



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	University of Strathclyde, Glasgow
Semester & Year of Exchange	S2, 2023
Otago degree(s)	LLB, Bcom
Major(s)	Law and Finance

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent
History of Scotland 1700-1832 (V1214)	English	Arts 200 Level
Law, Film and Popular Culture (M9305)	English	Arts 300 Level or Laws 300 Level
Introduction to French 1A (R1109)	French/English	Arts 100 Level

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

Any comments about these papers?

If you have never studied French before and are wanting to take a French paper you must take Introduction to French. The university will not allow you to take any other French papers. When signing up for papers you need to search for classes.

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

I chose to have a more relaxed workload while on exchange. I only took 3 papers which meant my longest work day was 2 hrs and I only had class 4 days per week. This was a lot less than others I was on exchange with. I would recommend this as it made my exchange far more pleasant and gave me far more time to explore Scotland. I would also recommend doing all internal papers like the ones I took as they didn't have a large workload during the semester and I finished before the exam period, again giving me more free time to explore.

The teaching style was very similar to Otago, but the French paper was a series of tutorials with no lectures.

Accommodation

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

I stayed in Thomas Campbell Court which was student accommodation. It had a series of flats of 4 or 8 people in an apartment complex. It is set up similar to Caroline Freeman College at Otago. The flats have a full kitchen so you cook your own food which made it a lot cheaper than catered accommodation. When applying for halls, just put that you wish to be in the exchange hall and they'll put you with other exchange students, otherwise you can end up with freshers.

Would also recommend signing up for a hall as soon as the application becomes available. You will likely receive a message from Strathclyde saying there is less than a 30% chance of you getting a hall as places are limited. Don't worry I believe Otago spaces are guaranteed (Ask the exchange office maybe), and there are more places available in the exchange hall than in the first year halls. If you don't get a hall just request to be placed in one in the first week of Uni when you arrive, they usually have free beds. I had a few friends from other countries get a room this way.

Money matters

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

Accommodation: \$3200

Flights: \$2800

Insurance: \$720

Visa: \$0

Food: \$50 per week (Made at home)

All costs are in NZD so it may be more expensive or cheaper depending on the exchange rate. But we had a bad exchange rate of about 2.08 NZD for a pound. Usually it's below 2.

For money I used a WISE card.

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

Visas & Insurance

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

I did not need a visa, for NZ citizens you can study in the UK for up to 6 months without a visa. Just show up and tell immigration you're studying and show them your letter of acceptance from the Uni, if they even ask.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

No it did not

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

There is an Erasmus Society at Strathclyde that organises events for exchange students that made it easy to meet other people on exchange. They also organise trips around Scotland and abroad during the semester if you don't like planning for yourself. Plus their membership card gets you discounts on Scotrail and Ryan Air.

What was the university/ city like?

The university is the modern one in Glasgow in the east end. Much more of a party university than The University of Glasgow. Think of Strathclyde as Otago and Glasgow more like Victoria Uni. It is only a 15 min walk from the best clubs and bars.

Glasgow as a city is great and full of real Scots. Known as the Scottish capital of Scotland were as Edinburgh is known as the English Capital of Scotland. Lots of character and is only an hour from the highlands.

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

Definitely a trip to the highlands. Go to the West-end to see the old part and the necropolis for some good views of the city. If you're into golf go check out Top Golf.

Best clubs are: Manuka (Wednesday), Wunder Bar(Saturday) and Fire Water (Thursday) in that order. Sub Club is an honourable mention but only good for house and is \$20-30 to enter.

Any tips for future students?

Book your flights around three months from Departure for the best deals. Most airlines also offer student discounts if you sign up with them. Try Etihad, Qatar, Emirates, Singapore or Malaysia Airlines.

Overall Experience

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

Exchange was well worth doing and has been one of the best experiences at Uni. It was a great way to meet people from around the world but also from NZ. Better than the exchange is the excuse to do euro summer before the semester starts. Make sure to get lots of travelling done.

