



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	University of Strathclyde
Semester & Year of Exchange	S1 2019
Otago degree(s)	Bachelor of Commerce
Major(s)	Accounting and Marketing

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
AG311 Advanced Financial Accounting	English	ACCT315	18 credits
MK419 Sports Marketing	English	300 level marketing paper	18 credits
V1220 Scotland 1469-1603: Renaissance, Reformation and Regnal Union	English		18 credits

Any comments about these papers?

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

I found the course work relatively easy compared to Otago. My classes were small and were quite interactive. My accounting class were predominately online so I did not have to attend classes which was great as I had more flexibility. My lecturers were all very helpful and laid back.

Accommodation

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

I stayed in Birkbeck Court. It was very basic but nice and clean with good heating. The rooms were very small, but the living room was a nice area to hang out in. The halls of resident's setup was very cool in Strathclyde. All the halls were located within the same area, therefore all the international students resided close together.

Pros:

- Birkbeck was the cheapest hall (\$175 NZD per week). Birkbeck was only a minute walk to the library and the gym (which you got free access to fitness classes, the pool, sauna, steam room, basketball courts etc). The campus bar called 'Todds' was a minute walk from the halls and it became a place in which all my mates would hang out together.
- My flat mates were from all around the world. Learning each other's ways of life was very interesting. They were from Canada, France, Singapore, California, and Indiana. They were great guys and we did a lot of travel together.
- Classes at Strathclyde ended late March. This meant I had one and a half months to study for my exams. This was a great opportunity to travel around Europe with friends.

Cons:

- Birkbeck was much smaller in comparison to the other halls at Strathclyde.
- It would be difficult to meet Scottish students unless you joined a club.

Money matters

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

Accommodation	\$4,400	Insurance	\$250
Food	\$45 per week	Return Flights	\$1,500
Laundry	\$8	Visa	-

Travelling around Europe can be expensive. I recommend being frugal and visiting the cheaper countries. "Eat boring live interesting" was a saying I tried to stick too, which allowed me to explore more countries.

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

I used a cash passport and a visa card. I got a Monzo card which I highly recommend. All you have to do is load money from your New Zealand eftpos card onto the Monzo for a small fee and afterwards there is no international fee for each transaction. The international fee was much lower than what the New Zealand banks had on offer. The Monzo card works all around the world and it automatically uses that countries currency you are in.

Visas & Insurance

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

I did not need a visa as I was not in Scotland for more than six months.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

I was required to get insurance from STA travel

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

Strathclyde had an abundance of social events and activities on offer for students. In orientation week there was a lot of pub crawls, sports events, and meet and greets. So, you get to meet a lot of international students in the first week. Every Monday and Tuesday nights they had sports events at the gym for exchange students. Also, every Monday night is the campus pub quiz which all the international students get along to.

There is a lot of clubs to join in Strathclyde. I joined the Wakeboarding club and the Surf Club. The surf club was very social and had socials every two weeks and monthly weekend surf trips around Scotland and England. In January I went surfing in Saint Andrews with the club and it was snowing! Also, at the end of the semester we went on a week-long surf camp in Northern Spain which was definitely one of the highlights of my exchange. The people in the club were great value. Even if you have not even tried surfing, I strongly recommend joining this club.

There were plenty of organised trips around Scotland available to exchange students. Tours ran almost every weekend until May and they only cost around 25 pounds. I managed to go to Saint Andrews, the Highlands, and the Isle of Skye on these trips. Isle of Skye is a must do!

Flying around Europe can be really cheap. Ryanair offers cheap flights, especially from Edinburgh and Prestwick (which are both an hour bus ride away). I made it to the Netherlands, Belgium, England, Spain, Portugal, Morocco, France, Hungary, Slovakia, Austria, Czech Republic, Dubai, Slovenia, Germany, Greece, and Croatia. Mega bus was a great way to travel around Scotland and the UK.

What was the university/ city like?

Glasgow is a very lively and trendy city. At first you will have trouble understanding the locals but they have a wonderful sense of humour and are very friendly. The weather is similar to Dunedin but consistently colder. When I was there it did not rain much and the sun came out quite a lot however the temperature was still chilly. The weather got into the early 20s for some parts in April and May. The West End of the city is very beautiful with old buildings, nice parks and pubs. The nightlife in Glasgow is incredible and you can go out any night of the week and the clubs are all pumping.

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

- Aston Lane (great pubs)
- Glasgow University (feels like Hogwarts)
- Kelvingrove park
- Glasgow Green
- Go to a Celtic or Rangers football match
- Glasgow Cathedral and Necropolis (2-minute walk from campus)
- Hunterian Art Gallery
- Glasgow Science Centre
- Hidden Lane in the West End for high tea
- Paesano Pizza
- Café W
- Go hiking. There are some great hikes close to Glasgow

Any tips for future students?

Overall Experience

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

My exchange experience has been an incredible adventure. It has been one of the best decisions of my life and my best semester at University. I met lifelong friends from all across the world and got to experience so many amazing things. Although it may seem daunting to travel across the globe by yourself it will make you a more confident and better person. It allows you to make new friends from different backgrounds and puts you out of your comfort zone.



Camping trip at Machrihanish, Scotland



Hiking in the Canary Islands



Ericeira, Portugal



Camel Safari, Morocco