



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	University of Glasgow
Semester & Year of Exchange	Semester 2, 2018
Otago degree(s)	BA/LLB
Major(s)	Politics

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
American Politics	English	300 level	18
Labour Law	English	400 level	30
Literature and Ideology	English	200 level	18

Any comments about these papers?

All my papers were taught fantastically and were incredibly engaging. The lecturers and academics at Glasgow are at the top of their fields, and have a real passion for teaching. These papers were challenging but very interesting which made studying them far easier.

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

Glasgow is very similar to Otago in terms of the workload and style of teaching, although Glasgow requires a bit more reading before lectures than Otago does. The students are more willing to engage with the lecturer in Glasgow too.

Accommodation

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

I stayed at Murano Student Village. Don't expect anything flash from this place, but do expect to meet great people. I stayed with 11 other international students in a first-year hall type situation. The facilities are basic, but they are all you really need. The rooms are small too but, again, that didn't really concern me. The greatest part of Murano is the social atmosphere and the communal kitchen and living areas.

Money matters

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

I got onto my flights early and was able to get them for \$1500. Murano costs around \$220 a week, and I spent about \$40 on food (there is a cheap supermarket nearby). Make sure you get travel insurance too. Costs will pile up once you get there. For example, I had to buy bedding, books for uni and busses/other transport for when I went to travelling on the weekends.

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

I used my NZ visa debit card overseas and it worked fine. Many places in Glasgow don't accept debit cards so it's always handy to have some cash with you.

Visas & Insurance

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

You can turn up to the border gate and apply for a short-term study visa. You just need to provide evidence you are studying at Glasgow.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

No.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

Glasgow's clubs culture is huge. Most students at the Uni will belong to one or more clubs, ranging from sports to political activism. Get down to the Glasgow University Union too, where events are often held.

What was the university/ city like?

Glasgow is a phenomenal place. There are stereotypes associated with the city but don't believe any of them. The people are the funniest, most welcoming people you will ever meet and you will never feel like you are out of place. There is a great University culture, which reflects Glasgow's wider

progressive, unique spirit. The city itself is beautiful as Glasgow was once the powerhouse city in the UK.

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

Get down to the city for the amazing live music venues. There are literally hundreds to choose from. The West End is also a bohemian pocket where students tend to congregate at pubs and cheap eats. Further afield, the Scottish Highlands are a must see, as is Loch Ness and Loch Lomond.

Any tips for future students?

Try to meet the locals. It can be easy to hang around with other international students and barley meet any 'true' Scots. Join a club at the uni or simply try talking to people at bars or cafes (trust me, they will talk back).

Overall Experience

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

I fell in love with the city of Glasgow. The weather and street names might be similar to Dunedin, but I had experiences I will never forget. Whether it was going along to live music venues where some of the world's top musicians played their first major gigs or journeying through the majestic Scottish Highlands, there was never a dull moment.

The University itself was established in the 15th century, meaning the history and traditions attached to it are remarkable. Despite its long history, the University retains a progressive feel to it. All staff are highly valued and they care deeply about their students.

If you are looking for sun and beaches Glasgow is probably not the best place to come. But if you love meeting people that will genuinely make you laugh out loud in a city that values life's immaterial things, then go to Glasgow.

**** Photos below are of: Loch Lomond, the Scottish Highlands and a walk-in Gaelic music session at a bar in the West End ***



