

# Student Exchange Questionnaire

**Name:** Marilyn Jones

**Massey Degree:** BFA (Hons)

**Host university:** Nottingham Trent University (NTU)

**Semester and year of exchange:** My semester 2 of level 3, 2017.

- Why did you choose this particular university and/or country for exchange?
- I didn't want to go to America, and there didn't seem to be many choices of universities in the United Kingdom that covered my course requirements.... However NTU was an excellent choice
- Did it meet your expectations?
- More than!
- What papers did you study while on exchange? Would you recommend them? I studied the equivalent Fine Art papers. NTU's set-up is slightly different to ours, in that there is one 120 credit module for the entire year. There seems to be more emphasis on academic writing at Massey, but as well, the NTU is a 3 year degree, versus our 4 year degree. Yes I would recommend the paper.
- Were there differences in the teaching methods and academic environment at your host university, compared to Massey University? If so, what kind of differences? It felt very similar, but of course with different world views being offered – culturally (British) and artistically. Also, the school at NTU has 300 students, compared to our 100, so therefore there were more facilities/workshops available. Many departments and workshops under the same roof ie textiles, knitting, weaving, photography, ceramics, casting, glass work, printing, digital stuff, laser cutting etc etc, which, once you were inducted into, there was easy and comfortable access. Equal opportunities to access tutors. We were mostly self-directed, and could have as much or as little access to any tutor. I found the tutors' feedback constructive and very useful.
- Did you stay on-campus or off-campus? What was the accommodation like? I lived in a flat which was great.
- How did living expenses compare to in New Zealand? Reasonably similar, food seemed cheaper.
- What extra-curricular activities did you participate in at the host university? None. I kept myself pretty busy with my studies....

- What's one thing you learnt about your host country or culture? The people of Nottingham were very warm and friendly. Everyone was very happy to help me. They immediately picked up on my 'down-under' accent, and were curious about what I was doing in Nottingham. I loved their phrase "Ey up me duck" which means "hi, how are you?"



- What were some of the highlights of your exchange experience? Ease of travel to London – galleries galore !!! and travelling to Germany to see two major art shows, and later to Bilbao in Spain – the Guggenheim!. A road trip to Cornwall was cool too. Different culture within the art school, seeing different art by my fellow students. All the galleries I visited.
- What did you find challenging? Being away from my partner, and initially being a bit lonely.
- What do you feel you have learnt or gained from going on exchange? I gained confidence in my own artistic abilities without my normal support networks around me.
- Do you have any tips for future students intending to travel to the same country or university? Just do it! The time goes by very quickly. It's an incredible opportunity to meet fellow students from the other side of the world – I hope to stay in touch. Also, the opportunity to see things/art 'in the flesh' was amazing. My gallery visits will remain with me...
- Do you have any comments on the support provided to you by Massey University and/or by the host university before/during/after your exchange? Everything was just fine. I felt supported by both universities. Craig Lyon at Massey answered all my questions, and Claire Simpson, (Subject and Gallery Co-ordinator - Visual Arts, School of Art and Design) at NTU was especially helpful with many of my initial queries.