

A look at UNB's Travel Study program

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THE BRUNSWICKAN

The College of Extended Learning's Travel Study posters are seen all over campus advertising educational trips abroad, but students may wonder what the program is really like. The Brunswickan decided to find out more about the program by interviewing some of last year's Travel Study participants. It quickly became clear that many of those students decided to extend their stay.

Nicholas Robichaud decided to do so while on last year's intersession in Rome. He says that once in Europe, it was much less expensive to travel by plane.

Robichaud extended his stay for an extra week and a half. He went to Bologna, Italy as well as Ireland and Scotland. "It was amazing," he says.

The best part of the trip, he says, was visiting Pompeii, as he always wanted to go there.

As for the teaching and accommodations, Robichaud says they were great, and he had never so much fun with a prof in his life. "The accommodations were slightly better than my current living arrangements," he laughs.

Robichaud plans to participate in this year's intersession as well.

Kristen Jurcina also went to the 2008 Rome Intersession; it was her first time away from home. She says she was terrified to leave Fredericton, but is glad she did.

She says the accommodations were a lot better than she expected.

"There was a full kitchen, it was in a great spot, and they had an internet café at the residence," she says.

Jurcina found that the days were busy, but she had enough time to study and do what she wanted to do.

She adds that it was hard to adjust to the language barrier.

One night, she says, she went out to supper with her friends only to find out later that what she had ordered was an octopus.

"It was really good though," she laughs.

Jurcina says the professors were "funny, patient and knowledgeable."

She says it was easy to learn from her courses because one area of study could examine three interrelated periods in history. Jurcina was shocked both by how modern Rome was. She is now considering doing her master's degree abroad.

Sarah Clowater, who participated in the intersession to France, is another student who decided to extend her trip. She stayed for eight weeks and visited Italy, Spain and the U.K. She found it difficult to adjust to the food.

"The days can be long, going from 7 a.m. - 9 p.m., but it's worth it."

Clowater is still framing and printing pictures from her trip.

UNB's College of Extended learning is offering its travel study program yet again for 2009 with courses in Rome, London, France and New York. More information can be found at <http://www.cel.unb.ca/travelstudy>.

Home-hunting season: Finding the right place for you

HILARY PAIGE SMITH
THE BRUNSWICKAN

For many first and second year students, the time has come to move out of residence and begin truly living on their own.

For some this will mean living independently in a one-bedroom apartment, while others may aim for a five-bedroom house with a group of friends.

Fredericton is host to two universities and multiple colleges and specialized schools. Such a high number of students create a need for an equally high number of student housing options.

Fredericton's College Hill area, immediately west of campus, is one neighborhood with a significant amount of student housing.

UNB offers Townhouse, a society for individuals living on their own to remain connected to campus. They offer off-campus students in their first year a place in Orientation Week activities and hold group events throughout the year.

Mike Lewis, the Vice President of Townhouse, feels that it is a great way for people living off campus to connect socially to the university. The group participates in intramurals, and holds pub crawls and other events typical of residence houses.

The UNB Student Union also offers resources to students looking to rent apartments, rooms or houses. UNBSU VP External Jon O'Kane oversees www.frederictonstudenthousing.com.

The site has a page of property listings posted by landlords in the city, as well as sublets posted by existing renters.

O'Kane says that the website has been successful in previous years in connecting students with accessible, affordable housing.

"Though we don't have a counter on the website, we can measure our success in the amount of landlords that choose to consistently advertise every year and the number of students who post sublets for free."

The website also includes informative pages about leasing, security deposits and rental insurance. O'Kane notes that understanding these things is a common problem that first time renters



Josh O'Kane / The Brunswickan

If you don't want cardboard in your windows, a broken couch, or a roommate like this, then now is the time to start looking for the right apartment or house for you.

often have.

Another problem that students may encounter when looking for properties for the first time is waiting too late to house hunt. The recommended time for property hunting is between now and the end of March, says the SU VP.

Though apartment hunting does get more difficult closer to the end of the semester, it is not impossible in a university town like Fredericton.

O'Kane says that it's "important to remember that it's a renters market right now."

"There are currently more places to rent than there are students seeking lodging. That means you can be more critical in your selection than you normally would, given that landlords are competing to satisfy the student business."

Lewis believes first-time renters encounter problems with finding roommates because living alone can be costly. He also noted that students who are looking for a quieter social atmosphere should avoid notorious

party areas like Graham and Windsor Street.

Living off-campus can provide more financial benefits over residence, says Lewis, but only if you can exercise restraint.

"It is a lot more affordable to live off campus, but it's easy to get caught up," says Lewis on potential financial strains like overspending on groceries and underestimating utility costs.

O'Kane concludes with his advice to students looking to live off-campus.

"Look at as many places as you can to find the right spot for you. The relationship you start with your landlord the first time you see the place can mean a lot. If you have any concerns about the lease before you sign it, check out our website's FAQ section or visit the student legal information center to find details on the renting process."

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THE UNB HOMEPAGE (UNB A-Z, Calendars, Undergraduate
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The schedule is also posted on faculty bulletin boards. Students are reminded to check the April 2009 exam schedule carefully. Deferred exams will not be granted for reason of travel.

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