

**Strathclyde University, Glasgow**  
**2016 Semester 1**  
**BAppSci Design for Technology**

**Accommodation:**

I stayed in Birkbeck Court, which is one of the halls in student village on campus. I went into a hall because it was the easiest option.

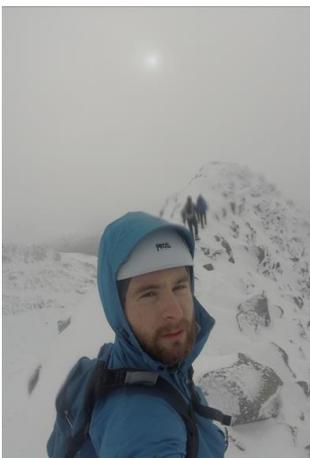
**Advantages:** It's close to everything, meet people easily, it's warm.

**Disadvantages:** Exchange student tend to get put with exchange students so unless you make friends in your classes you don't get a lot of Scottish interaction. Don't expect much bang for your buck, while they have been renovated they are pretty small and basic.

Other options are finding your own accommodation which I heard can be difficult and tends to be hard to find near Uni, especially if you only there for half the year.

**Glasgow:**

The city's slogan is "People make Glasgow" which couldn't be anything further from the truth. The people are so friendly and definitely made the experience so much better. The "Weegie" accent (accent found in Glasgow) definitely took getting used to and adding a kiwi accent in the mix made for some hilarious misunderstandings. I can't say I would rave about the city's décor but once you get there and get amongst the culture it becomes less important. In saying that, there are some nice parks (Glasgow Green) and the botanical gardens in the West End are really good to escape to on a nice day. Glasgow is tour stop for a lot of bands both big and small. I would recommend trying out some of the less well known bands when your there. Coldplay at Hampden Park was epic.



**Weather:**

So Scotland gets a bad rap for its weather, Glasgow especially. It does rain a lot and expect a good majority of overcast days. The weather is rather similar to Dunedin but the winters a bit more bearable as the accommodation standards are better. I turned up in winter so initially was a bit depressed by it but it does get better! They get some really nice weather as summer comes around and with the pub culture they have there you will spend some really nice afternoons drinking beers in the sun. I learnt to appreciate the sunny days, which is not dissimilar to Dunedin's weather.



#### Travel/Fun:

I joined the mountaineering club when I got to Strathclyde. It's a great way to meet people and even better for seeing the highlands. While I have spent a lot of times in the mountains in New Zealand the north face of Ben Nevis in full snow is very impressive. I had the best experience of the whole trip here my trip here where I had my first ice climbing experience.

Some of the other fun trips I went on were a 8 day trip to France with the surf club, a weeks

traveling around Ireland with friends which involved plenty of Gunnies and I spent a 4 days camping up on the Isle of Skye in the Cuillin mountain range. For the mountain bikers out there that's where Danny Macaskill filmed The Ridge. The inaccessible pinnacle has some serious exposure.



If you're worried about not seeing the rest of Europe because you're in the UK, don't be, Glasgow and Edinburgh airports are large transport hubs so plenty of cheap flights for weekend trips around Europe. I'd recommend keeping a spare few weeks or even a month at the end of your trip traveling Europe. Try meet up with some of the other exchange students you were living with. It's nice to see a friendly face and can come in a free bed can come in handy when you're traveling expensive countries like Norway!

#### University /Course Work:

It's unlikely many people will be traveling to Strathclyde from an Otago design course as the department is closing but I can vouch for the Engineering/Product design course. Strathclyde is one of the top engineering Uni's in Scotland and is also highly ranked in other subjects. The engineering department is ridiculous well funded and

has good connections with industry. I had people in my class who were getting jobs in big companies like Apple, Adidas and Dyson to name a few.

Visa:

This was harder than it should have been to figure out. At the time the UK immigration website didn't have very clear information on whether or not I needed to send away to get the Visa or not. As it turned out if your studying in the UK for less than six months (classed as a short term course) you do not need to pay/send away your passport to get the visa. You can just turn up at the border along with your proof of funds, acceptance letter and proof of accommodation and they will give you the visa at the border for free!! I ended up doing this but I know a few people who got confused and ended up paying a few hundred dollars they didn't have to.

Overall I found the exchange to Strathclyde extremely rewarding. Glasgow might not be most people's first choice but it has its quirks and it's a great base to experience Scotland. I've made some great friends who I still keep in touch with and are planning on coming to visit NZ. Hope this gives you a bit of an idea about what going exchange in Scotland can be like and hope that you have a great time on your exchange where ever you end up.