



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	University of Glasgow
Semester & Year of Exchange	2022 Glasgow Semester 1 (otago sem 2)
Otago degree(s)	Law and a Bachelor of Arts
Major(s)	Majoring in Communications

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent
COMPLIT2001	English	MFCO202
HIST1022	English	MAOR102
HISTART1002	English	HIST102
MFL1059	English	FREN131

Total Otago credits gained: 54 points 72 points 108 points _____

Any comments about these papers?

I really enjoyed taking introduction to Scottish culture. This was a paper that was specifically for exchange students. It allowed me to meet other exchange students from around the world and learn more about Scotland. I also enjoyed doing papers that were different to what I had been doing in Otago, such as French. It is a great opportunity to broaden knowledge and try new things.

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

It was reasonably similar to Otago. However, I had more seminars/tutorials for the papers I was doing compared to Otago. I quite enjoyed this as it was more discussion based and allowed me to delve deeper into the course work. I was doing low level papers yet the workload was still high.

Accommodation

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

I stayed in Murano student accommodation. It was lots of fun and meet like-minded people. On my floor everyone was exchange students, therefore we were all around the same age, rather than just 17/18 year olds. I made lifelong friends in this hall! It was about a 30 minute walk from Uni which was not ideal when it rained. However, majority of the halls were a bit further away from Uni and all in all it didn't bother me too much. It was not catered, however majority of halls in Glasgow are not. There were 10 on my floor and we shared a big kitchen. I selected being on a ten person floor as it is more social and it means a cleaner comes once a week to clean the kitchens and bathroom. Therefore, I would recommend this.

Money matters

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

I travelled for two months prior to starting my exchange. Therefore I made sure to book as much as I could (accommodation, flights, other transport) before going overseas as I wanted to ensure I had enough money when beginning exchange. My insurance was around \$850. My accommodation at Uni was around \$4.2k. Which comparatively to other exchange institutions was reasonable. I would recommend to book flights over as soon as possible to make it cheaper.

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

I used 'Wise'. This is an international banking system which is super simple and very efficient. All of my friends had it while travelling and on exchange. I would 100% recommend using that! You can download the app, make an account and can either use apple pay or get sent a card (I just used apple pay).

Visas & Insurance

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

I had obtained a study permit from Glasgow. This meant I didn't need to go through the process of applying for a visa. As Scotland is in the UK it is a much simpler exchange University to go to.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

Yes, I obtained insurance through my travel agent.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

In the first week there are events on that you can go to and sign up to various clubs and sports teams. I went to this but decided not to sign up to a sport as I knew I would be travelling a lot during the semester. However, some of my friends on exchange signed up to sports and they enjoyed this.

They had a Uni gym which I used and got into running (which was a great way to explore the city more!). I joined the exchange Facebook page which provided opportunity to do trips around Scotland. I did a day trip and saw so much of Scotland (different lochs, explored the Highlands and went to the Harry Potter Bridge). That was an amazing highlight. We also organised weekend trips on our own accord which I would also recommend. Scotland is beautiful and you definitely want to explore as much of it as you can. I unfortunately did not get to make it to the Isle of Skye trip – apparently it is amazing so I would recommend doing that too!

What was the university/ city like?

I would describe the University as quite similar to Otago. In that the vibe of Glasgow itself as well as the people you meet/student culture. Going out is always lots of fun and there is quite a good party scene. At the same time the University campus is beautiful and the teaching is really good. I enjoyed a balanced lifestyle while living there in all regards which is something important to me. It wasn't a touristy city, which I liked as it felt like home. When I would go away for a few days travelling it felt like I was coming back home when I arrived in Glasgow, which I found really special.

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

As discussed earlier I would definitely recommend going on the exchange trips that are organised. The Harry Potter bridge day trip (including going to Loch Lamond, Glencoe, the three sisters and more in the Highlands) one was awesome, and do Isle of Skye too!

In Glasgow itself we went to Pollock park. This park is a massive beautiful place to go. They had highland cows there and they are so cute. Definitely worth going. It is on the Southside of Glasgow which is just a train away from the city centre. In the city there are more food places, clubs and shopping. There is also a cat café which you can go to and there are about 30 cats there! Was very cute. The Uni is in the west end (as well as my accom). The west end is the 'nicer' part of Glasgow.

The west end has lots of cute cafés, fun pubs, and good food places. My favourite café/bakery was Cotton Rake. They had the best coffee and cabinet food. Ashton Lane was a cute small street which has pubs, restaurants and a cinema on it. I always walked through there on the way to Uni and would often meet my friends at a pub after Uni to catch up and meet new people.

Edinburgh is only a 40 minute train away which costs about 14 pound. Or you can catch an hour long bus which you can get for around 4 pound if there is a deal on. I went to Edinburgh a fair few times as it was so close! Edinburgh is a great place to visit as it is very old and has lots of history.

Any tips for future students?

Make the most of your exchange! Travel to other countries, meet new people, learn new things. The time goes to quickly and you want to see and do as much as you can. If I could do it again I wish I made the most of everyday in terms of exploring more of Scotland. There is so much more that I want to see there, so make sure to make the most of Scotland! I would recommend planning what you want to do before you go as it will ensure you get as much done as you can!

Overall Experience

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

I had the most amazing time on my exchange. I was away for a total of 6 months and managed to visit 17 countries! I couldn't recommend going on an exchange enough. It enabled me to see the world and meet lifelong friends. I am very grateful to have had this experience at the end of Uni and before starting my career as it was a great break and allowed me to grow so much as a person. The time went by so quickly but it will be a very special time that I will look back on for the rest of my life.

I loved living in Glasgow and creating a life on the other side of the world. The Uni work did require some work but I found every paper that I did very interesting. Walking into Uni and being immersed in classes with different accents and teaching styles made it exciting and engaging. I selected papers that I hadn't really studied before and I was really happy I did that. It was a good opportunity to learn new things and apply my brain in different ways.

Being back in halls was something I was looking forward to as it is a great way to make instant friends and you always come back to a warm flat! The friends I made on exchange are very special to me and now I have friends around the world. Anywhere you go on exchange you will have a great time, but Glasgow now has a special place in my heart and I couldn't be more grateful for the experience and everyone who was a part of it.