ac.uk/
- Work placements: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/careers/develop/workExperience/nwe.php

In the city
When I first arrived at Newcastle, the first thing I wanted to do was make sure I could communicate with people back home.
- Cell phone: get a cell phone from UK cell companies: e.g. O2, Orange, Virgin Mobile
- Internet: requires your NU ID # and password you set up online when registering to be a student
- NU student registration: when you arrive there is an international students welcome itinerary. Make sure to print and bring your accommodation contract and bring passport to registration. These are required to get your NU student ID card. These materials are also required for fresher’s week.

On-campus Sports Teams:
http://www.ncl.ac.uk/sport/

On-campus Clubs:
http://www.societies.ncl.ac.uk/

On-campus Work placements:
http://www.ncl.ac.uk/careers/develop/workExperience/nwe.php
Part II. Making it Happen

Succeeding at Newcastle
In The Classroom

- In many modules the weight of your grade for the whole year is determined by one final exam. START STUDYING EARLY!
- Professors do not have set office hours
- Each student is assigned a "tutor" who is also a doctor/professor in biomedical sciences. They serve as an advisor and should be the first person contacted if an academic issue arises
- Blackboard: where course materials are posted: https://www.blackboard.ncl.ac.uk
- NESS: where grades are posted: https://www.ness.ncl.ac.uk/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Newcastle University</th>
<th>Illinois</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70 and above, First Class</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69, Second Class, First Division</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-59, Second Class, Second Division</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>40-49 Third Class</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Below 40</td>
<td>F</td>
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*Chart Taken from University of Illinois Conversion

Most libraries on campus close at 10 PM. There are 24 hour computer clusters like the hub shown, located above the student union, the old library, and the fell cluster in the medical school.

Part I. Deciding to Study Abroad

FUNDING YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE

Financing a study abroad program can be daunting, but it is feasible!

Some quick facts I wish I knew right off the bat when I applied:
- The MCB Newcastle Program is more expensive than normal tuition at UIUC
- The cost of the program will vary slightly each year - look for official documents through SAO
- Some grants received at UIUC may not be applied to tuition abroad
- Tuition is paid to UIUC, NOT Newcastle University
- Housing and Residence is paid to Newcastle University
- Direct personalized financial aid questions to Office of Student Financial Aid: 217-333-0100
- People want you to study abroad, and there are lots of scholarships!

Apply for the Gilman Scholarship! They helped me finance my study abroad experience immensely!
http://www.iie.org/Programs/Gilman-Scholarship-Program
Part II. Making it Happen

Choosing Modules (UK term for Classes)

- Look up requirements still needed to graduate
- Go to SAO and look up approved courses to get an idea of Newcastle equivalents and what each course entails
- Explore available Newcastle University modules: [http://www.ncl.ac.uk/international/studyabroad/module/](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/international/studyabroad/module/)
- Make an appointment with Melissa Michael, Director for Core Curriculum in MCB (mmichae@illinois.edu) to determine your classes at Newcastle for the AY.

This picture is of a clinical skills class I took at NU where we learned how to perform cardiovascular, musculoskeletal, and respiratory exams, depicted in the photo.

Part II. Making it Happen

Choosing Your Residence Hall
- Just like any other university, deciding where to live is the next most important factor other than choosing to study abroad.
- Students opt to live in student accommodations. In the UK everyone has their own room, while a common room, kitchen, bath and toilet room are typically shared.
- Accommodations closest to the medical school (where most classes in the program are held): Richardson Road, Castle Leazes, and Marris House
- Rent and Fees are paid directly to Newcastle University

Official Newcastle Accommodation Website
[http://www.ncl.ac.uk/accommodation/students/accommodation/](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/accommodation/students/accommodation/)