

Erfahrungsbericht European Nursing Module Northampton, UK

March 2024

University of Northampton, Northampton, UK

StudentInnen, Bachelorstudiengang Pflege PF.21, 3. Studienjahr

Same job, different workplace

Touching down in Birmingham, UK on a sunny Saturday morning, I was ready to start my adventure here. This was the beginning of what promised to be an eye-opening adventure into the heart of the UK's healthcare system, with a focus on nursing. After a day spent soaking in the sights of Birmingham, I made my way to my cozy apartment in Northampton, ready to kick off two weeks of exploration and learning.

But before diving headfirst into my nursing internship, I couldn't resist the chance to attend a Gymshark event in London on Sunday. It was a fun-filled start to my UK escapade and set the tone for the adventures ahead. This was something I had been looking forward to for a long time and was a great start to my journey in the UK.



international dimension to our time in Northampton.

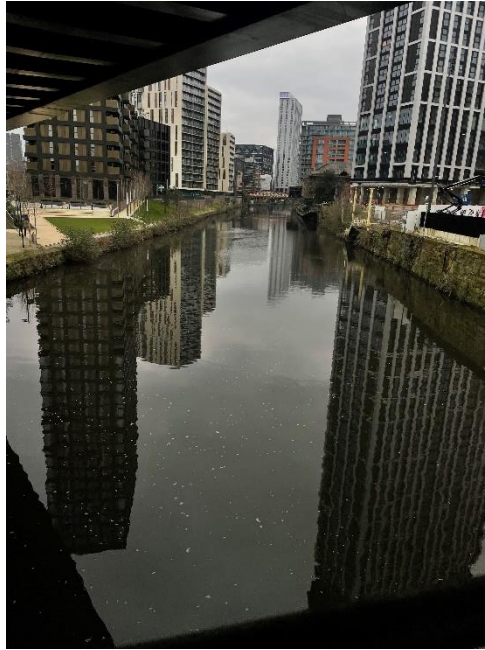
The week got underway with a warm welcome from the International Nursing Module Coordinator at the University of Northampton. Right off the bat, I noticed a strong difference from my academic experiences back home in Switzerland. Gone were the big lecture halls; instead, classes were smaller and more interactive, fostering a close-knit learning environment. I also discovered that here, assignments were in place instead of tests. The University of Northampton gave off a vibe that reminded me of American college campuses, like its own little community. It had everything – dorms, restaurants, bars, and shops – making it feel like the ultimate university experience. Sharing the ENM experience with fellow students from Belgium and Sweden added an enriching in-

Wednesday marked the beginning of my clinical hours, spanning across various wards in a local NHS hospital. From elderly care to trauma/orthopedics and everything in between, each setting offered a unique glimpse into the UK healthcare landscape. It was a fast tour of patient care that left me with a newfound appreciation for the diversity within the field.

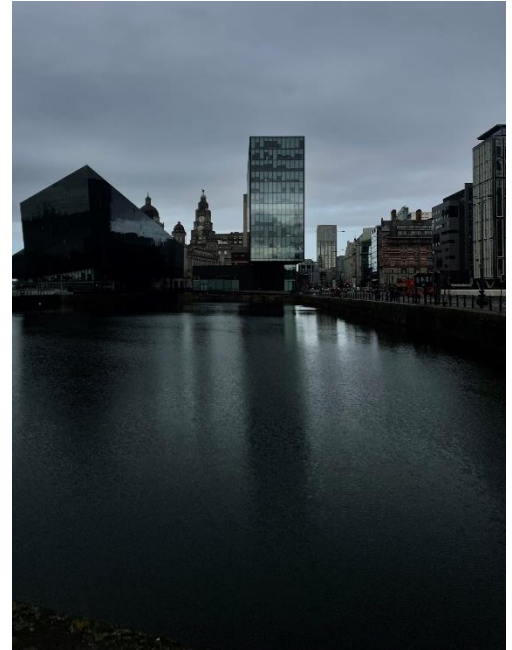
The weekends offered a splendid opportunity to explore more of the UK. A return trip to London provided another taste of the vibrant city life. Meanwhile, trips to Manchester and Liverpool offered unique insights into the regional differences within the UK. The Albert Docks in Liverpool were particularly memorable for their scenic beauty and historical significance.



London, UK



Manchester, UK



Liverpool, UK

As the second week unfolded, I dove deeper into my clinical placements, soaking up every practical insight and nugget of wisdom along the way.

Reflecting on my time in Northampton, I am profoundly grateful for the experience. Not only did it provide a practical understanding of nursing in the UK, but it also offered personal growth and cultural exchange.

In comparing the healthcare systems of Switzerland and the UK, notable differences emerge. Switzerland operates with mandatory private health insurance, contrasting the UK's publicly funded NHS. Ward configurations diverge as well, with UK hospitals often featuring larger bays accommodating up to 12 patients, while Swiss hospitals tend to opt for smaller rooms, housing at most 2 to 4 patients. Doctor-patient rounds also vary in approach between the two countries. One major difference for me was that, in the Northampton Hospital, paper documentation is used for medication records as well as general documentation, whereas in Switzerland, electronic systems are the norm.

Despite these differences, both systems share similarities. They adhere to a similar daily structure in healthcare delivery and offer comprehensive care through a multidisciplinary team including therapists, doctors, social workers, and nurses, ensuring holistic patient support.

The hands-on experience, coupled with the academic and cultural exposure, has been immensely beneficial. I return home with not just enhanced professional knowledge and skills, but also with treasured memories and new perspectives. My time in Northampton has been an educational journey in the fullest sense, one that I would highly recommend to future nursing students looking to broaden their horizons and professional understanding.