

IPC FEEDBACK MAGNA VITAE

Describe your experience at IPC in 3 words.

enlightening, informal, difficult

If someone is thinking about applying to attend the IPC, what would you say to them?

This is a good step to take before university to discover a path you may wish to study further; as here you can dive into multiple topics, rather than choosing a single major. Also, it is sooooo good having a chef cook for you everyday. You will use lots of money on day trips, snacks and activities though, so save up if you can.

How has your personal IPC experience positively impacted your future career?

It has inspired me to use my art more politically than before.

Overall Experience

Overall, IPC was an absolute whirlwind of emotional experiences. It is an intense environment with such a mixture of cultures and personalities that social challenges are very much at the forefront. However, as I became more comfortable in the school space and with the energies of my cohabitants, I could wholly engage in the lessons. All of which were incredibly informal and the teaching style is very casual, discussion based, with one of mine being more lecture-esque. This one was Global Challenges, which I'd hoped would take a current approach, but turned out to be a history of - mostly Western- economics. Nonetheless, UK school history classes missed out many aspects so this in depth look at the context of today, was actually useful to me and has encouraged personal research in current global challenges in my own time and aided the potential to spot patterns in previous timelines. Ultimately, expectations of the lessons, according to their title and description, may not be met, which is not necessarily negative!! Another example is the creative subjects (art and ceramics) that I took. They were entirely freeform. There was no direction from a leader/teacher. Initially I felt excited to have a set time to 'play', but as the term went on, the classes that pushed my perspective and taught me new ideas were the ones I had greater motivation to attend. My favourite class being censored literature. In this, I could draw on many of the theories from my BA degree, yet we read books from world-wide rather than just the West. We would read then come together and discuss. The group was still completely white, yet diverse enough to debate perspectives on the content.

In terms of daily life, the food was good, we had access to tea and coffee throughout the day, but the student kitchen is fairly dirty, small, and outdated, so I only cooked once in there. On the weekends, sometimes it was nourishing to go to brunch and then stare at a wall until dinner. Other times I explored Helsingør solo, or took trips to Copenhagen with friends visiting me from home.

What would you have liked MV to have done to help your experience?

Maybe a loan to live off when you get back to the UK after not earning for three months. Which you could then pay them back after you find a job.

What did MV do to help your experience?

Booked flights and travel etc. This was such a weight off knowing this had been sorted.

What would you have liked to know before going out to IPC?

- That we have to clean the school twice a week, there are no employed cleaners.
- There are no cameras anywhere in the school, only at the front entrance.
- We have to do the washing up.
- A rough schedule would have been good to know, there is fellowship first thing every morning, I could send my timetable as an example if anyone would like to see that.

discoveries

- the sweetness of community
- my synonym knowledge has increased
- culture differences, and how I expect people to treat me
- there is an invisible pressure being a native english speaker to offer definitions and contribute to class discussions

advice

- the mandatory activities are all a choice
- you do not get a map so wander around the school
- do not feel like you have to do everything
- you lock your room by tapping the key on the beeper again
- majority of information is given last minute
- it is warm inside the building and bedrooms
- bring earplugs
- bring slippers/sliders
- the system is set up to cause more introverted people to become immensely lonely, especially on weekends. So just do your own thing and don't force yourself to be social with people not on your vibe