



Student Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Otago degree(s)	LLB/BSc	Major(s)	Law/Psychology
Host University	University of Glasgow	Semester & Year of Exchange	Semester 2 2017

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
LAW3018 Criminal Justice		Level 4 Law	15
LAW4033 Issues of Family Law		Level 4 Law	15
PSYCH4006 Human Development		PSYC318	3 psychology papers were equivalent to 2 18 point Otago papers
PSYCH4031 Neuropsychological Deficits		PSYC313	
PSYCH4081 Current Trends in Clinical Psychology		Level 3 Psychology	

Any comments about these papers?

I would be cautious about taking psychology papers. Although they are smaller credit-wise, they require a lot of research, and in some cases, exchange students must take the exams a whole semester earlier than Glasgow students.

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

Academically, Glasgow feels worlds apart from Otago. Everything from grading to teaching style, readings to assessments was foreign. One of the major differences is that teaching hours are much shorter and you are expected to do a lot of independent learning and research. Personally I didn't have too many internal assignments or tests, although this does vary between subjects. And one word of warning is that course selection can be extremely stressful to sort out (especially for psychology) and everyone had to be quite flexible with their selections due to clashes and prerequisites and such.

Accommodation

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

I stayed in Kelvinhaugh Street apartments and think it is a pretty solid accommodation choice for exchange students. The residence is set up in apartments of 5 or so people (mostly all exchange students), and you have to supply your own kitchen equipment/food etc. Although there were few socials and opportunities to meet other students, this seemed to be the standard for all residences. Single semester exchange students seemed to be put mostly into Kelvinhaugh Street, although I did know a few people at student apartments, Queen Margaret and Murano. Personally I wouldn't recommend looking for private accommodation unless you are staying for more than one semester as it seems more hassle than it's worth. Accommodation wasn't the highlight of my stay but it was nice to have it sorted and downpaid so I could focus on other things while I was overseas.

Money matters

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

I would say that accommodation was roughly equivalent to staying in a hall of residence at Otago. However, considering that we had to provide everything and there were less social activities, it felt pricey for what it was. Flights are expensive, but when you get there it is extremely easy to travel around Europe, so it feels worthwhile! Food, drink and pretty much everything else was quite a bit cheaper than in New Zealand! I can't comment on visa costs as I am already a UK citizen.

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 card that I set up with my bank. I would definitely recommend this, although it was tricky to use for some online purchases.

Visas & Insurance

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

N/A - As I was already a citizen, I did not have to apply for a visa.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

Not that I'm aware of.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

Glasgow has a wide variety of clubs for students to get involved in – everything from traditional sports clubs to whisky appreciation and Harry Potter. I would definitely recommend giving them a go as there's something to suit almost everyone. Additionally, I was involved in the International Law Society, which was great because it regularly arranged socials and paired us up with local students who could help us out with the academic side of things. As far as I know, most degrees had a similar set up.



What was the university/ city like?

Glasgow is a rich and vibrant city, known for its culture and friendliness. The city itself is walkable, but on dreary days the subway is a great cheap alternative to explore the city. There's a lot to see and do and it's hard to fit it all into a semester exchange, but it's worth it just to feel involved in such an interesting place.

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

There's plenty of great food, music and art in Glasgow, but the one thing I'd recommend above others is going outside the city to enjoy Scotland. If you have the time and money, rent a car and see some of the highlands.

If you're shorter on time, check out Student Tours Glasgow. They're a fantastic company that run day trips into places like the Trossachs, Loch Lomond, and Edinburgh. The guides are entertaining and it's a really great (and cheap) way to see the country in short periods. The trips also run before semester gets into full swing so I found it a really good way of making like-minded friends.

Any tips for future students?

Be flexible and keep an open mind about your exchange experience! One of the reasons I picked Glasgow was to travel and get involved in the university, but in the end I found myself more focused on making really great friends and just enjoying the time I had there. Have some goals for things you want to do, but also be open to just soaking everything in too.

Overall Experience

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

My exchange experience was something I had been thinking about for years, but in the end I made the decision to come to Glasgow on a whim and I couldn't be happier. Taking the time to go overseas for a semester was everything I needed and more, and I'll never forget the places I went and the friends I made. Glasgow offered me a change in scene (and climate!) and I loved having the opportunity to go out and explore the city's secrets. Although it gets a bit of a bad rap in terms of weather, it's nothing worse than Dunedin, and it was nice getting to experience both the warm days of the end of summer and a few days of proper snow in the beginnings of winter. Glasgow is a one of a kind city, full of character and friendly faces. I loved my time there, and I can't wait until I get the chance to return!



