



## My Exchange Evaluation

### Basic Information

<b>Host University</b>	University of Glasgow
<b>Semester &amp; Year of Exchange</b>	Semester 2, 2023
<b>Otago degree(s)</b>	Bachelor of Laws / Bachelor of Arts
<b>Major(s)</b>	Communications

### Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent
CEES1015: CEES1A Central and Eastern Europe in the Age of Stalin	English	Unspecified 100-level
HISTORY1002: History of Art 1A: Art History, its Materials and Techniques	English	Unspecified 100-level
PHIL1010: Philosophy 1A How Should I Think?	English	Unspecified 100-level

Total Otago credits gained:  54 points  72 points  108 points  \_\_\_\_\_

Any comments about these papers?

I really enjoyed these papers! Particularly the History of Art paper. All the topics were really interesting and it was a great chance to try different subjects to what I had studied at Otago. The University of Glasgow is a hub for Central and East European Studies, so this was an interesting paper to take. I enjoyed taking 100 level papers as these were all subjects I hadn't taken before so it provided a good overview of each.

How did the academic experience/ workload/ style of teaching differ from Otago?

I would say the academic workload was similar to Otago. The style of teaching was slightly different as there were a range of lecturers for each paper rather than one teaching the entire course. I would say that more preparation was needed for the seminars (tutorials). Philosophy 1A was quite

different as they had a collaborative class in place of a tutorial. This was a 2-hour session of group-based learning with a weekly quiz at the end of the class.

## Accommodation

*What accommodation did you stay in? What were the pros and cons of your accommodation?*

I stayed at Murano Street Student Village in one of the large flats. I'd highly recommend! We had 10 international students in our flat which made it easy to make friends and settle in. While Murano isn't anything flash, I'd definitely recommend it because of the people. It is a fun and social hall. It's about a 25-30 minute walk to campus which you get used to very quickly! The walk to uni goes via the West End, which ended up being one of my favourite areas in Glasgow. Lots of cute cafes, shops and pubs along the way so the walk was always enjoyable. There was also a nice canal right by Murano which was nice for walking and running.

The only downside of Murano was there was a lot less student support than I was used to at Otago halls. There were no RA's or organised events. This meant that it felt a lot more like flatting rather than being in a hall.

## Money matters

*Please detail your basic costs, e.g. accommodation, flights, visa, food, insurance*

Flights – roughly NZD \$3000 return, we booked these in January so relatively early.

Accommodation at Murano was roughly \$300 NZD per week for the Semester One period (8 September to 31 December 2023). It was roughly \$5,500 NZD for the semester.

Food – buying food at the supermarket was a lot cheaper in the UK compared to NZ. But eating out is more expensive. The ready-made options in the supermarkets are far superior to NZ. We made the most of these, especially during exam time! Also, the Tesco meal deals were great.

I bought the Studentsafe Outbound Insurance that was recommended by Otago. I paid NZD \$705.75 for the six month period I was away and had an \$100 excess.

*What means did you use to access your finances? What would you recommend? (Credit card, Cash passport, foreign bank account, etc.)*

I used a Wise card and found that most kiwis did. I'd highly recommend it and had no issues throughout my trip. Super easy to add different currencies onto one card. Was so useful when having to transfer money between friends if they had Wise.

## Visas & Insurance

*Did you have to apply for a visa? What was the process?*

I didn't have to apply for a visa as I was in the UK for less than 6 months.

*Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?*

Yes

## Extra-curricular/Social Activities

*What organised activities were available to students? What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future exchange students?*

The extra-curricular activities were great! There's a massive emphasis on clubs and societies and the unions put on heaps of events for the students. I'd recommend joining the Facebook page International Student Tours. They organise day trips and weekend trips to the Scottish Highlands. I went to Oban for a day trip which was really cool to see. I'd make the most of this as it is all organised for you and makes the Highlands more accessible!

*What was the university/ city like?*

I loved the university and Glasgow as a city. It reminded me quite a lot of Dunedin so it felt like home very quickly! The Glasgow slogan is that "People make Glasgow", this definitely rang true. The people of Glasgow are super friendly and have a great sense of humour. The Glaswegian accent can take a bit of getting used to but it does become easier to understand.

*Any recommendations for things to do, places to visit, places to eat etc.?*

There's always a lot happening in Glasgow. For example, pub quizzes, comedy nights. We went to the Stand Comedy Club a couple of times which was great, I'd recommend.

The West End is a really nice area and we spent a lot of time there. My personal favourite café was 1841, two of my friends even spotted Lewis Capaldi there! The Alchemy Experiment near the main library was great too. Kitty O'Shea's, Coopers, Oran Mor are fun. Naked Soup was a fave! We went to some cool gigs at SWG3 including getting to see Dom Dolla for £20! Honestly, the list could go on forever! There's so much to explore in Glasgow so get amongst it!

*Any tips for future students?*

You'll have an amazing time in Glasgow! I'd say you get out what you put in, so say yes to everything and make an effort to explore what the city has to offer! The people are great and so is the culture. I'm really glad that I made sure to spend time getting to know Glasgow, rather than jetting off every weekend. So I'd recommend a balance between time in Glasgow and time travelling further afield. Edinburgh is about a 45 minute train ride away so very easy for a day trip or a weekend. I loved spending time there, it had a very different feel to Glasgow and was fun to explore.

If you're looking for a sunny, warm exchange location, then Glasgow may not be for you. But I can assure you that the people, culture, and energy of the city will make up for the lack of sun! Just bring a good quality raincoat!

## Overall Experience

*Please write one paragraph (or more) about your exchange experience. Please include some photos!*

I couldn't recommend Glasgow enough! It was the absolute highlight of my university experience. It was awesome being in the UK as it meant there were heaps of travel options. I think Glasgow is a great balance of new and exciting but also familiar. The landscape in the Highlands looked very similar to New Zealand which was quite comforting!

You'll meet awesome people whether they are locals or other exchange students. There's always something fun going on in the city, but also if you want to explore further there's always a cheap flight somewhere exciting! I think Glasgow really ticks a lot of boxes, I'd recommend it to anyone.