

Life in general / Coventry as a city

Students have three main possibilities regarding their accommodation. Firstly, student accommodations: these facilities are provided by the university itself and are normal "Studentenheime". It is not recommended to move into such a room as most of the other students are around 18 years old and the first time away from their parents... The second possibility is to live in a house or apartment provided by agencies related or co-operating with the University. People live together with up to three or four other students, mostly with a shared bathroom and kitchen. The third possibility is to rent a private accommodation, for example a flat or a house through a normal agency and searching for roommates yourself. This leaves you with the ability to choose with whom you are going to live with. The costs for the accommodations are between £250 and £350 per month, with additional costs for food and drinks of around £400.

Due to a total number of around 30'000 students from both Coventry Uni and Warwick Uni, the nightlife is saturated with students bars, pubs and clubs. With beer prices of around 2£ per pint; rather cheap compared to Switzerland. Coventry University itself has got it's own club on the campus. Alternatives are countless clubs such as Kasbah (<http://www.kasbahnightclub.com/>), JJ's (<http://www.jjsnightclub.com/coventry>), Mortimers, Maisons, and many many more... The variety is big, so there is no reason to sit bored at home ;-)



Campus

The Campus of Coventry University is basically not a closed area like we know it from Lucerne University, but different buildings widely spread around the east of Coventry and thus actually part of the city itself. However, one will most likely not be able to see all of these buildings from the inside, as lectures will take place in only a few of them and some are actually dedicated to specific courses like arts, architecture or medicine. In Summer 2012 a brand new building dedicated solely to the faculty of computer and engineering will be opened; from what we see so far, it will be a very impressive one!

There is also a new building called "the Hub", which contains all facilities regarding student life at Coventry University, namely catering, coffee shops, a supermarket, a careers advice centre, student societies, a nursery and not to mention a bar and a club! The Hub is also the place where students meet in order to do some studies, as there are lots of niches for group meetings as well as computers available. Furthermore there is a huge library with additional meeting rooms, computers and quiet zones for students.

The University also offers a very modern and well-equipped gym, which also includes different kinds of courts for indoor sport activities (membership costs and extra of around £120 per year)



Lectures

Each module at Coventry University is divided into two sessions: a normal teaching lecture with theoretical inputs and a tutorial, in which the theory is applied. The length of a session is around 50 Minutes. This is quite different to the lessons at Lucerne University, which is why you should invest more time at home to cover the whole topic in detail (4-6h for each topic per week). There are around 100 students in one lecture, whereas in the tutorial sessions there are around 15-30 students. Nevertheless, the lecturers have an "open door" policy – as it is the same in Lucerne –, which gives the possibility to have direct contact with them and ask questions regarding the lectures.

As in Lucerne there are some sort of "Testate", called coursework as part of the studies. The coursework will be marked and contribute to your final grade. You will have to do two of them per subject, which have a total weighting of around 30-50% of your final mark. In some cases you will make the whole work during the semester (European Entrepreneurship) or you will have only a final exam that counts 100% (Financial Management). You will probably have finished all your coursework by mid of March. The revisions in every subject will start at the beginning of March and ends at the beginning of April. During the "holidays" you can prepare yourself for the exams in May. After having taken the exams you will be looking forward to celebrating your double degree in July.



Surroundings

Coventry is not the nicest city on earth, but luckily the surrounding agglomeration offers a lot of sights and parks. Very close to Coventry is Kenilworth, which is a very old city with and beautiful old castle ruin. Kenilworth is the perfect choice for a short half-day trip. A little bit further away is Lamington SPA, which is famous for the place where the queen “took the waters”. But beware: don’t try to search there for a SPA (Wellness-Einrichtung), as you will find none – it is pointless! However, a very nice place in Leamington is the awarded Park, which is worth visiting. Very famous is the City of Warwick, not only for its University but also for a very nice retained castle with a huge catapult, which they demonstrate during the opening hours.

For real discoverers the United Kingdom offers a lot of beautiful cities and landscapes. If you come to the UK by car you should really go to discover the cost areas and/or the midlands. If you don’t come by your own car you can easily rent a car in Coventry for trips from AVIS or travel by coach or train. Even tough travelling is not the cheapest thing to do during your spare time, it is definitely worth to go and see all the different parts of the Island. Really recommendable is Wales, Scotland and the coastline.