

Where, what and how?

Challenge 1: Where do I live?

Being able to study abroad is a huge privilege I am glad to experience! Still, the first big challenge for me is to find a housing: up until now I do not know where I'll stay the first night of my study abroad. If you are facing the same difficulties in finding a place to live, here are some tips:

1. Check out Facebook flat mate groups and make an announcement there (and yes, I had to install Facebook just for that but believe me it is helpful! Especially when going to England!).
2. Try applying for student accommodation at your host university (most of them try to ensure students from abroad a place or at least give useful information on their website on where to look for a place).
3. Ask former abroad students for help in finding a room, try the same websites as they did or you might be lucky and they know someone there who knows about a free place...! (check out <https://www.rightmove.co.uk> and <https://www.spareroom.co.uk> when going to the UK)
4. And after all: stay positive! You will find a place! (and won't have to sleep somewhere outside!)

Challenge 2: What about my language skills?

Even though I've learnt English for many years, I'm still a bit worried whether my language skills are good enough to understand the native speakers and their dialect and to speak fluently myself. Because of facing these insecurities, I've tried to practice English speaking more and more, mostly to myself or in my thoughts but also with other people, for example with my flat mate. I can really advise you to do this when feeling insecure about your language skills! Practice helps to gain confidence!

Another easy way to experience more of English in your daily life is to watch series, films and TV shows in English! This way you not only hear people talking but also learn more about their culture!

Some recommendations: Peaky Blinders (crime drama series), Johnny English (series of spy action comedy films), The Great British Bake Off (television baking competition)

Challenge 3: How do I budget correctly?

I was asking myself how to budget correctly when studying abroad: how much money will I be able to spend on food, clothes and other fun activities?

As I don't want to live on a money shortage I tried to write down very neatly my spendings in one month while studying in Germany. With these numbers in mind I calculated how much money I will need for my stay abroad and whether I'll be able to spend a similar amount of money or might have to cut out some expenses, depending on the amount of money I have in total.

You can also use an app to do this: <https://outbankapp.com> or <https://www.moneyhub.com/app>.

This is also very helpful to see where you're spending most of your money on (for me it's definitely coffee) and might be able to save a few pounds!